Grono, Percival Charles

A West Australian railway employee
killed while on military service for their country



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland (D.Graham/panoramio)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Audit
Designation:	Cadet

Rail employment notes: Born 4/1/1895. Joined WAGR 5/12/1910 aged 15 as Cadet, Perth. Granted leave to join AIF 3/8/1915 (Service No.2893). Killed in action 2/9/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	16th Battalion.
Service number:	2893
Date of death:	2 September 1916
Place of death:	Place not yet found
Age:	21
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

Percival Charles Grono was a serving member in 86th Regiment of Infantry (Militia) when he enlisted in the AIF on 22 July 1915.

Both parents signed permission for him to serve overseas and he nominated his father as his Next of kin. Following basic training at Blackboy Hill Camp he sailed from Australia through the Port of Fremantle aboard A20 HMAT *Honorata on* 5 October 1915 as a member of 9th Reinforcements to 16th Battalion with the regimental number 2893. On arrival in Egypt he joined the pool of infantry reinforcements and taken on strength of 16th Bn as the AIF was expanding from 2 to 4 Divisions.

Approximately half of 16th Bn soldiers were allocated to the newly raised 48th Battalion and Pte Grono was amongst them. He was taken on strength of 48th Bn (B Coy) on 3 March 1916. The Bn then trained and exercised in Egypt until departure from Alexandria on 02 Jun 1916 and they disembarked Marseilles on 9 June 1916. Following some service in the "quiet" sectors of the Western Front 48 Bn was thrust into the battles of Pozieres and Moquet Farm. On 2 September 1916 at Moquet Farm Pte Grono was a runner between Bn HQ and Brigade HQ when he went missing. The most likely explanation was that he was in a communication trench when struck by a high explosive shell which killed him and buried the trench. As of that date he was posted "Missing in Action" (MIA). A Court of Enquiry held on 4 May 1917 determined that he was Killed in action (KIA) on 2 September 1916. His remains were never recovered and he has no known grave.

Additional/personal information:

Percival Grono was born in Mittagong, NSW to Alfred & Mary Grono, but it appears the family moved west sometime after 1901 when the birth of the latest of at least seven children was registered in NSW.

> GRONO.—On September 2, 1916, killed in action (previously reported missing) at Mouquet Farm, France, whilst acting as runner, Private P. C. Grono, 48th Battalion, beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Grono, Cottesloe. "And some of us will not come back." —Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters, and brother Basil. *The Western Mail* (Perth) 8/6/1917.

For his service he was entitled to receive the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Further information and/or photos may be added as available. Information may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Abbreviations: WAGR= Western Australian Government Railways (& Tramways at some periods); MRWA= Midland Railway of Western Australia; BDM=Western Australian Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages website; AWM=Australian War Memorial (Canberra and website); CWGC= Commonwealth War Graves Commission (including website). DVA=Department of Veterans' Affairs (including website)

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR Honour Roll and WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Military information researched by Dr G.M.Galvin. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

----------Lest we forget----------