126

Gillies, William Clifford

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:	Locomotive
Designation:	Cleaner

Rail employment notes: Born 2/7/1895. Joined WAGR 18/7/1912 aged 17 as Junior Labourer, Midland Junction. Appointed to Cleaner, Perth 3/11/1913 and transferred to Albany 6/6/1914, Narrogin 20/1/1915, Wagin 20/2/1915 and Katanning 22/5/1915.
("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise employed at a locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder.)

Granted leave to join AIF 27/7/1915 (Service No.8598). Killed in action 28/5/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	6th Australian Field Artillery Brigade
Service number:	8598
Date of death:	28 May 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	21
Rank:	Driver

Burial/memorialisation: London Rifle Brigade Cemetery, Wallonie, Belgium

William Clifford Gillies enlisted on 13 July 1915. He nominated his mother Mrs Elizabeth Gillies as hi next of kin and gave his age as 20. He was allocated to the Brigade Ammunition Column of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade with regimental number 8598.

After initial training in WA and then artillery training in Victoria, he embarked on HMAT *Botanist* from Melbourne on 24 November 1915.

The role of the Ammunition Column was to keep up the supply of ammunition from depots to the guns in the front line. The men worked with vehicles, sometimes horse or donkeys, and in Europe also with narrow gauge trains running on temporary tracks.

William gillies was killed in action on 28 May 1917 and buried in the London Rifle Brigade Cemetery.

Additional/personal information:

William Gillies was born in Victoria in 1896, a son of William and Elizabeth Gillies. The family must have moved to WA while he was young, as did many people after the gold finds of the 1890s, and he attended school in Claremont.

© Rail Heritage WA

GILLIES.—On May 28, 1917, killed in action in France, Driver William Clifford Gillies, 18th Battery, 6th Field Artillery Brigade, late of the W.A. Railways, Albany, Wagin, Katanning, beloved second son of W. and E. Gillies, West Subiaco and brother of Lorrie (on active service), Raymond, Irene, Hector and Bert, also grandson of Mr. and Mrs. C. Pendlebury, Richmond, Victoria, aged 21 years and 11 months. His duty nobly done. *The West Australian* 23/6/1917p1

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. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

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

 © Rail Heritage WA