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Hammond, Frederick William

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:	Washout Assistant

Rail employment notes: Born 2/4/1882. Joined WAGR 1/12/1899 aged 17 as Station Boy, Northam. Appointed to Junior Labourer 24/5/1900, Junior Washout Assistant 4/11/1901, Junior Labourer 4/11/1902 and Labourer 20/4/1903. Transferred to Washout Assistant, Geraldton 7/5/1904. "Washout" is a task necessitated by the constant buildup of ashes under the firebox of a steam locomotive. In larger depots such as Geraldton it is performed over a pit, working partly from below. It is a dirty job and after 12 years might contribute to the willingness of men to enlist for an overseas 'trip'.

Granted leave to join AIF 26/5/1916 (Service No.2107). Killed in action 9/6/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	44th Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	2107
Date of death:	9 June 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	35
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

Frederick William Hammond enlisted in the AIF on 2 May 1916 at Belmont. On enlistment he nominated his wife Mary Hammond as his Next of kin. While undergoing basic training he had a studio portrait photograph taken. The photograph shows him, head and shoulders wearing uniform and a service dress cap. The photograph is held at the AWM as P06930.001 and may be seen on his page on the AWM website. There is some type of dedication on the photograph but it cannot be read online. His basic military training was conducted at Blackboy Hill Military camp following which he was allocated to 3rd Reinforcements to 44 Battalion with the regimental number 2107.

Private Hammond departed Australia from Fremantle on 10 October 1916 aboard A23 HMAT *Borda* and disembarked at Plymouth UK on 2 December 1916 where he marched into 11 Training Battalion. He departed England from Folkestone aboard SS *Invicta* on 4 February 1917 to join the British Expeditionary Force and was taken-on-strength of 44 Battalion on 8 February 1917. Pte Hammond attended 3 Div School between 4 March and 11 March 1917 but the nature of the course is unknown. On 8 April 1917 he reported deafness and was evacuated to 2 Casualty Clearing Station and then 1 Convalescent Depot before being marked as unfit and returned to 3 Australian Divisional Base Depot on 15 April 1917 before re-joining 44 Battalion on 27 April 1917.

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He was Killed in action in the Ypres Sector on 9 June 1917. His remains were never located, he has no known grave, but is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres (now Ieper).

Additional/personal information:

Frederick Hammond was born in Fremantle in 1882, a son of John Evett Hammond and Maria (nee Herbert) Hammond, who were in Fremantle when they married in 1876. Frederick married Mary Ellen McDonnell in 1905 in Geraldton (BDM 4387/1900). It appears he came from a large family two of his brothers also enlisted. With his new wife he would produce another large family.

> HAMMOND.-In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Fred. W. Hammond, 11th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, who was killed in action somewhere in France between August 14-16, 1916. In a soldier's grave he is sleeping, Somewhere in France he fell. Words cannot tell the loss of the brother we loved so well. inserted by his loving brothers. Alf, George (in active service), Jim (Fremantle), Frank (Serpentine).
>
> HAMMOND.-In loving memory of our dear brother Fred, who was killed in action somewhere in France, between August 14 and 16. 1916. Somewhere in France he is lying. He answered his country's call; He died an Australian hero, Fighting to save us all. -Inserted by his loving sisters and brother-in-law, Minnie, Ethel, and Morgan (South Australia), and Alf (on active service.)
> Both *The West Australian* 15/8/1916p1

For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his widow together with other memorabilia. Military pensions were paid to his widow at 40/- per fortnight and his children Mercy Enid 20/-, Hilda May 15/-, Sylvia Rose 10/-, Freda Jean 10 /-, Melba Clauriene 10/- and Langley William 10/- all per fortnight with effect from 28 Aug 1917.

His widow remained in Geraldton, dying there in 1937, but their children spread across Australia:

> HAMMOND. — On March 2nd, at Victoria Hospital, Geraldton, Mary Ellen, widow of the late Private Frederick William Hammond, dearly beloved mother of Elvia (Mrs. L. W. Hamilton, Beacon), Mercy (Mrs. B. J. Higgins, Geraldton), Hilba (Geraldton), Sylvia (Mrs. R. F. Coote, Melbourne), Freda (Mrs. N. D. Pusey, Sydney), Melba, (Mrs. W. H. Ghent, Perth), and Langley (Coolgardie); grandmother of Jean, Donald, Shirley and Elaine Hamilton, Patricia Higgins, and Anne Coote. Aged 57 years.
> *Geraldton Guardian and Express* 4/3/1937p2

His son Langley, served in the Second World War in 2 AIF as WX3603 2/16 Bn, May 1940 to Sep 1945.

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----------