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Hemingway, Herbert

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:	Traffic
Designation:	Porter

Rail employment notes: Porter, Traffic Branch.

("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and many stations had more than one.)

11th Battalion AIF (Service No.1954). Wounded at Gallipoli and died 1/8/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	11th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	1954
Date of death:	1 August 1915
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey
Age:	22
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

Age 22. Herbert Hemingway enlisted in the AIF on 28 Jan 1915 at Kalgoorlie. On enlistment he nominated his father Mr Alfred Hemingway of Kalgoorlie as his Next of Kin and stated that he had no previous military experience. He completed his basic training at Blackboy Military Camp following which he was allocated to the 5th Reinforcements to 11 Battalion with the regimental number 1954. Private Hemingway departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle aboard A20 HMAT *Hororata* on 26 April 1915 and on arrival in Egypt was soon moved to Gallipoli.

He was taken on strength of 11 Bn, in the field, from the 5th reinforcements on 16 June 1915. In the last major AIF assault on the Turkish lines on 1 August 1915 he received a bullet wound through his buttocks. Private Hemingway was evacuated to 1 Casualty Clearing Station and then taken on board HMHS *Rewa* that same day. He Died of Wounds and was buried at sea with Chaplain Keelan officiating.

Although buried at sea, he is officially considered to have no known grave and is remembered on the Lone Pine memorial.

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The Lone Pine Australian Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. In the foreground are individual graves for servicemen buried here. The walls running across the front of the memorial in the background are engraved with the names of Australian servicemen whose remains have not been located. Photo A.Tilley	

Additional/personal information:

Herbert Hemingway was born in Albany in 1893, a son of Alfred and Elizabeth (nee Wilcox) Hemingway. His birth was registered as Hebert Harden Hemingway (WA BDM 845/1893) but both he and his father appear to have forgotten the second forename thereafter. Herbert was the third of five children whose births were registered in Albany.

It often took some time for official confirmation of a death to be given to the family, hence it was not uncommon to see family notices only printed on the anniversary of the death:

> HEMINGWAY.—In loving memory of our dear son, Herbert, who died of wounds received at Gallipoli, 1st August, 1915. —Inserted by his sorrowing father and mother, sisters and brothers.
>
> HEMMINGWAY.—In loving memory of Private Hemingway ("Bert"), of 11th Battalion, who died of wounds on Aug. 1st, 1915. —Inserted by his loving friends, B. and A. Howarth, Coolgardie.
> Both *Kalgoorlie Miner* 1/8/1916p4

Miss E M Smith of Wellington St West Perth made an enquiry concerning Pte Hemingway which received an official reply on 22 Sep 1915. The nature of their relationship was not revealed in the correspondence. For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father together with other memorabilia.

Pte Hemingway's brother served in the Railway Corps having enlisted on 20 Mar 1917 and returned to Australia for discharge on 24 Dec 1919. Their father (and NOK) died on 04 Nov 1933 at the age of 81 years and was buried at Karrakatta cemetery.

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----------