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Herrington, Albert

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:	Head Shunter

Rail employment notes: Born 6/5/1890. Joined WAGR 11/5/1912 aged 22 as Porter, Perth.

("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Perth, a busy passenger and goods station and terminus of suburban passenger trains, probably had at least 10 porters)

Transferred to Donnybrook 20/1/1913 and promoted to Shunter, Bunbury 13/2/1913. Transferred to Brunswick Junction 20/10/1913 and to Porter, Collie 7/10/1914. Transferred to Shunter, Kalgoorlie 3/2/1915 and promoted to Head Shunter 24/5/1915. Transferred to Head Shunter, Geraldton 5/8/1915.

Granted leave to join AIF 3/1/1916 (Service No.4749). Killed in action 3/11/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	4749
Date of death:	3 November 1916
Place of death:	Flers, France
Age:	26
Rank:	Private
Burial/memorialisation:	Warlencourt British Cemetery, Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Nord Pas de Calais, France

Albert Herrington enlisted in the AIF at Blackboy Hill Camp on 04 January 1916. On enlistment he nominated his mother Sophia Herrington as his Next of Kin and declared that he had no previous military experience. He underwent basic military training at Blackboy Hill Camp and on completion he was posted to 12th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion with the regimental number 4749. Private Herrington departed Australia on 17 April 1916 aboard A60 HMAT *Aeneas* and disembarked at Suez. In Egypt he was admitted to hospital with Venereal Disease and was non-effective from 14 May 1916 to 13 Jun 1916, a total of 31 days. On 3 August 1916 he sailed from Alexandria aboard HMT *Arcadian* and disembarked in England. He spent a short time with the 7 Training Brigade before departing on 15 September 1916 for France to join the British Expeditionary Force at 2 ADBD.

Private Herrington was taken-on-strength of 28 Battalion from 12th reinforcements on 26 September 1916. During the heavy fighting in the region of Flers he was missed at sometime between 3 and 6 November 1916. For the records he is shown as Killed in Action on 3 November 1916. There is no record of a burial on the battlefield but his remains were recovered and identified from his identity discs. His exhumed remains were later buried in the Warlencourt British Cemetery.

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Additional/personal information:

Albert Herrington was born in Victoria in 1890, a son of George and Sophia (nee Kellow) Herrington (Vic BDM 21716/1890). Siblings Walter (1893) and Mabel (1895) were also born in Victoria however the family must have then moved west as the birth of a daughter Violet May Hetherington is registered in Perth in 1899. After the gold finds of the 1890s there was considerable migration to WA.

> HERRINGTON.—Killed in action, between November 3 and 6, somewhere in France, Albert (Bert), late of the W.A.G.R., beloved son of George and Sophia Herrington and brother of Wallie and George, of Kathleen-avenue, Maylands, aged 26 years. His duty nobly done. The West Australian 29/11/1916p1

When questioned about his father, his mother identified his father George Herrington but said they lived apart. For his service Albert was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father together with other memorabilia in accordance with the laws of the day. His mother who he had nominated as his Next of Kin died on 23 Jun 1919 at the age of 59 years and was buried in Karrakatta Cemetery. His father died on 3 April 1929 aged 75 years and was buried in the same compartment as his wife.

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----------

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