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Hoban, Kintore Albany

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: Born 6/8/1889. Joined WAGR 21/2/1911 aged 21 as Porter, Perth. Promoted to Shunter, Midland Junction 29/7/1912. Regressed to Porter, Perth 16/9/1912 and transferred to Midland Junction 22/1/1913 and Perth 28/1/1913. Granted leave to join AIF 29/7/1915 (Service No.963). Died of wounds 24/11/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Military unit:	32nd Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	963
Date of death:	24 November 1916
Place of death:	France
Rank:	Private
Age:	25

Burial/memorialisation: Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Picardie, France

Kintore Albany Hoban enlisted in the AIF on 26 July 1915. At the time of his enlistment Australia had decided to create a second division in response to the flood of volunteers coming forward in response to the Gallipoli campaign. Even creating a whole new division did not accommodate the numbers and the decision was made to create an 8th Brigade. Using the model of the 4th Brigade one of the Battalions would be formed with two companies each from South Australia and West Australia. This was to become 32nd Battalion and would concentrate in South Australia before departing for overseas service. A and B companies would be South Australian while C and D companies would be West Australian. Private Hoban with the regimental number 963 was equipped at Blackboy Hill Camp and with the other members of 32 Bn sailed to Adelaide from Fremantle aboard the SS *Indarra* as a member of C Coy. (On the voyage Fremantle to Adelaide 5 stowaways were found!). AWM holds a studio photograph of Pte Hoban recorded as H06420. The Battalion was formally created on 30 August 1915 at Mitcham Camp in Adelaide. Training was conducted at both Mitcham Military Camp and Morphettville racecourse. At the time of enlistment Pte Hoban had no previous military experience and his mother Mrs Freda Mary Bettridge was his Next of kin.

The Battalion departed from the Port of Adelaide aboard A2 HMAT *Geelong* on 18 November 1915 and disembarked at Suez on 18 Dec 1916. They then undertook both individual and unit training in Egypt. On 17 June 1916 the Bn departed Alexandria aboard HMT *Transylvania* and disembarked Marseilles on 23 June 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. In France he undertook training in the Armentieres sector before participating in the debacle at Fromelles, which he survived. After

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Fromelles 32 Bn saw little action as they underwent a rebuilding process. Between 10th and 17th September 1916 Pte Hoban attended a course in Field Engineering. On 22 November 1916 he was Wounded in action near Montauban following which he was admitted to 36 Casualty Clearing Station where he Died of wounds on 24 November 1916. He was buried in the Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe.

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

Additional/personal information:

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. These medals and other memorabilia were issued to his mother Mrs Bettridge.

Kintore Hoban's father Patrick Hoban married Fleda Sinclair in Toodyay (then called Newcastle) in 1887 and Kintore was born there, as was an elder sister Rachel. However his father died soon after (BDM 551/1891) and his mother appears to have moved the family to the Great Southern line, where she bore several half-brothers and sisters first by William Hoban (a brother of Patrick?) and then by William Bettridge, whom she married in 1901.

Kintore Hoban's death was noted by family notice in the *Western Mail* 5/1/1917p31:

> HOBAN.-On November 24; in France, Kentore Albany, eldest son of the. late Mr. Patrick Hoban, and Mrs W. Bettridge, of Broomehill, aged 26 years [sic].
>
> He gave his life for his country,
>
> He fought for honour, and right,
>
> Be gave up all to answer the call.
>
> And died in a hero's' fight.

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).

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

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

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