Jackman, Thomas 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:	Traffic
Designation:	Porter

Rail employment notes: Born 10/6/1886. Joined WAGR 21/2/1906 aged 19 as Casual Porter, Perth. Appointed Porter, Perth 1/8/1908. Transferred to Kalgoorlie 14/12/1908, Widgiemooltha 17/2/1909, Norseman 30/10/1909 and Kalgoorlie 30/11/1909. Promoted to Shunter, Southern Cross 5/11/1910 and resigned 18/12/1910. Re-employed as Porter, Kellerberrin 11/4/1911 and transferred to Perth 7/4/1913 and Claremont 21/4/1913.
("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Perth, the busiest station and terminus of suburban passenger trains, probably had at least 10 porters)

Granted leave to join AIF 20/4/1916 (Service No.6532). Killed in action at Villers-Bretonneux 5/5/1918.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	16th Battalion.
Service number:	6532
Date of death:	5 May 1918
Place of death:	British 61st Casualty Clearing Station, Vignacourt, Somme, Amiens, France
Rank at time:	Private
Buried/commemorated:	Vignacourt British Cemetery, Somme, Amiens, France; Plot II Row A Grave 2

Thomas Jackman enlisted on 17 April 1916 and after initial training was embarked on 13 October 1916; HMAT A39 *Port Macquarie* from Fremantle in the 21st Reinforcement Group. On 30 April 1917 he was taken on strength by the 16th Battalion and served in England, France and Belgium. He was wounded 3 May 1918 vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux, Somme, Picardie, France and died of wounds 5 May 1918.

Additional/personal information:

BDM records show Thomas Jackman married Lila E Groves early in 1914 and late the same year the birth is recorded of a son, Walter J Jackman. A family notice after his death described Jackman as "the dearly loved husband of Lila and father of little Wallie of 55 Samson Street, Beaconsfield, Fremantle" (*Western Mail* 24/5/1918p19) – the son must have had very little memory of his father.

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*

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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 by A. Pearson.

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

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