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Jamieson, David

A West Australian railway employee killed while on military service for their country

The WAGR always had a very strong first-aid culture, with lessons and competitions. Mr Jamieson was a loco fireman, but the army immediately recognised his value and moved him to a medical role. Unfortunately he died leaving his wife pregnant with a baby he would never see.



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Fireman

Rail employment notes: Born 18/4/1891. Joined WAGR 6/2/1911 aged 19 as Casual Cleaner, Perth. Transferred to Cleaner, Midland Junction 6/11/1911.
("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise employed at a locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder.)

Promoted to Fireman, Midland junction 29/7/1913.

Granted leave to join AIF 21/9/1914 (Service No.3121). Died of illness 24/3/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	1st Australian Pioneer Battalion
Service number:	3121
Date of death:	24 March 1917
Place of death:	England
Age:	25
Rank:	Lance Corporal

Burial/memorialisation: Kirkoswald Old Churchyard, Ayrshire, Scotland, United Kingdom

David Jamieson was born in Turnberry Ayrshire in Scotland and had ben resident in Australia for approximately 5 years when he enlisted in the AIF on 10 September 1914 and after rudimentary training was allocated to Australian Army Medical Corp Details with the regimental number 1237. On enlistment he stated that he had no previous military training and that his wife Mary Jamieson was his next of kin.

He departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle aboard A34 HMAT *Persic* on 29 December 1914 as a member of 2 Stationary Hospital. After a short period in Egypt his Unit moved to Mudros on the Island of Lemnos. Private Jamieson suffered a number of respiratory problems some of which required short hospital admissions. Following the Gallipoli campaign, he crossed to Alexandria aboard *Dunvegan Castle* on 21 Jan 1916 and suffered further ill health. He returned to Australia as a member of the nursing staff aboard A54 HMAT *Runic* arriving Fremantle 14 May 1916.

In Australia he appears to have been involved in AAMC duties until he was transferred to 6th Reinforcements to 3 Pioneer Battalion, presumably at his own request. When transferred, he was

issued with a new regimental number (3121). He departed Australia for a second time aboard A54 HMAT *Runic* on 29 December 1916 and disembarked at Devonport UK on 3 March 1917 and marched into the Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill. Appointment to the rank of Lance Corporal followed on 6 March 1917. His records do not show him being granted leave but he was in the vicinity of Salisbury Plains in England when he reported sick and was admitted to the Fargo Military Hospital on 18 March 1917. His condition declined and he died of Broncho-pneumonia on 24 March 1917, he therefore is shown as Died of injuries (DOI). L/Cpl Jamieson was buried in the Kirkoswald Old Churchyard on 28 March 1917 with all arrangements being made by his father.

Additional/personal information:

David Jamieson was born in Turnberry in Ayrshire in Scotland in 1891 but had come to Australia when he was about 20. Here he married Mary Marshall in 1914. The couple did not have any children when he died but his wife was pregnant. Their son was born later in 1917 and named David John Marshall – the baby would never see its father and the father may not have heard of the pregnancy before he died:

> JAMIESON.-On March 24, at Fargo Hospital, died of bronchopneumonia, Sergeant D. Jamieson, 3rd Pioneers, beloved husband of Mary Jamieson. aged 25 years 11 months. Deeply regretted. *The West Australian* 9/4/1917p1

There is no official record of him being promoted above Lance Corporal, perhaps he wrote home when in optimistic mood.

When his belongings were forwarded home from the Kit Store it included 2 Ambulance Medals -the WAGR had a very strong first aid/ambulance volunteer culture and ran annual competitions. He returned to Australia from Egypt engaged in nursing duties and then there seems to be a blank period before he is transferred to the Pioneer Battalion.

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal all of which were issued to his widow along with other memorabilia.

David's brother-in-law, John Marshall, also enlisted and in 12 Battalion and was killed on the second day of the Gallipoli landings, 26 April 1915.

Mrs Jamieson remarried in 1919 to George Goff who had served as 272 Warrant Officer Class One (RSM) of 32 Bn, later Captain Goff MC. (BDM 494/1919). Mrs Goff died at the age of 97 years on 15 September 1992 having become a widow for the second time when George Goff died at aged 51 on 17 April 1961. She was cremated and he was buried, both at Karrakatta.

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----------