Kane, Joseph Patrick

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 17/12/1890. Joined WAGR 17/9/1912 aged 21 as Porter, Perth. ("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Perth, the busiest station and terminus of suburban passenger trains, may have had 20 porters)

Transferred to Claremont 19/11/1913 and promoted to Shunter, North Fremantle 16/2/1914 and Head Shunter 7/6/1916. Granted leave to join AIF 19/8/1916 (Service No.2587). Killed in action 4/10/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	43rd Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	2587
Date of death:	4 October 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	27
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Menin Gate at Ypres (now Ieper), Belgium

Patrick Joseph Kane (sometimes quoted as Joseph Patrick Kane) enlisted in the AIF at Fremantle on 14 August 1916. His basic training was at Blackboy Hill Camp where he was allocated the regimental number 2587 in 5th Reinforcements for the 43rd Battalion. He nominated his mother as his Next of Kin even though his father was still living just a short distance from his mother. He departed Fremantle aboard A8 HMAT *Argyllshire* on 09 Nov 1916 and disembarked at Devonport on 10 Jan 1917. He marched into 11 Training Bn on 05 Feb 1917 for more training. This training was interrupted by an episode of Influenza which kept him in hospital between 09 May and 24 May 1917.

He departed the UK to join the British Expeditionary Force and spent 4 days at 3 ADBD before being taken on strength of 43 Bn, in the field. Pte Kane was Wounded in action on 11 June 1917 and carried to 9 Fd Amb then on to 2 CCS that same day. He later passed through 55 General Hospital and a Convalescent Depot before rejoining the Bn on 27 July 1917 as they fought their way towards Passchendaele. He was Killed in Action on 4 October 1917 and buried the following day near the edge of Zonnebeke village. Despite good references supplied, the Graves Registration Unit were unable to locate his burial site, he therefore has no known grave and is remembered on the Menin Gate at Ypres (now Ieper)

Additional/personal information:

Patrick Kane was born in Victoria but the family moved west when he was young and his schooling finished at St Joseph's Convent School in Northam. A brother had also enlisted:

> KANE.—Killed in action, October 4, 1917, Joseph Patrick, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Kane, 181 Lake-street, Perth, brother of James, H.M.A.S. Melbourne; also Mrs. W. Bennett, Kalgoorlie; Mrs. E.T. Chidlow, Northam; Kathleen and Frances, Perth; late of W.A.G.R., North Fremantle. His duty done. May the Lord have mercy on his soul. *Western Mail* 9/11/1917p19

His service medals were supplied to his father. His mother received a pension of 30/- per fortnight commencing from 24 Dec 1917.

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----------