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Kendrick, Edward Francis

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:	Clerk

Rail employment notes: Born 31/1/1890. Joined WAGR 1/3/1905 aged 15 as Cadet, Geraldton. Promoted to Clerk, Geraldton 1/3/1910.

Granted leave to join AIF 17/8/1914 (Service No.798). Killed in action at Gallipoli 6/8/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	11th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	798
Date of death:	6 August 1915
Place of death:	Place not yet found
Age:	25
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Shell Green Cemetery, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

Edward Francis Kendrick enlisted from Geraldton on 17 August 1914 and completed his enlistment at Blackboy Hill Camp. He nominated his father Mr Joseph Kendrick to be his Next of Kin. His previous military service was school cadets and Militia (3 years, WAIR) until the time of enlistment. Pte Kenrick underwent basic training at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was allotted to 11 Battalion with the regimental number 798. The Bn boarded A11 HMAT *Ascanius* at Fremantle on 31 October 1914 but did not depart until 02 Nov 1914. Ascanius then joined the first convoy which had earlier departed from Albany with a substantial Naval escort to provide cover against the German Light Cruiser *Embden* which was thought to roaming the Indian Ocean. *Ascanius* later suffered minor damage in a collision with *Shropshire* and was required to enter Aden for repairs before proceeding up the Red Sea.

Suez was reached on 5 December 1914 and the troops disembarked the following day and established camp at Mena with other elements of the 3rd Brigade. Training continued in Egypt until 2 March 1915 when the Bn moved by rail to Alexandria, boarded HMT *Suffolk* and sailed for Mudros on Lemnos Island. There was a delay of 7 weeks while the troops practiced the use of scrambling nets and maintained fitness with route marches on the Island. On 25 April 1915 11th Battalion as part of the 3rd Brigade landed at Anzac Cove and suffered considerable casualties. Private Kendrick survived the landing and the early offensive operations against the Turkish forces. In the last great offensive at Gallipoli Pte Kendrick was Killed in Action on 6 August 1915. He was buried in Shell Green Cemetery close to where he fell and has a marked grave.

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Additional/personal information:

Edward Kendrick was born in Brisbane, Queensland, on 31/01/1890 a son of Joseph and Amy (nee Dunn) Kendrick. Siblings were born in 1891 and 1894 after which it appears the family moved to WA. Three more sisters were born in WA from 1897 to 1900 in Albany after which they must have moved to Geraldton where Edward completed his schooling. His mother died in 1901 whiles his father Joseph died in 1934.

A marriage is recorded in WA (BDM 1427/1902) between Joseph Kendrick and Emma Dunn. It is possible that Joseph, having then seven young children, married a sister of his first wife but this has not been confirmed.

> KENDRICK.—On August 6, at the Dardanelles, Edward F. (Ted) Kendrick, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kendrick, Geraldton, brother of Walter, Dulcie, Edith, Doreen, Sylvia, and Phyliss, and eldest grandson of Mr. and Mrs. F. Dunn, Grosvenor-road, North Perth, age 25 years. For King and country.
> *The West Australian* 11/9/1915p1

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father together with other memorabilia. The memorial plaque was incorrectly inscribed and had to be returned for correction. There was correspondence in relation to the Death Fund of the Friendly Societies of which he had been a member.

His family paid for an inscription on his headstone (at 3½ d per letter) which reads: "How Nobler Can a Man Die than Fighting Against the Odds". On 27 Sep 1967 Miss Dulcie Edith Kendrick of NSW submitted an application to Army Records for the Anzac Medallion in respect of the service provided by her brother on Gallipoli, this was granted.

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----------