Lamb, Alfred

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 18/10/1880. Joined WAGR 2/12/1914 aged 34 as Goods Porter, Perth Goods.
("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Perth Goods depot, located on the south side of the through tracks, between William and Milligan Streets Perth, would have had several porters)

Granted leave to join AIF 25/4/1916 (Service No.5628). Died of wounds 13/4/1918.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	5628
Date of death:	13 April 1918
Place of death:	France
Age:	37
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Vignacourt British Cemetery, Vignacourt, Picardie, France

Alfred Lamb was born in Chester (UK) and was married to Mary Lamb. He had made a Will on 08 Jun 1917 naming his wife resident in Bayswater WA as his sole beneficiary and Next of Kin.

He enlisted in the AIF on 10 April 1916. He underwent basic military training at Blackboy Hill Camp in 61 Depot Company following which he was allocated to 15th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion with the regimental number 5628. He departed Australia aboard A52 HMAT *Surada* 26 September 1916 and disembarked at Plymouth on 21 November 1916. He passed through the Depot Camp and then marched into 7 Training Battalion on 25 April 1917. Following training in the UK he departed for France through Folkestone where he joined 2 ADBD for just 2 days before he was taken-on-strength of 28 Bn from the 15th reinforcements. Pte Lamb was Wounded in action (Gas effects) on 10 November 1917. He passed through 63 General Hospital and was evacuated to England on 21 November 1917. In the UK he passed through a number of treatment and convalescent units before being passed again as 'Fit'. Pte Lamb departed Southampton for France on 26 February 1918 and immediately re-joined 28 Bn. He was Wounded in action (Second occasion) with multiple Gun shot wounds, in the vicinity of Amiens, and was admitted to 5 Field Ambulance where he died on 13 April 1918 and was buried that same day in the Vignacourt British Cemetery.

Additional/personal information:

Alfred Lamb appears to have married before coming to WA, however his daughters may have been born in the west as the birth of an Edith Lamb was registered in WA in 1906 and an Amy Lamb in 1914.

> LAMB.—Killed in action~, somewhere in France, on April 13, Private Alfred Lamb, late of W.A. goods sheds, dearly beloved husband of Mary Lamb, and dearly beloved father of Edith and Amy, 11 Charles-street, Maylands. - His duty nobly done. -Inserted by his loving wife and children.
>
> LAMB.-A tribute to the memory of Private A. (Alf) Lamb, late of Bayswater, killed in action on April 13, 1918. -Inserted by his sincere friends, H. (returned), I. Jones, Edgar.
>
> Both *The West Australian* 23/4/1918p1
>
> LAMB.-In loving memory of our beloved brother. Private Alf Lamb, killed in action on April 13, 19I8, somewhere in France late of Bayswater, brother of Fred and Amy, David Young (brother-in-law). Ever remembered. *The Western Mail* 3/5/1918p19

On 27 January 1920 Mary Lamb departed Australia for an address in Manchester UK. There is no mention in the personal file of Pte Lamb of any pension payable to his widow but Army Records maintained contact with Mrs Lamb until 1949 and it is presumed that was in connection with pension payments. Pte Lamb was a member of the WA Amalgamated Society of Railway Employees and it appears that a benefit from that Society was paid to his widow.

For his service Pte Lamb was entitled to receive the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to Mary Lamb along with other memorabilia directly from AIF HQ London.

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----------