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Law-Davis, Frederick George

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



Plaque M686, Kings Park

Rail employment information

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

Rail employment notes: Born 23/2/1892. Joined WAGR 4/3/1909 aged 17 as Junior Labourer, Perth. Transferred to Claremont 11/7/1910 and to Cleaner, Perth 16/10/1911.
("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.)

Transferred to Pinjarra 19/7/1912 and to Perth 10/7/1913. Promoted to Fireman, Perth 9/8/1915.

Granted leave to join AIF 2/12/1915 (Service No.4163). Died of wounds 5/10/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Military unit:	2nd Australian Division Signals Company
Service number:	4163
Date of death:	5 October 1917
Place of death:	Zonnebeke, Belgium
Age:	25
Rank:	Sapper

Burial/memorialisation: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Lijssenthoek, Flanders, Belgium

Frederick Law-Davis enlisted in the AIF on 8 December 1915, and quoted his wife Muriel Law-Davis resident in Bayswater WA as his next of kin. After initial training he was allocated to the 10th Reinforcements to 28th Battalion, which was part of 7th Infantry Brigade.

He embarked with this unit on HMAT *Ulysses* at Fremantle on 1 April 1916. He later transferred to the 2nd Australian Division Signals Company.

Wounded in fighting at Zonnebeke Ridge in Belgium, he died from his wounds on 5 October 1917 and was buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

Additional/personal information:

Frederick's widow reported that he was born in Sydney in NSW but details are not known. The family must have moved west when he was young, as many people were doing in the 1890s after the gold finds in WA, because he attended Bayswater State School.

His sister Zilla Law-Davis was in Perth by 1915 when she married Joseph Young, and the next year Frederick married Muriel W Forder in the Perth district (WA BDM 62/1916). Muriel was also from NSW, being born in Broken Hill (NSW BDM 9021/1893)

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Frederick and Muriel had a child Frederick C Law-Davis. The boy's birth was only registered in 1916 so he may never have seen his father.

> LAW-DAVIS.—Died of wounds, somewhere in France, on October 5, Signaller F. G. Law-Davis, dearly beloved husband of Muriel Law-Davis (nee Forder), and father of little Fred, of Copley-street, Bayswater, aged 25 years. We shall meet beyond the river, Never to part again. —Inserted by his sorrowing wife.
>
> LAW-DAVIS.—Died of wounds on October 5, 1917, Signaller F. G. Law-Davis, loving brother and brother-in-law of Z. and J. T. Young, Neville-street, Bayswater. Say not good-night, but in some brighter clime bid him good morning. Both *The West Australian* 24/10/1917p1

It appears the parents and family had all moved west:

> LAW-DAVIS.—Died of wounds, somewhere in France, on October 5, Signaller F. G. Law-Davis, dearly beloved eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Law-Davis, of Garrett-road, Bayswater, aged 25 years and 7 months. … —Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brothers. *The West Australian* 7/11/1917p1

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----------

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