Lewis, Edwin Thomas

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:	Locomotive
Designation:	Apprentice Carriage and Wagon Builder

Rail employment notes: Born 18/10/1894. Joined WAGR 7/6/1910 aged 15 as Apprentice Car & Wagon Builder, Midland Workshops. Killed in action at Quinn's Post, Gallipoli 1/6/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	The Great War 1914-1919
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	10th Australian Light Horse Regiment
Service number:	878
Date of death:	1 June 1915
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey
Rank:	Trooper
Age:	20

Burial/memorialisation: Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

Edwin Thomas Lewis enlisted in the AIF in Perth on 13 Jan 1915. He nominated his mother Mrs Emily F Lewis as his Next of kin as his father was deceased. He had 2 years' experience of Militia service in 37th Battery, Australian Field Artillery but was allocated to 4th/10 Light Horse Regiment with the regimental number 878. Training was centred on Claremont show grounds and the Osborne (now Swanbourne) rifle range. The AWM holds a fine studio head and shoulders photograph of Tpr Lewis in the uniform of a Light Horseman as P06522.001. He departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle aboard A8 HMAT *Argyllshire* on 19 April 1915 and spent little time in Egypt before crossing to Gallipoli where he was taken on strength of 10 Light Horse Regiment on 26 May 1915. He was Killed in action only 6 days later, on 1 June 1915 in the area of Monash Gully and buried the same day in the military cemetery at the foot of Monash Gully with Chaplain Merrington officiating. This cemetery was later named Shrapnel Valley Cemetery by the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Further information and/or photographs may be added as available. Information may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Additional/personal information:

It is not known where Mr Lewis was born, but there was great immigration to Western Australia throughout the 1890s (goldrush years), especially from eastern states of Australia.

His identity disc was forwarded to his mother on 21 May 1916. The issue of a death certificate was significantly delayed which held up settlement of a policy with the AMP Society and probate on his

estate. Army Records attempted to assist by supplying a certified copy of the cable notifying his death but this was not acceptable for probate. Mrs E F Lewis was granted a pension of £26 per annum commencing with effect from 15 Aug 1915. For his service Trooper Lewis was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued together with other memorabilia to his mother. The headstone in Turkey bears the inscription: ;'These made fair, Australia's honor with their dying'. Mrs Lewis cannot be identified in the public record of WA after 1923.

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).

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Military information researched by Dr G.M.Galvin.

----------Lest we forget----------