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Maddock, Percival Ernest Allen

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:	Spark Arrester Repairer

Rail employment notes: Born 10/11/1891. Joined WAGR 5 March 1911 aged 19 as Casual Labourer, Northam. Appointed Labourer, 18 June 1913 and transferred to Raker Out & Tuber, Northam 25/10/1915. To Repairer, Northam 3/1/1916. Granted leave to join AIF 28/3/1916 (Service No.6292). Killed in action 30/9/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Sevice:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	32nd Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	6292
Date of death:	30 September 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	25
Rank:	Private
Burial/memorialisation:	No known grave; remembered on Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

Percival Ernest Maddock enlisted in the AIF on 28 March 1916 and underwent basic training at Blackboy Hill Camp. At the time of enlistment, he stated that his father was dead and that his mother Mrs Mary Maddock was his Next of kin and that he had no previous military experience. He was assigned the regimental number 6292 in the 20th Reinforcement to 16 Battalion and departed Australia from Fremantle aboard A23 HMAT *Suffolk* on 13 Oct 1916. Following further training in England he departed aboard the SS *Clementine* to join the British Expeditionary Force. He marched into 4 ADBD in France and taken on strength of 32 Bn on 19 March 1917. His service was interrupted with an admission to hospital (scabies) between 12 May 1917 and 4 June 1917 when he rejoined 32 Bn. Private Maddock participated in the Third Battle of Ypres and his Battalion occupied frontline positions at Polygon Wood between 27 and 30 September 1917. Pte Maddock was Killed in action on 30 September 1917. His body was not found after the War. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres (now Ieper).

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*

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Additional/personal information:

Percival Maddock was born in Northam WA, and attended Jennapullin State School (a small town NE of Northam).

He was part of a large family, as shown by the family newspaper notice in *The West Australian* 31/10/1917p1:

> MADDOCKS.— Killed in action in France on September 30, ,1917, Private Percival Ernest Allen Maddocks (aged 26 years), 32nd Battalion, dearly beloved youngest son of Mrs Mary Maddocks and the late Henry Maddocks, and beloved brother of James, William, Mary, Emily, Lottie and Lonie.
>
> > He sleeps beside his comrades,
> > In hallowed graves unknown,
> > But his name is written in letters of love,
> > In the hearts he left at home.
> > The strife is o'er the battle done,
> > Now is the victor's triumph won.
>
> Inserted by his sorrowing mother, brothers and sisters.

(The spelling Maddocks appears to be a newspaper error as all other references including the form completed by his mother for the Army, are spelled without the "s")

As his next of kin, his mother received a pension of 40/- per fortnight with effect from 23 Dec 1917. Mrs Maddock died in 1935 at the age of 87 years and was buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

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). Newspaper notes G.Higham.

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

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

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