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Marshall, John Manuel

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:	Cleaner

Rail employment notes: Born 23/4/1893. Joined WAGR 30/1/1913 aged 19 as Cleaner, Midland Junction. ("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning and otherwise working around locomotives whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder)

Granted leave to join AIF 31/8/1914 (Service No.948). Wounded at Gallipoli and died 26/4/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	12th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	948
Date of death:	26 April 1915
Place of death:	At sea, from wounds sustained at Gallipoli
Age:	22
Rank:	Private
Burial/memorialisation:	Buried at sea; recorded on Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

John Manuel Marshall enlisted in the AIF on 10 September 1914 at Blackboy Hill Camp. He had no previous military experience and nominated his father as his Next of kin. He was assigned to H Company of 12 Battalion with the regimental number 948. Training was under the supervision of 11 Battalion. The two West Australian companies of 12 Battalion departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle aboard HMAT *Medic* on 31 October 1914.

On arrival in Egypt the two companies were combined to form a new D Company so that they conformed to the 4 Company structure of British Battalions and joined the rest of the Battalion at Mena Camp. 12 Battalion trained with the other Battalions of 3 Brigade in Egypt and on 2 March 1915 moved to Alexandria where they joined HMAT *Devanha* and sailed for a destination initially unknown but later revealed to be Mudros Harbour on Lemnos Island. Training on Lemnos consisted of route marches and practice at leaving a ship by scrambling nets. On 22 April 1915 D Company transferred to the command of 11 Battalion aboard *Suffolk*.

As part of the Third Brigade, 12 Battalion was amongst the first ashore on 25 April 1915 suffering a great number of casualties. Private Marshall was Wounded in action (Gunshot wound to groin and arm) on Gallipoli and Died of wounds on 26 April 1915 aboard the hospital ship HS *Clan McGilvery*

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en route to Alexandria. He was buried at sea with Chaplain Dexter officiating and as he has no physical grave, he is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial.

The Lone Pine Australian Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. In the foreground are individual graves for servicemen buried here. The walls running across the front of the memorial in the background are engraved with the names of Australian servicemen whose remains have not been located. Photo A.Tilley	

Additional/personal information:

John Marshall was born in Glasgow in Scotland in 1893, a son of Robert Montgomery Marshall and Margaret Marshall (nee Binnie). He migrated to WA at the age of 17 years. (In parts of his military record his second forename is shown as Knell and not Manuel, however Manuel is more likely as it was his grandfather's second forename).

It appears that the family emigrated to WA as a family group, as both his parents died in WA and his sister married here. However, the only notice found in WA newspapers was a thanks from his parents:

> The Parents of the late Private J. M. Marshall desire to express their most sincere and heartfelt THANKS to all kind friends for their letters and cards of sympathy and their many acts of kindness in their recent sad bereavement. (*The West Australian* 29/5/1915p1)

On the post-war memorial sheet his parents commented that he was a very keen piper and had taken his pipes when he left Australia and was used to pipe the Battalion on parade at Mena camp. However, no bagpipes were returned to Australia with his personal effects. For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The medals and other memorabilia were issued to his father after the War.

His father died in 1929 aged 62 and his mother in 1952, being buried in the same plot at Karrakatta.. His sister Mary Marshall married David Jamieson in Midland Junction in 1914. Unfortunately David Jamieson, also a railway man, also enlisted in the AIF and died in England in 1917 (see biography no.157) leaving Mary with a baby son David John Jamieson also born 1917 who likely never saw its father. Mary remarried, to George Goff in 1919.

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*

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 and personal information researched and prepared by Dr G.M.Galvin. Collation and family details by G.Higham.

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

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