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McHutchison, 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:	Fitter

Rail employment notes: Fitter, Midland Workshops.

Mr McHutchison's employment records have not been found, however his name and branch are known from WAGR Honour Rolls.
In this era, the "Locomotive" branch of the WAGR, which would later be named the Chief Mechanical Engineer's branch, included the major workshops at Midland (then Midland Junction) employing a wide range of tradesmen to work on locomotives, carriages and freight wagons as they were built or passed through for repairs, and also trained apprentices in many trades.

44th Battalion AIF (Service No.713). Died of wounds 18/10/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	44th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	713
Date of death:	18 October 1917
Place of death:	France
Age:	33
Rank:	Lance Corporal

Burial/memorialisation: Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Wimereux, Nord Pas de Calais, France

Thomas McHutchison enlisted in the AIF on 18 January 1916, and gave his age as 32 and his address as in Maylands. He named as his next of kin his sister Miss Margaret McHutchison of c/o the Maylands address also, but it not known if the sister was also in WA or if that was just a postal address. He was allocated to "D" company of 44th Infantry Battalion.

The Battalion embarked on HMAT *Suevic* at Fremantle on 6 June1916.

Tbc.

Lance Corporal McHutchison died on 18 October 1917 from wounds received in battle.

Additional/personal information:

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Thomas McHutchison was born at Barry in Scotland, a son of Robert and Marion Glen McHutchison. It is possible that sisters also emigrated, but not certain. And it appears that his parents may have remained in the UK.

> McHUTCHISON.—In loving memory of my dear brother Tom McHutchison, who died of wounds on October 18, 1917. Greater love hath no man than this, that he giveth his life for his friends. —Inserted by his sister, Daisy.
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> McHUTCHISON.—A tribute to the memory of our friend, Tom McHutchison, who died of wounds on October 18, 1917. How can man die better, than facing fearful odds? —Inserted by his friends at Glen Stewart, Railway-terrace, Maylands, and Rob (on active service).
> Both *The West Australian* 5/11/1917p1
>
> McHUTCHISON.—A token of remembrance of my friend Corporal Tom McHutchison, who died of wounds October 18, 1917, received October 4 during the advance on Zonnebecke, near Ypres. Inserted by his pal Sergeant Rob Gilmour, 112th Battery. *The West Australian* 18/10/1918p1

Relatives paid for an inscription on his gravestone "Greater love hath no man he laid down his life for his friends".

Further Information

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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