Moore, John William Beverhoudt

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

The terrible losses of life in war often affected a family more than once. John Moore left behind a pregnant wife, and a son who would never see his father. Then John's bother was also killed the following year in Belgium.



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland (D.Graham/panoramio)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Traffic
Designation:	Porter

Rail employment notes: Born 24/11/1886. Joined WAGR 2/5/1912 aged 25 as Repairer, Goomalling. ("Repairer" was a track maintenance worker in a gang responsible for upkeep of an allocated section of railway line. A typical gang might include between 3 and 6 Repairers with one Leading Hand Repairer and a Ganger in charge.) Transferred to Konnongorring 13/8/1912.

Appointed Porter, Perth 2/3/13: "Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Perth might have had up to 20. Moore's subsequent stations, each of which at that time had some freight facility as well as the passenger station, might have had had 1 or 2 porters.

Transferred to Maylands 2/2/1914, Guildford 28/4/1914 and West Guildford 10/6/1915. Granted leave to join AIF 9/8/1915 (Service No.2911). Killed in action 8/8/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	16th Battalion.
Service number:	2911
Date of death:	8 August 1916
Place of death:	France
Age:	28
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

Age 29. John William Beverhoudt Moore, aged 28 years, enlisted in the AIF on 29 July 1915 and after basic training at Blackboy Hill Camp was allocated the regimental number 2911 in 9th/16 Bn. He had no previous military experience and his wife Mrs Margaret Mary Moore was nominated as his NOK. His reinforcement group sailed from Fremantle aboard A20 HMAT Hororata on 01 Oct 1915 and reached Alexandria in Dec 1915. In Egypt he was taken on strength of 16 Bn on 08 Jan 1916. In the restructure of the AIF in Egypt following the Gallipoli campaign half of 16 Bn were combined with waiting reinforcements and became 48 Bn. Pte Moore was assigned to the new 48 Bn on 03 Mar 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir. The Bn trained in individual and formation skills until departure on 02 Jun 1916 aboard HMT Caledonia on 02 Jun 1916 landing at Marseilles on 09 Jun 1916 to join the BEF. After a

short period of service in quiet sectors 48 Bn joined the Battle of Pozieres. In the Battle, Pte Moore was posted as MIA with effect 8 August 1916. A Court of Enquiry held on 04 May 1917 determined that he had been Killed in Action on 8 August 1916. Corporal 1380 S C Leach later gave an account of seeing Pte Moore with a leg blown off in a trench at Pozieres and stated that the injury killed him. His remains were never recovered, he has no known grave and is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Additional/personal information:

John Moore was born in Ballarat Victoria, the son of John Edward Moore and Louisa Moore (nee Beverhoudt). Two younger brothers and finally a sister were also born in Victoria but the family must have moved west in the mid-1890s as he finished his schooling in Albany.

For his service he was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. The medals and other memorabilia were issued to his wife. Examination of the records at BDM show that Margaret Mary Moore gave birth to a son, John Edward Mallon Moore on 16 Jan 1916 (BDM Per 193/1916) so the baby and his father would never have seen each other.

Pte Moore's brother Norman Francis Moore of 44 Bn was also Killed in action, in Belgium on 26 June 1917. Margaret Moore died in 1955 and was buried in Karrakatta Cemetery.

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----------