Moore, William Reid

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:	Was and Works
Designation:	Carpenter

Rail employment notes: Carpenter, Northam then York and then Albany, Ways & Works.
Full career records have not been located, however the Way and Works Branch (later the Chief Civil Engineer's branch) was responsible for track and structures so a carpenter would have been engaged on building and/or maintaining stations and smaller buildings, bridges, wooden culverts, etc.

Enlisted in 28th Battalion AIF. Killed in action 3/11/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	n/a (officer)
Date of death:	3 November 1916
Place of death:	Place not yet found
Age:	29
Rank:	Lieutenant

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

William Reid Moore commenced his enlistment into the AIF with a preliminary medical examination at Narrogin and was formally attested on 26 July 1915 at Blackboy Hill Camp. He moved with the trainees, who were to become 4th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion, to Bunbury Military Reserve to ease the pressure on training facilities at Blackboy Hill. William Moore nominated his father Andrew Moore as his Next of kin. William Moore had previously served in the British Territorial Army as a Royal Engineer for 5 years but resigned on leaving the UK. Before regimental numbers were issued, he had been identified as a potential officer and entered an officer cadet training programme. There are no available records that mark that training but he clearly reached the required standard as he was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant on 20 January 1916 and joined the 11th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion as they prepared for overseas deployment. He was one of three officers attached to 11th/28 Bn and departed from Fremantle on 31 March 1916 aboard A9 HMAT *Shropshire* and disembarked in Egypt to enter 7 Trg Bn. 2Lt Moore departed Alexandria on 5 June 1916 aboard HMT *Scotian* and landed at Marseilles to join the BEF where he was taken-on-strength of 28 Bn on 31 July 1916. Promotion to Lieutenant followed on 13 September 1916. He led an unsuccessful attack on German lines at Flers on 3 November 1916 and was seen to fall seriously wounded but he was not retrieved during the subsequent withdrawal and was marked as Killed in action. His remains were never recovered, he has no known grave, and is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

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Additional/personal information:

William Moore was the son of Andrew and Christina Moore and was born in Leith, Scotland, where he attended school. He served a period in the Royal Engineers Volunteer Corps there, before coming to Australia when aged 22.

> MOORE.—Killed in action on November 5, Lieutenant W. R. Moore, fourth dearly beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Moore, 193 Newcastle-street, Perth. Deeply mourned. His duty nobly done.
> *The West Australian* 2/12/1916p1

For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father together with other memorabilia. His mother Mrs Christina Moore was issued a pension of 30/- per fortnight with effect from 02 Nov 1917.

Lt Moore had a complex Will in which the first mentioned beneficiary was a Miss Annie Quinn of Narrogin, however nothing is known further of this lady. Probate was granted to his mother and father as joint executors. His father, the NOK, died on 21 May 1936 aged 82 years and his mother, the military pensioner died on 31 Aug 1940 aged 86 years. His parents were buried in the same compartment at 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----------

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