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Moran, Alfred Stephen

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:	Traffic
Designation:	Cadet

Rail employment notes: Born 12/1/1900. Joined WAGR 15/2/1916 aged 16 as Cadet, Brookton. Cadet in this case was usually a starting level for clerical work, for young men.

Granted leave to join AIF 24/6/1916 (Service No.5902). Killed in action 8/8/1918.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	27th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	5902
Date of death:	8 August 1918
Place of death:	Villers-Bretonneux, France
Age:	19
Rank:	Private

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

Alfred Stephen Moran (AKA “Curley”) was 19 years old when he died although some army records had him 2 years older and he may have misled the enlistment officers – some young men were so keen to go. He enlisted at Blackboy Hill Camp on 27 Jun 1916 and underwent basic military training at that camp. When he enlisted, he gave his father, Patrick John Moran, as his Next Of Kin. He had some previous military training in the Militia as a member of 89th Regiment of Infantry. During his training he was initially allocated to 23rd/11 Bn but this was changed to 16th Reinforcements 27 Battalion on 5 September 1916 and he was allocated the regimental number 5902.

Pte Moran departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle aboard A16 *Port Melbourne* on 30 October 1916 and disembarked at Devonport UK on 28 Dec 1916. He entered 7 Training Bn on 29 Dec1916 and remained in that Unit until 8 February 1917 when he departed the UK aboard *Invicta* for France and the British Expeditionary Force. He was taken on strength of 27 Bn on 12 February 1917. He had a number of hospital admissions between 17 Apr 1917 and 03 Dec 1917 when he re-joined his Unit. It is not known how much active service he saw during 1917. He had UK leave between 06 Mar and 21 Mar 1918.

In the battles around Villers-Bretonneux he suffered an injury which was recorded as Wounded in Action on 8 August 1918 but this was amended to Killed in Action that same date. An eye witness report by 3880 Olsen 27 Bn is on his Red Cross File. He was buried on the battlefield by members of 2 Pioneer Battalion and the site marked. After the War his burial site could not be located, he has no known grave, and is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

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The Australian War memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

Australian soldiers killed in France, whose bodies could be found for relocation, are buried and marked by the rows of gravestones seen to left and right.

The wing walls to both sides of the central watch tower record, carved in stone, the names of Australian soldiers killed in France but with no known grave – tragically, more than 11 000 men. The largest number recorded from one unit is from 28th Battalion – some 365 West Australians.



Additional/personal information:

Alfred Moran was born in Kalgoorlie WA in 1900 but schooled in Perth, a son of Patrick John Moran and Auten May (nee Playford) Moran. (BDM 790/1900)

> MORAN.—Killed in action, August 7, some-where in France, Private A. S. Moran, second eldest son of P. J. and A. M. Moran, 16 Brisbane-terrace, Perth and brother, of Fred (on active service); aged 18 years and 8 months. The West Australian 28/8/1918p1

For his service he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father together with other memorabilia. Pte Moran had a policy with the MLC the benefits being paid to his estate. His NOK died on 15 Nov 1946 at the age of 76 years and was buried at Karrakatta.

The Moran family had a second son at risk, James Frederick Moran who enlisted in the 37th battery Australian Field Artillery, regimental number 8951. Fortunately, he returned safely to Australia in 1919.

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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