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Moran, Bartholomew John

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:	Way and Works
Designation:	Striker

Rail employment notes: Born 26/10/1888. Joined WAGR 24/6/1904 aged 15 as Junior Labourer. Appointed Labourer 26/10/1909 and transferred to Boilermaker's Assistant 25/4/1910 and Striker, West Midland 30/10/1911.

The Way and Works Branch (later the Chief Civil Engineer's branch) was responsible for track and structures and had then a substantial workshop west of Midland.

Granted leave to join AIF 18/9/1915 (Service No.3198). Killed in action at Polygon Wood, Belgium 20/9/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	3198
Date of death:	20 September 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	28
Rank:	Sergeant

Burial/memorialisation: Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

Bartholomew John Moran enlisted in the AIF in Perth on 13 September 1915. On enlistment his wife Lucy Lavan Moran became his Next Of Kin and he stated that he had no previous military experience. His basic military training was conducted at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was assigned to 7th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion with the regimental number 3198.

Pte Moran departed Australia from Fremantle on 18 January 1916 aboard A7 HMAT *Medic* and disembarked in Egypt on 16 Feb 1916. He was taken-on-strength of 28 Bn on 15 Mar 1916 and sailed from Alexandria on 16 Mar 1916 on A32 HMAT *Themistocles* and landed at Marseilles on 21 March 1916 to join the BEF.

Special operation - Pte Moran was one of 30 soldiers from 28 Bn who joined 30 soldiers from 26 Bn in the first raid by the AIF on German lines at Armentieres on the night of 6/7 Jun 1916. The raid was led by Captain Foss of 28 Bn, The Australians did not want the Germans to know that Australians were involved, all participants wore British uniforms with no identifying badges or patches and the troops spent some time practicing the assault on a mock up trench constructed from aerial photographs. The aim was to kill, create havoc and capture Germans for interrogation. The raid was highly successful and all participants had an entry made in their personal file noting their actions.

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Pte Moran was made a Temporary Corporal on 19 Jan 1917 and this was converted to substantive Corporal on 15 Mar 1917. On 07 Apr 1917 he was made a Temporary Sergeant and the next day proceeded on UK Leave for two weeks. On 11 Jun 1917 he reverted to Cpl but was made up to T/Sgt again on 25 Aug 1917. Sgt Moran reported on sick parade on 11 Aug 1917 and was diagnosed as suffering from Syphilis which required hospital treatment in 39 GH and he was inefficient for a total of 56 days. (His pay would be docked accordingly)

He was Killed In Action during the Third Battle of Ypres. His burial site was marked and quite accurately recorded as 2000 yds SSW of Zonnebeke and 1500 yds ENE of Westhoek. After the War the Graves Registration Unit were unable to locate his remains, he has no known grave, and is remembered on the Menin Gate at Ypres (now Ieper).

Additional/personal information:

Bartholomew Moran married Lucy L. Sherlock in 1913 (WA BDM 57/1913). The couple had a young daughter Phyllis who would barely remember her father:

> MORAN. - Killed in action, France, September 20, 1917; Sergeant Bartholomew John Moran (Jack), dearly beloved husband of Lucy, fond and loving father of little Phyllis, May-street,. Bayswater aged 28 years. Deeply regretted. Sadly missed. R.I.P. - Inserted by his loving and sorrowing wife, Lucy and fond daughter, Phyllss. Sydney and Goulburn papers please copy.
>
> MORAN .-Killed in action, France; September 20 1917; Sergeant Bartholomew John Moran, dearly beloved son of the late John Moran, Goulburn, N.S.W., and, Mrs. A. Moran, May-street, Bayswater; fond brother of J. Moran Queenbeyan; Mrs Carden, Moruya; Mrs Todhunter, N.S.W.; Mrs. Power, Donnybrook; J. Bennett, Bunbury; aged 28 years. Deeply mourned. -Inserted by loving and sorrowing mother, sisters, and brothers. Sydney and Goulburn papers please copy. Both The West Australian 16/10/1917p1

For his services he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his wife together with other memorabilia. His widow received a pension of 52/3 per fortnight and his daughter Lucy Phyllis Moran a pension of 20/- per fortnight, both pensions effective from10 Dec 1917. Lucy Moran married Thomas G Jackson (BDM Perth 6/1927) whose first wife had died in 1920. Thomas Jackson had served as 3160 in 28 Bn departing Australia as a member of 7th/28 Bn with Bartholomew Moran. In the post-war period he was President of the 28 Battalion Association for 15 years.

Lucy died on 4 April 1946 aged 58 years and was buried 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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