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Munro, Roy Campbell

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

The war was a tragedy for so many families – in the Munro family, three brothers enlisted (two of them WAGR men), and all three died.



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

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Way and Works
Designation:	Cadet

Rail employment notes: Born 8/2/1895. Joined WAGR 15/2/1910 aged 15 as Cadet, Perth. "Cadet" was generally a young man hoping to gain a clerical or accounting role, but under age

Promoted to Clerk, Perth 1/2/1915.

Granted leave to join AIF 28/6/1915 (Service No.1876). Killed in action 26/2/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	28th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	1876
Date of death:	26 February 1917
Place of death:	Place not yet found
Age:	23
Rank:	Sergeant
Burial/memorialisation:	Warlencourt British Cemetery, Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Arras, Nord Pas de Calais, France

Roy Campbell Munro enlisted in the AIF on 1 July 1915. He nominated his widowed mother Mrs Annie C Munro as his Next of Kin (NOK). Pte Munro had previous military service of 2 years in 86th Infantry in which he had achieved the rank of Corporal. His basic military training was conducted at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was assigned to 3rd Reinforcements to 28 Battalion with the regimental number 1876.

He departed Australia from Fremantle aboard A68 HMAT *Anchises* on 2 September 1915 and was appointed a Temporary Sergeant for the voyage. On disembarking in Egypt, he moved to Lemnos and then to Gallipoli. On 12 Oct 1915 he was taken-on-strength of 28 Bn in the field and reverted to Private but was appointed to be a Lance Corporal that same day. He remained on Gallipoli until the evacuation and was promoted to Corporal on 31 Dec 1915 while on Lemnos, he reached Alexandria on 10 Jan 1916 on SS *Ansonia*. After a period of rest and reinforcements being absorbed the Bn sailed from Alexandria on 16 Mar 1916 aboard A32 HMAT *Themistocles* and disembarked at Marseilles on 21 Mar 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. Cpl Munro was appointed to be a Temporary Sgt on 24 Jun 1916. He was Wounded in action (Gunshot wound to Thigh) on 29 July 1916, evacuated

through 1 Fd Amb he entered the medical evacuation chain to England and reverted to his substantive rank that same day. Following treatment and a period of furlough he sailed on SS *Princess Clementine* for France where he re-joined 28 Battalion via 2 ADBD on 05 Feb 1917. Cpl Munro was again appointed to be a Temporary Sergeant on 10 Feb 1917 but was Killed in Action near Flers on 28 February 1917. He was buried on the battlefield in an isolated, but marked, grave between Morlancourt and Bapaume. His grave was subsequently located and in 1920 his remains were re-interred in the Warlencourt British Cemetery.

Additional/personal information:

Roy Munro was born in Melbourne Victoria but the family moved to WA in the gold rush years and he attended Claremont State School and also learnt to be a draughtsman through a correspondence school. He was part of a large family:

> MUNRO.-On February 26, killed in action in France, Sergeant Roy Camphell Munro, second son of thc late J. J. and Mrs. A. C. Munro, of Grange-street Osborne, . brother of Eric (Artillery, France), Norman (killed in action at Gallipoli, December 16, 1915), Jack, Ian, and Alan, aged 22 years. …
> *Western Mail* 23/3/1917p30

When the family published this notice, they knew Norman had already been killed, but could not know that a third brother Eric would also perish.

For his service Roy was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his mother together with other memorabilia. Pension payable to Mrs Munro was noted to be 92/3 per fortnight. Following the War Mrs Munro moved to Melbourne.

Sergeant Munro had two brothers who also enlisted in the AIF and tragically all three brothers died:

- 1111 Pte Norman A Munro 28 Bn (also a WAGR employee) was Killed in action on Gallipoli on 16 December 1915 and
- 12305 Gnr E J G Munro 2 Bde AFA who was killed during an air raid on London on 16 February 1918.

Sgt Munro has a memorial tablet in Kings Park (M424A), his brothers are M424 and M424B all of which were dedicated by their mother.

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----------