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Pederson, Arthur George

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:	Guard

Rail employment notes: Born 9/8/1881. Joined WAGR 27/2/1909 aged 27 as Porter, Perth. ("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR – some had specific roles such as a receiving goods porter, some were general hands while some learnt safe-working and could assist with signals, etc. Perth had multiple. Mr Pederson must have studied and passed safe-working course as he later became a Guard.)

Transferred to Shunter, Perth 9/9/1910 and promoted to Head Shunter, Fremantle Goods 11/12/1911 and Perth 24/7/1912. Transferred to Guard, Midland Junction 2/9/1912, Northam 24/2/1914 and Merredin 26/1/1916.

Granted leave to join AIF 17/6/1916 (Service No.2618). Killed in action at Armentieres 10/6/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	44th Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	2618
Date of death:	10 June 1917
Place of death:	near Pozieres, France
Age:	35
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Arthur Pederson enlisted in the AIF on 14 March 1916 and nominated his wife Mrs Mary Pederson of North Fremantle as his next of kin. He was allocated to 5th Reinforcements to 44th Battalion with the service number 2618. After initial training he was embarked on HMAT *Argyllshire* from Fremantle on 9 November 1916.

He died in Belgium and is commemorated on the Ypres Memorial (Menin Gate).

tbc

Additional/personal information:

Son of Peter Andrew and Isabella Pedersen; husband of Mary Eliza Pedersen, of Davis Rd., North Fremantle, Western Australia. Native of Port Adelaide. (CWGC)

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When a soldier died but his body had not been recovered, it took normally some months before official notice would be given, so that missing and prisoner lists could be checked. Family notices were often also delayed, and often repeated on the anniversary date:

> PEDERSON -In loving memory of my dear brother, Private Will Pederson, killed in action at Pozieres, August 21, 1916 … - Inserted by his loving sister, Annie. *The Advertiser* (Adelaide) 21/8/1917p4
>
> PEDERSON—In loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Will, who was killed in action Aug. 21st, 1916. … —Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters. *Burra record* (SA) 22/8/1917p2
>
> PEDERSON.- In loving memory of Arthur, who was killed ,in France June 10, 1917, 44th Battalion. Inserted by his sorrowing mother and brother. *The West Australian* 11/6/1918p1

Further information

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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