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Pollard, Albert Edward

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:	Repairer

Rail employment notes: Born 12/10/1883. Joined WAGR 22/1/1915 aged 31 as Repairer, Hines Hill.

("Repairer" was a track maintenance worker in a gang responsible for upkeep of an allocated section of railway line. A typical gang might include between 3 and 6 Repairers with one Leading Hand Repairer and a Ganger in charge. The WAGR Annual report for 1914/15 showed they employed 882 Repairers at 8 shillings per day, with many at very small settlements or tent camps.)

Granted leave to join AIF 22/1/1916 (Service No.5182). Killed in action 19/7/1918.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	11th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	5182
Date of death:	19 July 1918
Place of death:	Place not yet found
Age:	34
Rank:	Private
Burial/memorialisation:	Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension, Bailleul, Nord Pas de Calais, France

Albert Edward Pollard enlisted in the AIF on 4 February 1916. He had no previous military experience and nominated his mother Mrs Emily Jane Pollard as his Next Of Kin. His mother recorded that his father had died in 1900. He underwent basic military training at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was allocated to 16th Reinforcements to 11 Battalion on 14 March 1916 with the regimental number 5182.

He departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle aboard A9 HMAT *Shropshire* on 31 March 1916 and disembarked at Suez before continuing to England. After training in England, he departed for France on 31 Jul 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. After a short period at 1 ADBD he was taken on strength of 11 Battalion, in the field, on 13 August 1916. Pte Pollard then had 68 days of non-effective service while being treated for Gonorrhoea and re-joined his Battalion on 19 January 1917. He saw service during the Third Battle of Ypres until he was evacuated to the UK on 24 Apr 1917 suffering from Trench Feet and was admitted to Mile End Hospital where he remained until 29 May 1917 and re-joined the Bn on 08 Jun 1917. Pte Pollard was Wounded in Action by Gunshot wound to face and legs on 23 September 1917 which required evacuation to the 16th London General Hospital where he remained until 22 Oct 1917 and re-joined again on 27 Oct 1917.

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He remained on duty through the campaigns in France until he was Killed In Action on19 July 1918. He was buried where he fell however after the War his remains were exhumed and re-interned at Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension, Bailleul France.

Additional/personal information:

Albert Pollard was born in Victoria, a son of Mark Pollard & Emily Jane (nee Hicks) Pollard – the 8th of 10 children known to this couple. In the 1890s the family moved to the Eastern Goldfields in WA, however it appears Mr Pollard died there (BDM 157/1901).

> KILLED IN ACTION.
> POLLARD.— Killed in action,. Albert Edward (Bert), dearly loved son of E. J. Pollard (late of Brown Hill) and the late Mark Pollard, also loved brother of Mrs. Pollard (Kalgoorlie), Mrs. Irvine and Will (Victoria), Tom (Westonia), late George and Jack, Joe (on active service), Mrs. Browne (Kalgoorlie). — Inserted by his mother (18 Forrest-street, Kalgoorlie), sisters and brothers.
> *Kalgoorlie Miner* 7/8/1918p4

His mother paid for an inscription on his headstone which reads: "Greater Love Hath No Man His Duty Nobly Done". For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his mother along with other memorabilia. Pte Pollard has a memorial tablet in Kings Park (M631) which was dedicated by his comrades and the record card mentions the Theatrical Employees Association. Mrs Pollard received a military pension the details of which are held in File PP13/1 C12818 but it is not available on line. She lived to the age of 95 years, died on 10 May 1943 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----------