**Poyner, William**

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



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

**Rail employment information**

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|---|---|
| Employer: | Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways |
| Branch: | Traffic |
| Designation: | Junior Porter |

Rail employment notes: Junior Porter, Midland Junction, Traffic Branch. Left to enlist in AIF 22/8/1914. Killed in action at Gallipoli, 2/5/1915.

**Military service information:**

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|---|---|
| Conflict: | First World War 1914-1918 |
| Service: | Australian Imperial Force (AIF) |
| Military unit: | 11th Australian Infantry Battalion. |
| Service number: | 341 |
| Date of death: | 2 May 1915 |
| Place of death: | Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey |
| Age: | 22 |
| Rank: | Private |
| Burial/memorialisation: | No known grave; Recorded on Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey |

William Poyner enlisted in the AIF on 2 September 1914. On enlistment he nominated his father, James Poyner resident in England as his Next of kin. He had previous military experience of 1 year and 298 days in the 7th Worcestershire Regiment in England. He underwent basic military training at Blackboy Hill camp and was allocated to 1th Battalion with regimental number 341. The Battalion boarded A11 HMAT *Ascanius* at Fremantle on 31 October 1914 but did not depart to join the other ships of the First Convoy at sea until 2 November 1914. The soldiers disembarked in Egypt and moved into Mena camp for further military training. There was further (intensive) training in Egypt before the Battalion moved to Mudros in Greece and then participated in the Landing on the morning of 25 April 1915. Private Poyner was unharmed at the Landing but was Killed in action on 2 May 1915 in an offensive action against the Turkish forces. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial.

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*

**Additional/personal information:**

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William was born in England His date of arrival in Australia is not known but as he had British Army Experience for some time it suggests that he had been in Australia for a relatively short time. He gave his address on enlisting as Newcastle Rd Midland Junction (now Midland) and it appears he joined family relatives in emigrating to WA:

> POYNER.-Killed in action at the landing at the Dardanelles. William, the beloved nephew of William and Harriett Goode, of Midland Junction, and cousin of Leslie, Dolly, and Lionel, aged 22 years. His duty done (*Western Mail* 18/6/1915)

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father in England together with other memorabilia directly from Australia House, London.

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----------