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Roger, Alexander

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

One of the saddest cases – his daughter was born the after her father embarked for the war.



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

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Tramwavs
Designation:	Motorman

Rail employment notes: Born 7/1/1885. Joined Tramways 1/7/1913 aged 28 as Conductor, Perth. Transferred to Motorman, Perth 24/5/1914.
"Motorman" is the tramways term for the driver of a tram.

(The tramways of Perth and adjoining suburbs were compulsorily purchased by the WA Government in 1913 and were placed in the management and responsibility of the WA Government Railways. The records of employees, including the honour roll after the war, reflected this combined operation. The date of Mr Roger joining WAGR&T indicates that he was already working for one of the private or municipal tramways)

Granted leave to join AIF 24/2/1916. Killed in action at Bray-sur-Somme 22/8/1918.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	44th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	(233)
Date of death:	22 August 1918
Place of death:	France
Age:	33
Rank:	Lieutenant

Burial/memorialisation: Cote 80 French National Cemetery, Etinehem, Picardie, France

Alexander Roger enlisted in the AIF on 27 January 1916. He gave his age then as 31 and named his wife Amy Rebecca Roger of Victoria Park as his next of kin. His widow stated that before migrating to Australia he had served in the Navy.

He was allocated to "B " Company of the 44th Infantry battalion with service number 233. His group embarked on HMAT *Suevic* at Fremantle on 6 June 1916.

By June 1916 Alexander Roger had the rank of Sergeant, but would later be commissioned with the rank of Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Alexander Roger was killed in action in France on 22 August 1918. He was buried in the Cote 80 French National Cemetery.

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Additional/personal information:

Alexander Roger was born in Rochdale near Manchester in England but came to Australia when he was about 24 and found work with one of the Tramway operators..

The marriage of Alexander Roger to Amy Rebecca Danes in the Swan District was registered in 1913. The couple then had two daughters, Thelma in 1914 and Muriel who was born on 7 June 1916, just one day after her father embarked on the transport ship so they never would meet.

> ROGER.—Killed in action in France on August 22, 1918, Lieutenant Alex. Roger, dearly beloved husband of Amy, and loving father of Thelma and Muriel, of Monger-street, Victoria Park. Deeply regretted. *The West Australian* 2/9/1918p1
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> ROGER.—Killed in action in France on August 22, 1918, Lieut. Alex. Roger, late of W.A. Government Tramways and esteemed member of Tramway Rifle Club. Inserted by members Perth Tramway Rifle Club. *The West Australian* 3/9/1918p1

Amy Roger's brother, Corporal Harold E Danes of 11th Battalion, was killed in the landing at Gallipoli 25 April 1915.

His widow remarried to Aloysius P Brennan in 1921, however he died in 1924 and Mrs Brennan's movements after that have not been found.

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. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

----------Lest we forget----------