Scott, James

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:	Porter

Rail employment notes: Born 1/7/1884. Joined WAGR 22/7/1915 aged 31 as Porter, Midland Junction.
("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Midland, a busy junction station and also terminus of suburban passenger trains, probably had at least 6 porters in the station and goods shed on varying shifts)

Granted leave to join AIF 24/6/1916 (Service No.2404). Died of wounds 1/9/1918.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	44th Battalion.
Service number:	2404
Date of death:	1 September 1918
Place of death:	France
Age:	34
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: St Sever Cemetery Extension, Haute-Normandie, France

James Scott enlisted in the AIF on 12 June 1916. He nominated a married sister resident in Cumberland UK as his Next of kin. He had no previous military experience. His basic military training was conducted at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was assigned to 4th/44 Bn with the regimental number 2404 and departed Australia on 13 Oct 1916 aboard A39 HMAT *Port Macquarie*.

Before leaving Australia, he made his Will which he lodged with the WA Trustees and Executor Agency of Perth. Pte Scott disembarked at Plymouth on 12 Dec 1916 and marched into 11 Trg Bn for continuation training. He departed England through Folkestone on 04 Feb 1917 and joined the BEF at 3ADBD where he remained for just 4 days before he was taken-on-strength of 44 Bn (B Coy) from 4th/44 Bn on 8 February 1917. Pte Scott was accidently injured on 4 September 1917 suffering a contusion of the left knee. His recovery was complicated by the onset of mumps and his medical state required evacuation to England on HMHS *Grantully Castle* where he passed through a number of medical installations and for some time was medically downgraded as unfit for active service. In February 1918 he was graded as again fit for full duty and returned to France from Southampton where he re-joined 44 Bn on 22 February 1918. In the Battle of Amiens, he suffered Gunshot wound to the right shoulder following which he was evacuated to 11 Fd Amb then moved to 55 CCS and finally to 9 General Hospital where he Died of wounds on 1 September 1918. Pte Scott was buried at the St Sever Extension Cemetery Rouen.

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Additional/personal information:

James Scott was born Flimby in Cumberland UK. and had migrated to Australia at the age of 26 years. Both his parents were dead and his wife Frances Ann Scott had died on 18 March 1916, aged 38 years, who was buried at Karrakatta Cemetery.

> SCOTT.—On March 18, at her late residence, Ewart-street, Midland Junction, Frances Ann, beloved wife of James Scott, late of Flimby, Cumberland, England. Thy, way, not mine. 0 Lord, However dark It be; lead me by Thine own hand, Choose out the path for me. *The West Australian* 20/3/1916p1

There had been no children born to this union.

> SCOTT. - Died of wounds September 1, 1918, Private James Scott, 44th Battalion, late of Ewart street, Midland Junction, and formerly of Flimby, Cumberland, England. His duty nobly done.
>
> Sincerely remembered by Private Tom Gill (on active service) and Jane, Cissie, and Madge, Ewart street. *The West Australian* 2/11/1918p1

His estate was administered by the Trustee Company under the terms of his Will. For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his sister Mrs Walters, resident in England, together with other military memorabilia. When completing the AWM circular his sister noted that he was also a lay preacher of the Methodist Church.

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----------