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Scott, Vernon Alexander

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:	Junior Porter

Rail employment notes: Born 6/2/1894. Joined WAGR 23/8/1910 aged 16 as Junior Porter, Pinjarra.

("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, et. Pinjarra, the junction of Bunbury and Dwellingup lines, probably had more than one porter. A Junior Porter was under 2 and paid less.)

The Honour Roll shows he was a Porter, which was normal as he had reached 21 years, however the date of promotion is not recorded.

Granted leave to join AIF 24/9/1915 (Service No.3631). Died of wounds 2/4/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	51st Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	3631
Date of death:	2 April 1917
Place of death:	Noreuil, France
Age:	23
Rank:	Corporal

Burial/memorialisation: Bapaume Australian Cemetery, Bapaume, Picardie, France

Vernon Alexander Scott enlisted in the AIF on 29 Sep 1915. On enlistment he nominated his father John Robert Scott to be his NOK. He stated that he had no previous military experience but this seems be at variance with Army Records which has him assigned to 86th Regiment at Bunbury. His basic military training was conducted at Blackboy Hill Camp and on completion he was assigned to 8th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion with the regimental number 3631. On 03 Jan 1916 he made his Will in which he made his mother Phoebe Anne Scott the sole beneficiary.

He departed Australia from Fremantle aboard A30 HMAT *Borda* on 17 Jan 1916. Upon arrival in Egypt he marched into 7 Trg Bn. As the AIF Divisions were being reorganized from 2 Divisions to 4 Divisions he was transferred to from 8th/28 to 51 Battalion on 3 March 1916. This Battalion departed Alexandria on 05 Jun 1916 aboard HMT *Ivernia* and disembarked at Marseilles on12 Jun 1916 to join the BEF. Pte Scott was made a Temporary Corporal on 25 Sep 1916 as 51 Bn became engaged in the Battle for Moquet Farm and his rank was confirmed as substantive on 14 December 1916. He was Wounded in action on 02 April 1917 near Noreuil suffering a compound fracture of the right thigh

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with massive haemorrhage and was removed from the field to 13 Fd Amb where he Died of Wounds. Corporal Scott was buried in the Bapaume Australian Cemetery.

Additional/personal information:

Vernon Scott was a local man, born in North Fremantle and a son of John Robert Scott and Phoebe Ann (nee Hymus) Scott. He was the third of eight children, six of whom were born in Pinjarra where Vernon found work, however the family list suggest not all eight babies survived.

> SCOTT.—On April 2, died of wounds in France, Corporal V. A. Scott (Sonnie), of 51st Batt., second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Scott, Pinjarra, brother of Mrs. R. Wiley, Edah Station, Winnie, Mickie (on active service), and Willie, Railway-Department, East Perth, grandson of Mrs. J. Scott, Bunbury, and Mrs. Hymus, Pinjarra, age 23 years 2 months. *The West Australian* 25/4/1917p1

For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father together with other memorabilia. Mrs Phoebe Anne Scott, mother of Cpl Scott received a military pension of 40/- per fortnight with effect from 19 May 1917 and the pension was increased to 52s 3d on 19 Jun 1917. His family paid for an inscription on his gravestone which reads: "Until the Day Breaks and Shadows Flee Away". Cpl Scott has a memorial tablet in Kings Park (M418 A) which was dedicated by his nephew on behalf of the family on 22 Aug 2009. John Robert Scott the NOK of Cpl Scott died on 21 Oct 1929, aged 78 years and Phoebe Scott the pension recipient died on 25 Dec 1946 aged 80 years. Apparently, Cpl Scott had a brother who served in the AIF but he has not been identified.

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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