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Short, Stanley Chloride

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



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

A sad story – Corporal Short left behind two children, the younger of whom probably never knew him, but when his widow remarried the children were not wanted and were left with an orphanage.

Rail employment information

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

Rail employment notes: Born 11/2/1890. Joined WAGR 28/1/1914 aged 23 as Porter, Midland Junction. Transferred to West Guildford 26/7/1915, Guildford 29/7/1915 and Perth 15/101/1915.

("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, etc. Perth probably had at least 10 porters)

Granted leave to join AIF 15/11/1915 (Service No.3962). Killed in action 3/9/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial force
Military unit:	51st Australian Infantry Battalion.
Service number:	3962
Date of death:	3 September 1916
Place of death:	Moquet Farm, France
Rank at time of death:	Corporal
Age:	26

Burial/memorialisation: Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert, Picardie, France

Stanley Chloride Short enlisted in the AIF on 08 Nov 1915. On enlistment he nominated his wife Mrs Kathleen Short as his NOK and declared that he had no previous military experience. He underwent basic military training at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was assigned to 9th Reinforcements to 28 Battalion with the regimental number 3962.

Pte Short departed Australia from Fremantle on 12 Feb 1916 aboard A28 HMAT *Miltiades* and disembarked at Suez on 10 Mar 1916 where he marched into 7 Trg Bn. On 2 Aprl 1916 he was taken-on-strength of the newly formed 51 Bn where he was appointed to be a L/Cpl on 14 April 1916. The Bn continued to train at both the individual and formation levels until it departed Egypt from Alexandria on 05 Jun 1916 aboard HMT *Ivernia* and disembarked at Marseilles on 12 June 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. L/Cpl Short was promoted to the rank of Cpl on 28 August 1916.

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At the Battle for Moquet Farm he was posted Missing In Action on 3 September 1916. A Court of Enquiry held on 23 April 1917 determined that he had actually been Killed In Action on 3 September 1916 and MIA was amended to KIA.

His body was not found at that time but was located in 1923 and buried with honours at Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery 3 Km NW of Albert. His body was identified from an identity disc which was subsequently forwarded to his widow but seems to have never reached her.

Additional/personal information:

Stanley Chloride Short was born in Broken Hill, NSW which may explain his unusual middle name as Chlorides are commonly used in mining processes. His parents were John & Eva Short. (NSW BDM) He grew up in Adelaide but then moved west. He was in Perth by 1913 when he married Kathleen Bradley (WA BDM 70/1913). Letters from Cpl Short's mother confirm that there were two children from the marriage but it has only been possible to identify Dorris, the first-born in 1913.

> SHORT.-In loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father, Corporal S. C. Short killed in France on September 3, 1916. I have lost my life's companion, And how I wish that I was near, But alas! I could not see you, My best friend, my husband dear. His duty nobly done. Inserted by his loving wife and children, Dorris and Jacky. *The West Australian* 3/9/1917p1

The 'Jacky' mentioned could be a nickname or diminutive of "Jacqueline" or of "Jack".

For his service he was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and other memorabilia. His widow received all but the British War Medal.

Mrs Short married again to John E Rowe in 1921 (BDM Perth 59/1921) but, despite the loving words in the family notice recorded above, either he or she apparently did not want the two children. They became wards of the Salvation Army who drew pensions on their behalf.

Despite extensive advertising Mrs Rowe could not be contacted by Army Records for the issue of the British War Medal. She was essentially lost to follow up in any way. The headstone on Cpl Short's grave records just that he was the son of Eva and the late John Short and there is no mention of his wife.

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----------