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Shortland, Herbert Leslie

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:	Locomotive
Designation:	Cleaner

Rail employment notes: Born 22/1/1893. Joined WAGR 26/2/1910 aged 17 as Junior Labourer, Perth. Transferred to West Guildford 29/6/1910, Leederville 11/11/1910 and Northam 27/2/1911 and resigned 28/4/1911. Re-employed as Car Cleaner, Collie 23/8/1911 and transferred to Cleaner, Collie 6/10/1911. ("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise working around the locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder)

Transferred to Fremantle 19/8/1912, Collie 26/8/1913 and Donnybrook 27/6/1914.

Granted leave to join AIF 28/9/1914. Killed in action at Gallipoli 9/5/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	16th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	1524
Date of death:	9 May 1915
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey
Age:	22
Rank:	Sergeant
Burial/memorialisation:	Burial not located; remembered on Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

Herbert Leslie Shortland enlisted in the AIF on 28 September 1914 at Helena Vale and underwent basic military training at Blackboy Hill Camp. He nominated his father as his Next of kin and declared that he had previous military experience of 18 months in the West Australian Infantry Regiment including 6 months on machine guns. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 1 January 1915. Corporal Shortland was assigned the regimental number 1524 of 2nd Reinforcements to 16th Battalion.

He departed Australia on A50 HMAT *Itonus* through the Port of Fremantle on 22 February 1915. Following a short period in Egypt he was transferred to Lemnos for additional training and then to Gallipoli. He was Killed in action at Quinn's Post on 9 May 1915. When he died, he had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant but the date is unknown and was the cause of considerable correspondence from the Finance Branch in order to adjust his payments.

His body was buried on the battlefield but could not be located after the War. He is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.

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The Lone Pine Australian Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. In the foreground are individual graves for servicemen buried here. The walls running across the front of the memorial in the background are engraved with the names of Australian servicemen whose remains have not been located. Photo A.Tilley	

Additional/personal information:

For his service he was entitled to receive the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The medals and other memorabilia were issued to his father. The family duly placed a notice which indicates he had one sibling:

> SHORTLAND.-Killed in action at the Dardanelles, Sergeant H. L. Shortland, dearly beloved son of Charles and Jennet Shortland of 72 Rowland-street, Subiaco, aged 22 years
> brother of Mrs. H. Turner, Capel. (*The West Australian* 5/6/1915p1)

His father made an application for a War Pension which was rejected, as not being made in the correct timeframe, but a second application overturned the original decision and he was awarded an annual pension of £25 per annum with effect from 29 May 1915. Charles G Shortland (father) died in 1924, (BDM Wellington 126/1924). The entitlement to the pension passed to his mother Jennet Shortland until she died in 1927. (BDM Perth 719/1927).

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----------