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Slade, Frank Thomas

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:	Way and Works
Designation:	Labourer

Rail employment notes: Labourer, Midland Junction

Detailed employee record for Mr Slade have not been found, so it is not known when he had joined the WAGR, or if he was a permanent employee or a casual. The Way and Works Branch (later the Chief Civil Engineer's branch) was responsible for track and structures so a variety of works, and they had a separate but significant workshop at West Midland.

11th Battalion AIF (Service No.1830). Wounded at Gallipoli and died 10/8/1915.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	11th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	1830
Date of death:	10 August 1915
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey
Age:	23
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

Frank Thomas Slade enlisted in the AIF on 13 January 1915 in Perth. At enlistment he gave his occupation as Seafarer and recorded an apprenticeship with a Steamship Company of London. He recorded his mother Mrs Clara Slade resident in Essex as his next of kin. He had been born in Kingston, UK but there was no evidence of the time he had spent in Australia. He had no previous military experience. After basic training at Blackboy Hill Camp he was assigned to 4th Reinforcements to 11 Battalion with regimental number 1830.

His reinforcement group embarked at Fremantle aboard the transport ship HMAT *Argyllshire* on 19 April 1915. The Port of Arrival in Egypt is not recorded and nor is the date. Time spent in Egypt must have been minimal as he was taken-on-strength by 11 Battalion from 4th/Reinforcements on 4 June 1915 on Gallipoli Peninsula.

In the last major assault on the Turkish lines on 6 August 1915 he was injured in a grenade explosion resulting in a penetrating skull injury. Private Slade was evacuated to 1 Casualty Clearing Station that same day and then put aboard the hospital ship HMHS *Sicilia* on 7 August 1915 and sailed for Alexandria. However he Died of his wounds on 10 August 1915 and was buried at sea. He is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial.

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Additional/personal information:

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his mother in England direct from Australia House, London together with other memorabilia. There is no mention of any military pension.

It is now known how long he had been in Australia, however he had made some friends here:

> SLADE.—On August 7, at the Dardanelles, died of wounds, Frank, loving friend of K. Cullen and C. Hilton. He died for his country. *The West Australian* 7/9/1915p1
>
> SLADE.—In fond memory of our dear friend, Frank Slade, who died of wounds, August 10, 1915, at Gallipoli. Ever remembered. —Inserted by N. and C. Hilton. *The West Australian* 10/08/1916p1

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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