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**Stephen, David Robert**

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



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

**Rail employment information**

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|---|---|
| Employer: | Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways |
| Branch: | Locomotive |
| Designation: | Cleaner |

Rail employment notes: Born 21/7/1890. Joined WAGR 17/4/1913 aged 22 as Cleaner, Merredin.

("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise employed at a locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder.)

Granted leave to join AIF 27/12/1915. Killed in action 28/3/1918.

**Military service information:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Conflict: | First World War 1914-1918 |
| Service: | Australian Imperial Force (AIF) |
| Military unit: | 44th Australian Infantry Battalion |
| Service number: | (463) |
| Date of death: | 28 March 1918 |
| Place of death: | France |
| Age: | 28 |
| Rank: | Lieutenant |

Burial/memorialisation: Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

David Stephen enlisted in the AIF on 13 December 1915. He gave his age as 23 and nominated his father David Stephen of Motherwell in Scotland as his next of kin. He was allocated to C Company of 44th Infantry Battalion with the service number 463.

After training in WA he embarked on HMAT *Suevic* from Fremantle on 6 June 1916.

He died in France on 28 March 1918.

**Additional/personal information:**

tba

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*

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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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