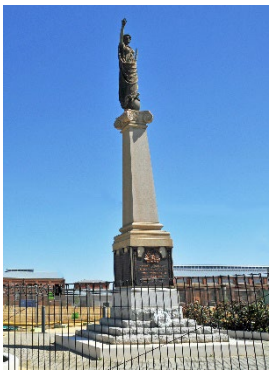
336

Whyte, Joseph Thomas

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



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Driver

Rail employment notes: Born 16/9/1876. Joined WAGR 16/9/1896 aged 20 as Cleaner, Perth. ("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.)

Promoted to Fireman 21/10/1897 and to Driver 2/12/1901. Transferred to Southern Cross 9/2/1903 and Merredin 9/4/1905.

Enlisted in AIF 1/6/1916 (Service No.2416). Killed in action at Armentieres 8/6/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	43rd Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2416
Date of death:	8 June 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	40
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Prowse Point Military Cemetery, Wallonie, Belgium

Joseph Thomas Whyte enlisted in the AIF at Merredin on 1 June 1916. On enlistment he nominated his sister Mary Whyte as his Next of kin and stated that he had no previous military experience. His basic military training was conducted at the Belmont racecourse. Following initial training he was allocated to 7th Reinforcement to 51 Battalion on 20 June 1916 but this was later amended to 4th Reinforcement to 43 Battalion and he was given the regimental number 2416.

He departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle on 30 October 1916 aboard HMAT *Port Melbourne* and disembarked at Devonport UK on 28 December 1916 where he marched into 11 Training Battalion that same day. Following further training in the UK he departed to join the British Expeditionary Force through Folkestone on 19 April 1917 and was taken on strength of 43 Battalion, in the field, on 24 April 1917.

Private Whyte was Killed in action near Armentieres in Belgium on 8 June 1917 and buried at Prowse Point Military Cemetery some 11 Km South of Ypres.

Additional/personal information:

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Joseph Whyte was born in Victoria in 1873, a son of Alexander Whyte and Barbara Whyte (nee Burnside). He was the youngest of seven children born to this couple in Victoria. (Vic BDM 24605/1873 et al.)

The family then moved to WA, the date is not known but was before 1896 when Joseph joined the WAGR. It appears the whole family moved west, as Joseph's sister Catherine married Stephen Roberts in Perth in 1898 and his sister Agnes also married in Perth in 1900. It seems his mother died in Perth in 1908 but his father's fate has not been found.

Victorian BDM records indicate Joseph Whyte was born in 1873. This would have meant he was over 40 years old in 1916, then the age limit for enlistment, so it appears he gave a later date of birth in WA.

> WHYTE.-Killed in action, in France, on June S. 1917. No. 2416, Pte. Joseph Thomas, 43rd Battalion (late of Government Railways, Merredin), dearly loved brother of Richard, Mary. Barbara and Margaret Whyte, and Mrs. S. R. Roberts. Subiaco, and Mrs. H. J. Dymond. Midland .Junction. He sleeps in a hero's grave. *Sunday Times* (Perth) 1/7/1917p1
>
> WHYTE. In loving memory of Private Joseph Thomas Whyte, late 43rd Battalion, killed at Messines June 8, 1917, late of .the W:A. Government Railways, .Merredin. – Inserted by sisters, brother, and brothers-in-law. *The West Australian* 8/6/1918p1
>
> WHYTE.-A tribute to the memory my dear friend and comrade, Private J.T. Whyte (Joe), killed in action at Messines on June 8, 1917. – Inserted by K. B. Smyth, Sewell-street, East Fremantle.
> *The West Australian* 8/6/1918p1

For his service he was entitled to receive the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his elder brother, Richard Whyte, late of the 44 Battalion, together with other memorabilia under the requirements of the Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918.

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----------