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Doran, Albert Philip

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

This family lost 2 brothers in the war – their only 2 sons – tragically this was not uncommon



Memorial tablet in Kings Park

Rail employment information

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

Rail employment notes: Born 9/2/1893. Joined WA Government Railways 5 April 1909 aged 16 as an Apprentice Blacksmith, Midland Workshops. Dispensed with 21 May 1914.

Re-employed as Porter, Midland Junction 13 July 1915 ("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Midland, a busy junction station and terminus of suburban passenger trains, probably had at least 10 porters).

Granted leave to join AIF 6/3/1916 (Service No.3101). Killed in action 12/10/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	48th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	3101
Date of death:	12 October 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	24
Rank at time of death:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Ypres Memorial at Menin Gate, Flanders, Belgium

Albert Philip Doran enlisted in the AIF in Perth at the age of 23 on 7 March 1916. He nominated his father Joseph Teran Doran as his Next of kin. He had previous military service in the 11th Bn of the Australian Infantry Regiment but the period of service was not stated. His basic military training was conducted at Blackboy Hill Camp.

He departed Australia on 23 December 1916 aboard HMAT *Berrima* as a member of 8th Reinforcements for 48th Battalion with the regimental number 3101. Private Doran disembarked at Devonport on 16 February 1917 having served as a Sergeant for the voyage only. In the UK he had a period of sickness (nature unknown) before marching into 12 Training Battalion on 5 March 1917. Private Doran had a further period of illness between 16 March 1917 and 7 April 1917 which was classified as non-effective service and another 3 days from 17 to 20 May 1917 which was also non

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effective service. He was taken on the command strength of the Training Battalion for 10 days beginning on 8 June 1917 but the reason is not revealed.

Private Doran crossed to France to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) through Southampton on 5 September 1917 and was taken on strength of 48 Battalion on 16 September 1917, the Battalion then being engaged in the Third Battle of Ypres. He was shot through the head on 12 October 1917 and died instantly. There were two references to his death but the more detailed was provided by 3178 Cpl Lawford of 48 Battalion. The Battalion then withdrew from their position leaving all the dead behind. The line was then taken over by a Canadian formation and it was presumed that the Canadians buried the dead, however Private Doran's body was never found and he is remembered on the Ypres Memorial at Menin Gate.

Additional/personal information:

Albert Doran was born in Echuca, Victoria, a son of Joseph Teran Doran and Annie Doran (nee Kleinkenecht) in 1893, the third of three children however unfortunately the daughter died as an infant before Albert was born. The family then moved west, as did many families after the 1890s gold finds, and settled in Midland (then called Midland Junction) in WA.

Private Doran's only brother, Victor Frederick Doran, enlisted on 18 June 1915 as 2470 in 16 Battalion but also died in France – he was killed in action on 11 June 1917 at Pozieres.

> DORAN.—On October 12, 1917, killed in action somewhere in France, Lance-Corporal Albert P. Doran, dearly loved youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Doran, of North-street, Midland Junction, and loved only brother of the late Lieut. Victor Doran, killed in action, June 11, 1917, aged 24 years. Brothers united. Their duty done.
>
> DORAN.—On October 12, 1917, killed in action, Lance-Corporal Albert P. Doran, dearly loved nephew of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Doran, of Wentworth-street, Cottesloe, and dearly loved cousin of George (on active service), Albert (returned) and Mrs. Elsie Foster. Sadly missed.
>
> Both *The West Australian* 17/11/1917p1

For his service Albert was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his father along with the other memorabilia. Private Doran has a memorial plaque in Kings Park (M62) which was dedicated by his father in 1919. His brother Second Lieutenant Victor Doran is remembered on plaque M62A adjacent.

With their three children all now dead, his parents returned to Victoria, where his mother died on 29 September 1938.

Further information 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----------