362

Lockhart, Ernest Edward

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



Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Stores
Designation:	Labourer

Rail employment notes: Labourer, No.2 Railway Mill, Dwellingup*.
In this period the WAGR operated two sawmills, whose operations were included in the Commissioner of Railway's responsibilities and reports. WAGR records of individual employees, available from the SRO, have not been found for Mr Lockhart, however designation and other information have been listed from WAGR Honour Boards, the Railway Institute Magazine, and other sources.

*Comprehensive information on these mills and rail operations, with maps, can be found in this book:
Gunzburg, A. and J.Austin: "Rails through the bush": Perth, 2008, Rail Heritage WA: ISBN 978-0-9803922-2-7

Enlisted in 16th Battalion AIF 23/6/1915 (Service No.2676). Died of wounds 12/8/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	16th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2676
Date of death:	12 August 1916
Place of death:	Near Pozieres, France
Age:	20
Rank:	Private

Burial/memorialisation: Puchevillers British Cemetery, Puchevillers, Picardie, France

Ernest Edward Lockhart enlisted in the AIF at the age of 19 with the permission of both his parents. His basic training was at Blackboy Hill Camp following which he was allocated the regimental number 2676 in 8th Reinforcements to 16 Battalion. He nominated his father as his next of kin. He had no previous military experience. He sailed from Fremantle on 23 June 1915 aboard HMAT *Anchises* and disembarked at Alexandria. He then took HS *Kalyan* for Mudros on 18 October 1915 where he was taken on strength of 16 Battalion.

There was no significant action on Gallipoli as the Force prepared to evacuate. Private Lockhart returned to Alexandria on 30 December 1915 and remained with the Battalion as the AIF in Egypt was re-structured. He had a short admission to the NZ Auxiliary Hospital with Influenza between 27 February and 3 March 1916 following which he rejoined the Bn. The Unit departed Alexandria on 1

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June 1916 aboard HMT *Canada* and disembarked at Marseilles on 9 June 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. After service in quiet sectors 16 Battalion joined in the Battle for Pozieres.

Private Lockhart was Wounded in action on 10 August 1916 where he suffered a fractured skull (showed protruding brain). His injury was non survivable and he was taken to 3 Casualty Clearing Station where he died on 12 August 1916. He was buried that same day in Punchevillers British Cemetery with the Rev Woodburn officiating.

Additional/personal information:

Ernest Lockhart was born in Victoria in 1896 but the family moved west when he was young – as did many people after the 1890s gold finds in WA – and he attended school in Gosnells. He was a son of John Charles Lockhart and Rosanna Lockhart (nee Hyatt), the sixth of seven children registered in Victoria.(Vic BDM 9153/19895 et al.)

As a result of his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The family dedicated a memorial plaque in Kings Park (M245) and paid for his headstone to be engraved with the words; "Till We Meet Again".

The family lost two sons - Private Lockhart's brother 2947 Private Charles Leonard Lockhart also enlisted and was also killed – Died of wounds at Passchendaele in 1917 – and is remembered by the adhjoing plaque M245A.

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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