Hartnell, William Perryman

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
Branch:	Workshops
Designation:	Car builder

Rail employment notes: Born 9/3/1913. Joined WAGR 24/11/1937 aged 24 as Car Builder, CME Branch, Midland Workshops. Enlisted in RAAF 30/9/1941. Died 8/11/1942.

Military service information:

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Australian Air Force
Military unit:	No. 4 Service Flying Training School
Service number:	45752
Date of death:	7 November 1942
Place of death:	Geraldton, Western Australia
Age:	29
Rank at time of loss:	Leading Aircraftman

Burial/Memorialisation: Listed on Peace Monument at former Railway Workshops, Midland, Western Australia.

William Hartnell enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 30 September 1941. He was posted to the No.4 Flying Training School, which operated from the Geraldton airport. He died there on 7 November 1942, the military recorded the death as accidental, due to a ground accident.

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*

Additional/personal information:

William was born on 9 March 1913. When enlisting, he gave his Next of kin as Florence Hartnell, who was his mother. Family notices after his death indicate his father had died previously, and he had at least three siblings, and he was not married.

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).

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR Honour Roll and WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

----------Lest we forget----------

 © Rail Heritage WA