Shepherd, Alfred Horwood

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

Alfred Shepherd was an apprentice in the railway workshops at Midland before enlisting in the Navy. He died in the sinking of HMAS *Sydney* – along with two more workshops employees.



Memorial at Geraldton to sailors lost on HMAS Sydney II (G.Higham)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways
Branch:	Workshops
Designation:	Apprentice Turner

Rail employment notes: Born 10/1/1918. Joined WAGR 23 April 1934 aged 16 as Junior Worker, CME Branch, Midland Workshops. Appointed Apprentice Turner 28 November 1934.

Enlisted in RAN 4/9/1939 (date in WAGR records). Died 20/11/1941.

The majority of apprentices at Midland took 5 years, it appears Alfred was so willing to enlist that he left just a couple of months before completing his time.

Military service information:

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Australian Naval Reserve
Military unit:	HMAS *Sydney* (II)
Service number:	F2324
Date of death:	20 November 1941
Place of death:	Indian Ocean
Rank at time of loss:	Engine Room Artificer 4th Class
Age:	23
Burial/Memorialisation:	Remembered on the HMAS Sydney II monument in Geraldton.

Alfred Shepherd enlisted in the navy on 2 September 1939.

HMAS *Sydney II* was fatally damaged in a fight with a German raider HSK *Kormoran* offshore from Carnarvon on 19/November 1941, and is believed to have sunk early the next morning. No crew of HMAS *Sydney* survived, and the sunken wreck was the subject of much enquiry and speculation until the wreck was located in 2008

Unfortunately two other fellow employees from the WAGR workshops also died in this tragedy; Norman Foster and Ivan Jones.

Additional/personal information:

Alfred Shepherd's birth was registered in the Swan District of WA (BDM 14/1918). There is no indication of his being married.

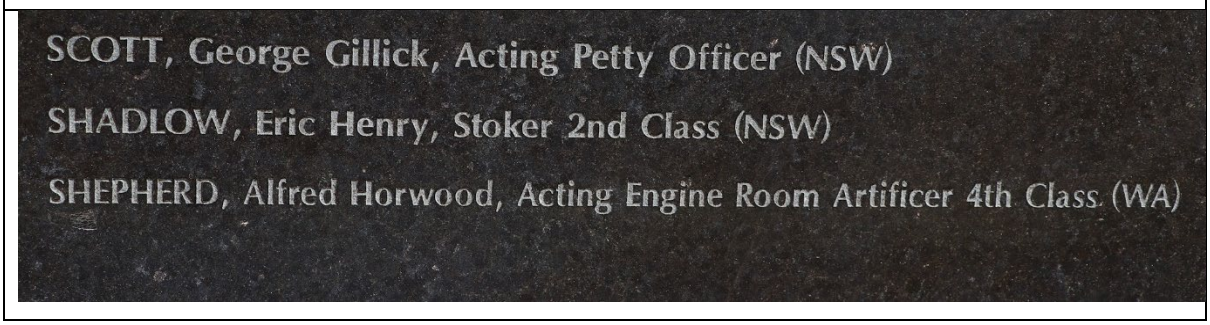
A nice photo of Mr Shepherd is displayed on the Australian War Memorial website at

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1675051

wearing a cap showing HMAS Cerberus, the navy training establishment in Victoria.



HMAS Sydney memorial at Geraldton: the wall of names; Alfred Shepherd recorded. Phil Melling



Alfred Shepherd is also commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Plymouth, Devon, England, United Kingdom.

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* and on the navy website *http://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-sydney-ii*

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. Photos courtesy Phil Melling, Geraldton

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