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Doran, Edward John

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



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland (D.Graham/panoramio)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Fireman

Rail employment notes: Born 16/10/1910. Joined WAGR 26/2/1926 aged 15 as Junior Worker, Locomotive Branch, Northam. Transferred to Kalgoorlie 2/11/1927 and appointed Cleaner ("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning and otherwise working around locomotives whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder) 16/10/1928.

Transferred to Southern Cross 21/5/1929 and retrenched 18/7/1931. Re-employed as Cleaner, Merredin 26/12/1933 and transferred to Kalgoorlie 24/9/1934. Promoted to Fireman 28/9/1936.

Enlisted in AIF 16/12/1940. POW for 2½ years and died in sinking of Japanese transport ship *Tamahoko Maru* on 24/6/1944.

Military service information

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Australian Army
Military unit:	2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion
Service number:	WX10551
Date of death:	24 June 1944
Place of death:	East China Sea
Rank at time of death:	Private
Age:	33
Buried/commemorated:	Singapore Memorial, Singapore

Edward Dolan enlisted in Claremont on 27 December 1940. He named his next of kin as Doreen Doran (although other references say Doris). The Australian Army had just formed a new unit, the 2/3rd Machine Gun battalion, of which 'D' Company was to be provided from WA, and Edward Doran was moved into that with the regimental number WX 10551.

The Battalion fought first in Palestine and Syria and then in 1942 as Japanese forces stormed south, they returned from the Middle East and were shipped to java. Here the Dutch were in control and when they surrendered, the small Australian force had to also on 9 March 1942.

The men of the 2/3rd were then Prisoners of War. The Japanese forces employed their prisoners in many types of labour, and sent some to Japan to work in factories, etc, there.

In 1944 over 700 POWs were shipped to Japan on the *Tamahoku Maru*, and on 24 June 1944 this ship was sunk by a torpedo from a US submarine. Edward Doran is believed to have been among the 560 POWs who in the East China Sea.

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Additional/personal information:

Edward Doran was born in 1910 in Kalgoorlie , a son of James and Kathleen Doran; In 1932 he married Doris May Wilmot. It appears they had a son Les.

DORAN, WX10551 Edward John.— A sincere and loving tribute to the memory of the beloved son of Mrs. K. Doran and the late J. Doran, and brother of Lily, Kathleen, Winnie. Late Japanese P.O.W. Thy will be done. — Inserted by his loving mother and sisters.

DORAN, WX10551 Edward John.— In fond and loving memory of Danny, late Japanese P.O.W., beloved father of Les, and loving son-in-law of Mrs. B. Chadwick. Oh, Danny Boy, the pipes are calling. Some day we will understand. —Inserted by Mum Chadwick and Les.

DORAN.— In memory of my mate, Private 'Danny' E. J. Doran, WX10551, 2/24th Machine Gunners, lost at sea on Japanese transport. He gave his all that we might live. — Inserted by Jack Ricardo.

All *Kalgoorlie Miner* 11/11/1944p4

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. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

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

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