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Hickling, William Francis

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: Cleaner

Rail employment notes: Born 22/10/1921. Joined WAGR 15/12/1937 aged 16 as Junior Worker, Locomotive Branch, Midland Junction. Transferred to East Perth 12/2/1940 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) 10/4/1941. Transferred to Midland Junction 30/6/1941 and Southern Cross 18/8/1941.

Enlisted in RAN 6/1/1942. Died 24/6/1944.

Military service information

Conflict: Second World War 1939-1945

Service: Royal Australian Navy

Military unit: HMAS Matafele

Service number: F3894

Date of death: 24 June 1944

Place of death: Coral Sea, Pacific Islands

Rank at time of death: Stoker

Age:

Buried/commemorated: Plymouth Naval Memorial, Plymouth, Devon

Enlisted in RAN 6/1/1942. Died at sea between 18/6/1944 and 24/6/1944.

Additional/personal information:

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----------