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Jones, Edgar Cheetham

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:	Traffic
Designation:	Shunter

Rail employment notes: Born 10/9/1897. Joined WAGR 5/9/1924
aged 26 as Goods Porter, Traffic Branch, Perth.
("Porter" was a very general category in the WAGR and Perth, the busiest station and terminus for some suburban passenger trains, probably had at least 20 porters in parcels and goods work, general station duties, and some qualified to assist in safe working.)

Appointed Shunter 17/12/1924, Porter 16/5/1925, Shunter 26/10/1925, Porter 21/9/1926 and Shunter 15/11/1927. Enlisted in AIF 2/8/1940. Died of illness as POW 1/7/1942.

Military service information

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Second Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	2/4th Machine Gun Battalion
Service number:	WX7453
Date of death:	6 July 1942
Place of death:	Java, Indonesia (then the Netherlands East Indies)
Age:	44
Rank at time of death:	Private

Buried/commemorated: Jakarta War Cemetery, Jakarta, Indonesia

Enlisted in the AIF 2/8/1940. Sent to South Australian then to Darwin for training camps before sailing for Singapore. His ship moored off Fremantle but the troops were told there would be no shore leave. Jones was then one of many crew with family in Perth who jumped ship for a brief reunion with relatives. He sailed on a later ship which was diverted to Indonesia (then the Dutch East Indies) when it was realised Singapore was about to fall. Fought in Indonesia until the Dutch authorities there surrendered to Japan in March 1942. Edgar then became a Prisoner of War (POW) and was held in 'Bicycle' camp where he died of dysentery on 6/7/1942.

Additional/personal information:

Edgar Jones was born in Manchester, England. On enlistment he gave his date of birth as 10/9/1901 although the battalion members' website *http://2nd4thmgb.com.au* suggests that he was actually born earlier but wanted to meet an age limit for enlistment at the time, and the WAGR records show his birth as 10/9/1897. His family brought him to Western Australia in 1913.

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Records show his marriage to Irene B Parker registered in the Perth district in 1925 (BDM reg 628/1925). The above 2/4th website says the couple had 4 daughters, although one died young before Edgar enlisted, and death notices mention three daughters Hazel, Rae and Val.

More information on the battalion and its soldiers may be found on the website *http://2nd4thmgb.com.au/*

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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