437

Elliott, Walter 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:	CME
Designation:	Fireman

Rail employment notes: Born 2/7/1918. Joined WAGR 16/3/1938 aged 19 as Cleaner, Locomotive Branch, Fremantle. ("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise employed at a locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder.)

Transferred to Yalgoo 30/8/1938 and Fremantle 11/11/1941. Promoted to Fireman 20/11/1941.

Enlisted in RAAF 9/4/1942. Died 3/1/1944.

Military service information

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Australian Air Force
Military unit:	26 Operational Base Iron Range
Service number:	80078
Date of death:	3 January 1944
Place of death:	Cairns, Queensland
Rank at time of death:	Leading Aircraftsman
Age:	26 (per his wife)

Buried/commemorated: Cairns War Cemetery, Cairns, Queensland, Australia

Walter Elliott enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) on 9 April 1942. After initial intake he was posted to 26 Operational Base which was built in 1942 at a location called Iron range, approximately 130 miles (200 km) north of Cairns. This was an emergency landing strip built mainly for the use of the US Air Command 99 Bomb Group, flying B24 Liberator bombers for raids to the north of Australia.

Walter died in a ground accident at this facility on 3/1/1944.

Information and photos of 26 Operational Base may be seen here:

https://www.ozatwar.com/airfields/ironrange.htm

Additional/personal information:

Walter Elliott was born 2/7/1918, a son of William and Lottie Elliott. He married Vera Elliott (details not yet found). Lottie died in 1942. It Appears Walter and Vera had two young daughters before he was killed.

> ELLIOTT.—On January 3, 1944, at Townsville, Queensland, LAC Walter James Elliott (RAAF), the dearly beloved husband of Vera and devoted Daddy of Dorothy and Margaret; aged 26 years. Inserted

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by his loving wife and baby daughters (14 Gold-street, South Fremantle). At the going down of the sun and in the morning I will always remember you, darling.

ELLIOTT.—Accidentally killed on January 3, 1944, LAC W. J. Elliott (RAAF), dearly loved second son of William and the late Lottie Elliott; darling brother of May (Mrs R. Stannard, Sawyer's Valley) and Ted Elliott, of Mingenew. Inserted by his heartbroken Dad. Some day we'll understand.

ELLIOTT.—In loving memory of my darling Son (by adoption), Wally, accidentally killed in Townsville, Queensland, on January 3, 1944. Inserted by his ever-loving Ma, Mrs E. Wilson (24 Gold-street, South Fremantle).

ELLIOTT.—On January 3, 1944, at Townsville, Queensland, LAC W. J. (Wally) Elliott (RAAF), dearly loved Pal of Bert (RAN) and Hope Wilson, of Lochee-street, Mosman Park. Inserted by Bert and Hope. All *The West Australian* 5/1/1944p1

The reference to a son by adoption is not understood without further study.

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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