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Bagley, Arthur Victor

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:	Porter

Rail employment notes: Porter, Traffic Branch, Perth.
Able Seaman, RAN (Service No.F3375). Attached to the Royal Navy. Died in sinking of HMS *Sikh* in Gulf of Bomba, Libya on 14/9/1942, aged 23.

Military service information

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Australian Navy
Military unit:	HMS *Sikh* (Royal Navy)
Service number:	F3375
Date of death:	14 September 1942
Place of death:	Gulf of Bomba, Mediterranean Sea
Rank at time of death:	Able Seaman
Age:	23

Buried/commemorated: Plymouth Naval Memorial, Plymouth, Devon, England,

Arthur Bagley enlisted at Subiaco on 17 February 1941, and named his wife Winifred Bagley as his next of kin. He was taken into the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) with the service number F3375.

However servicemen were urgently wanted for the war nearer Europe and Bagley was posted to London depot and taken onto the British ship HMS *Sikh.* By this time he had become an Able Seaman.

Died in sinking of HMS *Sikh* in Gulf of Bomba, Libya on 14/9/1942, aged 23.

Additional/personal information:

Arthur Bagley was born on 26 August 1920, the only child of Walter Victor Bagley and Jessie Bagley.

It appears Arthur may have worked interstate for a period because neither his marriage nor his daughter are registered in WA. Arthur married Winifred Ethel, and they apparently had a young daughter Carole.

At first the families were only told Arthur and other crew was missing, because some were known to have been taken prisoner - his death was not confirmed until later:

> BAGLEY. Arthur Victor (AB, RAN). reported missing with the loss of the HMS Sikh, September 14 1942, now presumed killed in action; loving husband of Winnie, Daddy of Carole. You're always in my heart. *The West Australian* 21/9/1943p1

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BAGLEY. Arthur Victor (RAN), reported missing, September 14 1942, now presumed killed in action serving on HMS Sikh. off Tobruk: dearly loved only child of Mr and Mrs W. V. Bagley (151 Bagot road, Subiaco). Memories. *The West Australian* 21/9/1943p1

BAGLEY (Arthur Victor, RAN).-A token of remembrance of Arthur. Reported missing now presumed killed In action., September 14 1942. Always remembered by his brother-n-law and sister-in-law, and nephew Robert.

BAGLEY. Arthur Victor (AB. RAN). reported missing, now presumed killed in action. September 14. 1942. off HMS Sikh. A tribute to happy memories of working days together. Always remembered by Enid and Auriel.

BAGLEY (Arthur. RAN).-A tribute to our dear Pal Arthur, missing September 14. 1942, off HMS Sikh. now presumed killed in action. Inserted by Daphne and Ron (RAAF).

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----------