Cleland, William Robert

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 27/9/1908. Joined WAGR 9/12/1924 aged 16 as Junior Worker, Locomotive Branch, East Perth. 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) 15/11/1926 and transferred to Northam 14/3/1927 and Wongan Hills 29/12/1928. Promoted to Fireman 6/1/1929 and reduced to Cleaner 5/7/1931. Transferred to Northam 21/7/1931 and re-appointed Fireman 26/3/1933. Transferred to 85 Mile SWR Ballast Pit 28/8/1933, Northam 8/3/1934, East Perth 22/9/1938 and Kulja 21/8/1939. Enlisted in RAAF 20/6/1941. Flying Officer, killed in action in England 20/5/1943.

Military service information

Conflict: Second World War 1939-1947

Service: Royal Australian Air Force

Military unit: No.10 Squadron (RAF)

Service number: 415006

Date of death: 20 May 1943

Place of death: England

Rank at time of death: Flying Officer

Buried/commemorated: Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, England, United Kingdom

Enlisted in RAAF 20/6/1941. Flying Officer, killed in action in England 20/5/1943.

Additional/personal information:

Born in Perth, WA, 27/9/1908. Married to Patricia Margaret Cleland

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----------