

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5090 DRIVER

P. B. FLAHERTY

13TH AUSTRALIAN BDE HQ

24TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 29

Patrick Bryan (Paddy) FLAHERTY

Bryan Patrick Flaherty was born at Eton, Queensland on 22nd September, 1891 to parents James & Elizabeth Hannah Flaherty (nee Craig).

Patrick Bryan Flaherty attended State School, North Eton, Mackay, Queensland.

Patrick Bryan Flaherty was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from North Eton, Mackay, Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 13th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Flaherty, North Eton, Mackay, Queensland.

Private Patrick Bryan Flaherty was posted to No. 10 Depot Battalion on 13th December, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to No. 12 Depot Battalion on 3rd February, 1916. Private Flaherty was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 4th March, 1916.

Private Patrick Bryan Flaherty, Service number 5090, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 31st March, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Port Said on 5th May, 1916.

9th Battalion

The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Queensland, and with the 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Patrick Bryan Flaherty embarked from Alexandria on 7th May, 1916 on *Huntspill* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 11th May, 1916. He was reallocated from 3rd Training Battalion (16th/9th Battalion) to 13th Training Battalion as reinforcements to 49th Battalion on 20th May, 1916. Private Flaherty was taken on strength of 49th Battalion in the Field on 13th August, 1916 from 4th Australian Divisional Base.

Private Patrick Bryan Flaherty reported sick on 16th February, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Divisional Rest Station then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 18th February, 1917. Private Flaherty was discharged to duty on 8th March, 1917 & rejoined 49th Battalion in the Field on 9th March, 1917.

Private Patrick Bryan Flaherty was written up for a Crime while in the Field – “*W.O.A.S. (While on Active Service) – Absent without Leave from Tattoo 12/5.17 until noon 13/5/17.*” He was awarded 72 hours Field Punishment No. 2 & a total forfeiture of 5 days pay.

Private Patrick Bryan Flaherty reported sick on 16th July, 1917. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 16th July, 1917 with a sprained ankle & was discharged to duty on 20th July, 1917. Private Flaherty rejoined 49th Battalion in the Field on 20th July, 1917.

49th Battalion

The 49th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 27 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 9th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 9th, the 49th was predominantly composed of men from Queensland. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 49th moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 21 June. It fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and suffered heavily, particularly in the assault launched on 3 September. The battalion saw out the rest of the year alternating between front-line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.

Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line,

supporting the 13th Brigade's attack at Noreuil on 2 April. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF's operations moved to the Ypres sector in Belgium. There the battalion fought in the battle of Messines on 9 June.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Patrick Bryan Flaherty was attached to 13th Infantry Brigade Headquarters on 20th July, 1917 & was appointed Driver to complete Establishment. He was transferred to 13th Infantry Brigade Headquarters on 16th August, 1917 & was taken on strength the same day.

13th Infantry Brigade Headquarters

The 13th Brigade formed the third Brigade of the 4th Division and was raised in Egypt in March / April 1916 as part of the "doubling of the AIF" by splitting the 3rd Brigade in the 1st Division and seeding the new Brigade with experienced officers, NCO and men complemented by reinforcements fresh from Australia. The 'pupped' Brigades and Battalions reflected the origins of its 'parents'.

Thus the Battalions of the Brigade were:

49th from the 9th Battalion (Qld)

50th from the 10th Battalion (SA)

51st from the 11th Battalion (WA), and

52nd from the 12th Battalion (Tas / WA and SA)

After journeying across the Mediterranean Sea and the via train from Marseilles to Armentieres, the 4th Division spent time in the trenches near Fromelles where it sustained its first casualties, but its first major engagement was to be in the second phase of the Pozieres / Mouquet Farm campaign.

(Information from VWMA)

Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty was On Leave to England from 11th November, 1917 & returned from Leave on 26th November, 1917.

Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty was written up for an Offence on 14th July, 1918 "*W.O.A.S. Drunkenness.*" He was awarded 14days Field Punishment No. 2 by Captain T. S. Leach on 18th July, 1918.

Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty was On Leave to England from 9th October, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England on 16th October, 1918 with Influenza whilst on furlough to UK. Driver Flaherty was reported to be seriously ill on 24th October, 1918.

Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty died at 8.30 am on 24th October, 1918 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Influenza & Pneumonia Toxaemia.

A death for Patrick B. Flaherty, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty was buried on 28th October, 1918 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Grave number 74 Australian Section.

From the burial report of Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty - *Coffin was usual supplied to A.I.F.. Military Funeral. Wreath supplied by Mr C. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield. Headquarters firing party & Bugler in attendance. Officer in charge of Funeral – Captain J. F. S. Murray, M.O. Small number of Hospital Staff and patients attended the funeral.*

His brother was present at the Funeral (particulars not known). Rev Father O. Caron officiated.

Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty's burial place is now recorded by CWGC as Plot - Aust. 76 and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty requested in his Will dated 12th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Flaherty, North Eton, Mackay, Queensland.

Base Records contacted Mrs Elizabeth Flaherty, North Eton, Mackay, Queensland on 25th November, 1921 stating she was noted on the records of the late No. 50090 Driver P. B. Flaherty as the next of kin but were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was alive due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs Flaherty returned the above form answering “yes” to the question is his father still alive & giving his details as Mr James Flaherty, North Eton, Queensland.

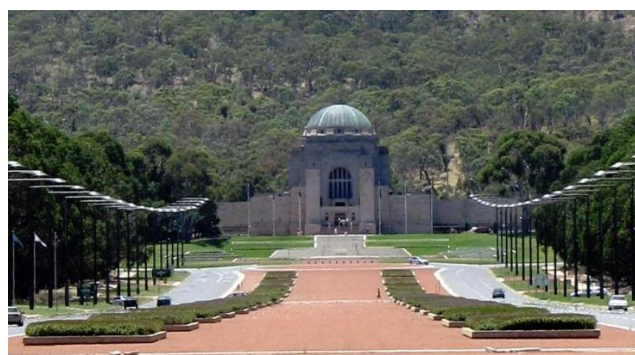
Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Flaherty’s father - Mr J. Flaherty, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty – service number 5090, aged 29, of 13th Australian Brigade H.Q. He was the son of James & Elizabeth Flaherty, of North Eton, Mackay, Queensland.

Driver P. B. Flaherty is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 2.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



P. Flaherty is remembered on the Eton War Memorial, located in Langford Park, Telegraph Street, Eton, Queensland.



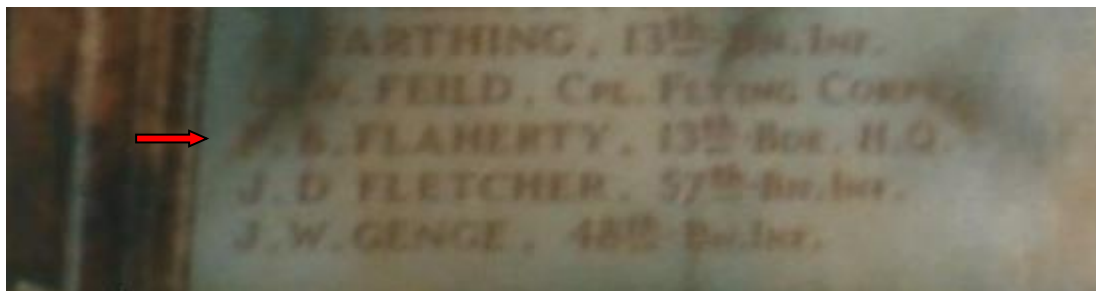
Eton War Memorial (Photos from Queensland War Memorials – Glen Hall, Mackay Historical Society)



P. B. Flaherty is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(55 pages of Driver Patrick Bryan Flaherty's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Pte. R. B. Flaherty,
Mackay.

**Note: Wrong initial – should be Pte P. B. Flaherty

(*The Northern Herald*, Cairns, Queensland – 14 September, 1917)



Newspaper Notices

CENTRAL DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS

THIRTY-FIVE MORE LEAVE

Thirty-five more recruits accepted for service in the Australian expeditionary forces left Rockhampton on Saturday, Monday, or yesterday...The following are the names of the thirty-five referred to:-

.....

P. B. Flaherty, Mackay

.....

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 15 December, 1915)

Roll of Honour

Queensland Casualties

Casualty lists Nos 448 and 449....

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Dvr. P. B. Flaherty, North Eton, 24/10/18, illness

(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 6 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

FLAHERTY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Paddy, who died in England, on October 24, 1918, aged 27 years.

This day brings back to memory

 One that has gone to rest,

In a grave we may never see,

 And those who think of him to day

Are those who loved him best.

(Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, N. Eton).

(Daily Mercury, Mackay, Queensland – 24 October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

FLAHERTY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Patrick Bryan, who died of pneumonia in England on October 24th, 1918, aged 27 years.

Though nothing can our loss replace,
 Dear one, taken from our side,
Yet in our sorrow we rejoice
 To think 'twas nobly that he died.
Life's highest mission he fulfilled,
 And bravely answered duty's call
To fight for liberty and right
 And battle for oppression's fall.

(Inserted by his loving mother and father, sisters and brothers).

(Daily Mercury, Mackay, Queensland – 25 October, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

FLAHERTY – In loving memory of our dear Son and Brother, Patrick Bryan, died of pneumonia, October 24th, 1918, aged 27 years.

Though nothing can our loss replace,
Dear one taken from our side,
Yet in our sorrow we rejoice
To think 'twas nobly that he died.
Life highest mission he fulfilled,
And bravely answered duty's call
To fight for liberty and right
And battle for oppression's fall.

(Inserted by his loving Father, Mother, Sisters and Brothers).

(Daily Mercury, Mackay, Queensland – 24 October, 1921)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

A letter from Base Records, dated 11th July, 1921, to Mrs E. Flaherty, North Eton, via Mackay, Queensland advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late No. 5090 Driver P. B. Flaherty, 13th Infantry Brigade Headquarters, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Driver T. B. Flaherty does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of Driver R. B. Flaherty's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.

*** NOTE: This photo shows the incorrect initials – see next photo for amended headstone showing correct details.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Photo showing updated Headstone with the corrected initials (the correction was apparently made in June, 2016)

(Photo above from Find a Grave – Richie – 2018; below from Find a Grave – DeeBee 2016)





St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

