

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



7807 PRIVATE

P. J. FLAKELAR

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH MARCH, 1918 Age 19

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte P. J. Flakelar is located in
Grave Plot # 312. D. 2. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Patrick James FLAKELAR

Patrick James Flakelar was born at Rosebrook Station, Cooma, NSW in 1898 to parents James Joseph and Mary Madeline Flakelar (nee Foster). He was a 19 year old, single, Farm Hand from Numeralla, NSW when he enlisted at Queanbeyan, NSW on 6th July, 1917 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 26th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 7807 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father, Mr J. J. Flakelar of Numeralla, via Cooma, NSW. James Flakelar, father of Patrick Flakelar, signed his consent for his son who was under the age of 21 to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. Patrick's mother was deceased.

Pte Flakelar was written up for being absent without leave from 6.30 a.m. on 7th December to 6.30 a.m. on 8th December, 1917 while at Liverpool Camp. He was fined 5/-.

Pte Patrick James Flakelar embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 19th December, 1917 & disembarked at Suez on 16th January, 1918. Pte Flakelar re-embarked from Port Said on 24th January, 1918 & disembarked at Taranto, Italy on 2nd February, 1918. Pte Flakelar entrained from Taranto on 5th February, 1918 & detrained at Cherbourg, France on 12th February, 1918, where he embarked the same day aboard HMAT *Antrim* & disembarked at Southampton, England on 13th February, 1918.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Patrick James Flakelar was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 13th February, 1918.

Private Patrick James Flakelar was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital on 25th February, 1918 & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 26th February, 1918 with Influenza.

Private Patrick James Flakelar died on 9th March, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Patrick J. Flakelar, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte Flakelar contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives of Pte Flakelar to obtain the fullest details possible on the illness, death & burial of Pte Flakelar.

A reply from B. D. Turner of Military Hospital, Sutton Veny reads:

"Pte Flakelar died of Pneumonia on 26-2-18, and was buried in Sutton Veny Churchyard. He had Sgt Shen with him when he died, which seemed a comfort to him as he knew him, and happened to be a patient at the time. His breathing was very bad and he could only talk very little, poor boy, so that it was really a relief when the end came. The Sister of the Ward did write to his Mother." (Note – date of death in the letter quoted is incorrect – date is the date he was admitted to the Hospital)

Private Patrick James Flakelar was buried on 13th March, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 312.

Pte Patrick James Flakelar requested in his Will, dated 17th December, 1917, that he bequeaths the whole of his Estate to his uncle – James Foster of Big Badger, via Cooma. James Foster was also appointed Executor of Pte Flakelar's Will.

Pte Patrick James Flakelar was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Flakelar's father – Mr J. J. Flakelar (sent July, 1921 & October, 1922).

Private P. J. Flakelar is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 32.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

P. J. Flakelar is also remembered on the Cooma Cenotaph located on the corner of Massie & Vale Streets, Cooma, NSW.



Cooma Cenotaph (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)

The CWGC lists Private Patrick James Flakelar, 7807, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of James Joseph and Mary Madeline Flakelar of Numeralla, Cooma, New South Wales.

(56 pages of Pte Patrick James Flakelar's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

The 387th Australian casualty list was issued yesterday.

OTHER DEATHS

Pte P. J. Flakelar, Numeralla, 9/3/18 (cause not stated)

(Sunday Times, Sydney, NSW – Sunday 31 March, 1918)

The Late Private Flakelar

Mr J. J. Flakelar, of Numeralla, has received a letter from the Department concerning his son, Private P. J. Flakelar, as follows:

“With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of the Late No. 7807, Private P. J. Flakelar, 2nd Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows he died at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, on 9/3/18, of bronchial-pneumonia and was buried at St. John's, the Evangelist Cemetery, Sutton Veny England, consecrated ground, section west end, grave No. 312, on 13/3/18. Chaplain E. A. Smith conducted the service. The deceased soldier was buried with military honors, the coffin being of good polished wood. The full band of the 1st Training Battalion preceded the funeral party which consisted of a firing party of 12 men and a number of personal friends of the deceased. A very fine wreath, presented by the comrades of the late Pte. Flakelar, was placed on the grave. He was very popular with both officers and men in this battalion. These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connection with death of members of the Australian Imperial Force. —Yours faithfully. J. McLean, Major, Base Records, Melbourne.”

(The Monaro Mercury and Comma and Bombala Advertiser, NSW – Friday 28 June, 1918)

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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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)

Pte Patrick James Flakelar does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte P. J. Flakelar's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (*Photos from CWGC*)

