

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



717 CORPORAL

J. H. FOLEY

AUST. ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

26TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 26

Gone But Not Forgotten

Mother

John Henry (Jack) FOLEY

John Henry Foley was born on 15th January, 1891 at Kew, Victoria to parents Edward and Eliza Foley (nee McIlroy).

John Henry Foley attended the State School at Kew, Victoria.

John Henry Foley was a 25 year old, single, Chainman from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted in Brisbane on 3rd January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his friend – Miss H. A. Dow, Factories Office, Treasury Buildings, Melbourne, Victoria.

John Henry Foley was posted to No. 2 Remount Unit with a Service number on 2806 for recruit training. He was transferred to 3rd Mobile Veterinary Section & his service number was changed to 717.

Australian Army Veterinary Corps

The Australian Army Veterinary Corps (A.A.V.C.) was a corps of the Australian Army which was formed in 1909 to replace the veterinary department of the Commonwealth Military Forces. Following the establishment of a number of permanent artillery batteries and a remount department to supply them with horses, a permanent section of the A.A.V.C. was formed in 1911. Responsibilities included veterinary care of horses and the training of farriers and non-commissioned officers in shoeing, horse care and veterinary first aid. During the First World War 120 officers of the A.A.V.C. served overseas with the Australian Imperial Force. *(Wikipedia)*

Corporal John Henry Foley embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT Karroo (A10) on 5th May, 1916 with the 3rd Mobile Veterinary Section & disembarked at Karos, Egypt on 7th June, 1916.

Corporal John Henry Foley was posted at Tel-el-Kebir from 8th June, 1916.

Corporal John Henry Foley embarked for overseas on *Arcadian* from Alexandria on 29th July, 1916.

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.

Corporal John Henry Foley was taken on strength of A.A.S.C. (Australian Army Service Corps) Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England on 9th August, 1916. He was transferred to 3rd Mobile Veterinary Section, Larkhill, near Durrington, Wiltshire on 12th August, 1916.

Corporal John Henry Foley proceeded overseas with 3rd Mobile Veterinary Section on 23rd November, 1916.

Corporal John Henry Foley was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd June, 1917. He was discharged to D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 7th June, 1917 then transferred the same day to No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Corporal Foley was transferred to Ambulance Train - 3 on 7th June, 1917 & admitted to 83rd General Hospital on 8th June, 1917. He was invalided to England on 8th August, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* with Nephritis.

Corporal John Henry Foley was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 8th August, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Corporal John Henry Foley died at 4.30 am on 26th October, 1917 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from Acute Nephritis.

[Note: - There appears to be some discrepancy as to the Hospital name – The Field Service form, Statement of Service form & Casualty Form – Active Service have the Hospital name as “Royal Victoria Hospital”. The Hospital Admissions form, the “Report of a Death of a Soldier” form, Telegram to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London & the Burial Report form all have the Hospital listed as “Red Cross Hospital”. The personal effects of the late Corporal John Henry Foley which were shipped to his friend (listed as the next of kin) had items from both Hospitals listed.]

A death for John H. Foley, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Corporal John Henry Foley was buried at 3 pm on 29th October, 1917 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number N. 398 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal John Henry Foley - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. Buglers and Pallbearers attached to the R.A.M.C. Netley Hospital were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted by several floral tributes. A Service was held in the Garrison Chapel, and at the graveside by Chaplain Sharp, attached to the Hospital. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. A party of Australian patients and V.A.D. Nurses from the Hospital were present at the funeral. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral - Miss Hicks, South Lodge, The Avenue, Southampton (Friend) & Miss Walker, Leighton Lodge, Bournemouth (Friend).

The District Paymaster advised Base Records in October, 1918 that Probate of the late Corporal John Henry Foley had been granted to Miss Helen Agnes Dow, Marine Parade, St. Kilda, Victoria (Sole Executrix).

Miss Dow signed for a parcel of the personal effects of the late Corporal John Henry Foley from *Boonah* on 2nd May, 1918. The contents of the parcel consisted of several items from Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, 2 coins from British Red Cross Hospital, Netley & 4 items from Kit Store.

The next-of-kin new address details were noted on 28th November, 1921 as "Warragal", Cadow St, East Kew, Victoria, late of 3 Foley Street as advised by E. Foley, sister.

Corporal John Henry Foley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Foley's father – Mr E. Foley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal John Henry Foley – service number 717, aged 26, of 3rd Mobile Vet. Sect., Australian Army Veterinary Corps. He was the son of Edward and Eliza Foley, of Warrungal, Cadow St., East Kew, Victoria, Australia.

Corporal J. H. Foley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 184.

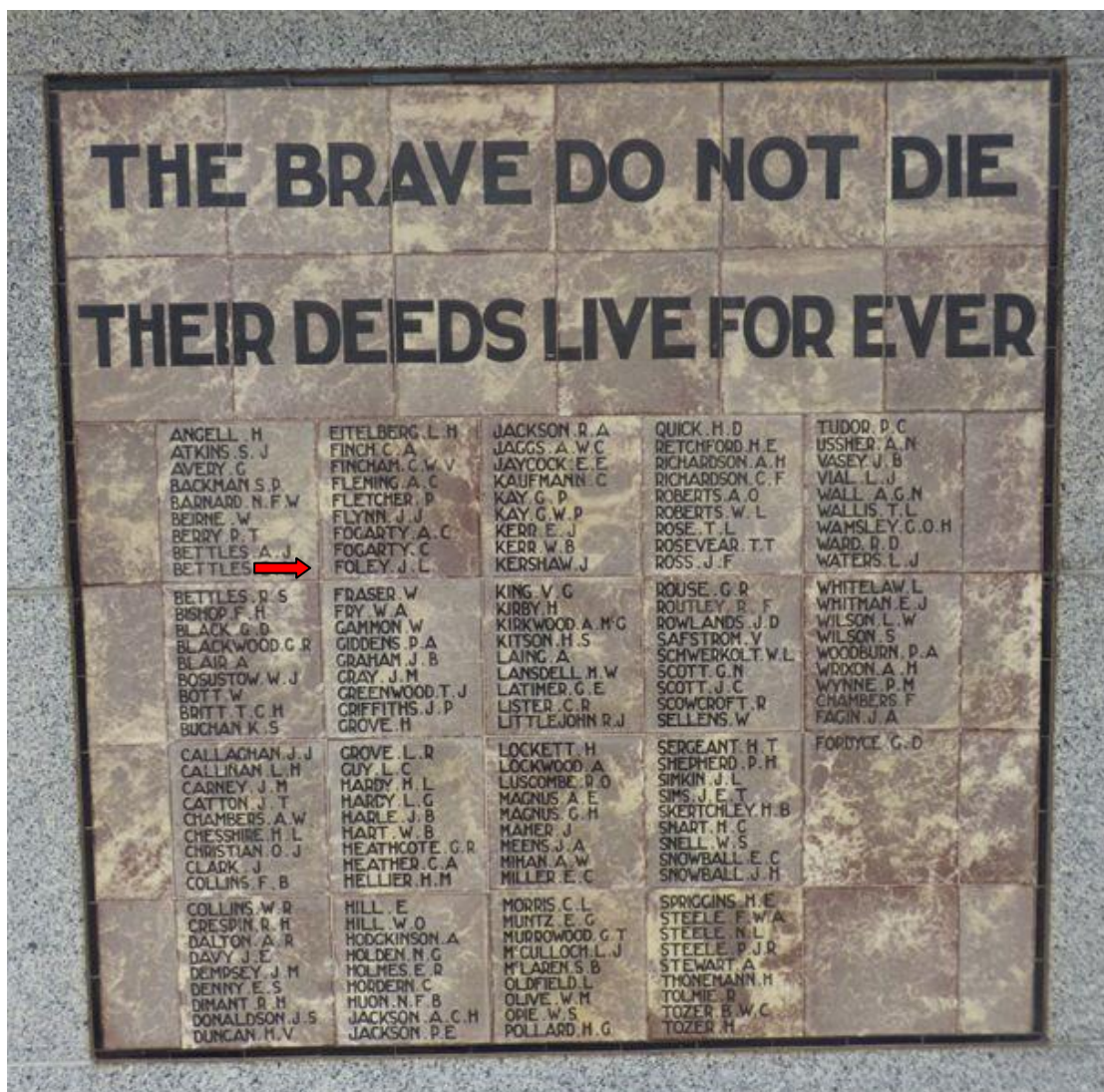


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. L. Foley (brother of John Henry Foley) is remembered on the Kew War Memorial, located at Cotham Road & High Street, Kew, Victoria.



Kew War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



(46 pages of Corporal John Henry Foley'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

Connected to Corporal John Henry Foley:

Younger Brother – Private James Leonard Foley (nickname Sonny) – 1600, 24th Battalion. Blacksmith. Enlisted 29th March, 1915. Embarked 25th June, 1915. Killed in action at Pozieres, France on 24th August, 1916, aged 19. Remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

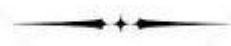


(Photo courtesy of Jamie Dealy with Cheryl Dealy, Karen Corbo, Glenda Alamand)



James Leonard Foley –nickname “Sonny”

(Photo courtesy of Jamie Dealy with Cheryl Dealy, Karen Corbo, Glenda Alamand)





Corporal John Henry Foley (Back row standing in front of Pyramid)

"A few of A Coy. 5 Batt 2nd Inf. Brigade A.I.F."

(Photo courtesy of Jamie Dealy with Cheryl Dealy, Karen Corbo, Glenda Alamand)



Corporal John Henry Foley (Front row -middle)

Sent from France 29th June, 1917

(Photo courtesy of Jamie Dealy with Cheryl Dealy, Karen Corbo, Glenda Alamand)





Corporal John Henry Foley (*cropped from above photo*)



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

QUEENSLANDERS IN THE 329th LIST

ILL

Cpl. John Henry Foley, Melbourne, V. (ser.)

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 10 August, 1917)

DEATHS

On Active Service

FOLEY – On the 26th October, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England, Corporal J. H. Foley, 3rd son of Edward and Eliza Foley, 3 Foley-street, Kew, aged 26 years; also his brother, Private J. L. (Son), killed in action 24th August, 1916, aged 19 years.

At rest.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Casualty lists Nos. 360 and 361 were issued on Friday....

DIED OF ILLNESS

Cpl. John Henry Foley, Kew, V., 26/10/17, prev. rep. ser. ill.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 3 December, 1917)

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*)

Corporal J. H. Foley does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Gone But Not Forgotten

Mother

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Corporal J. H. Foley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)





Original Grave Marker for Corporal J. H. Foley in Netley Military Cemetery

(Photo courtesy of Jamie Dealy with Cheryl Dealy, Karen Corbo, Glenda Alamand)



Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery