

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6762 PRIVATE

J. R. FLANAGAN

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 43

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF OUR ONLY BROTHER

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. R. Flanagan is located in Main Front Row

Grave Plot # 7 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 87)

John Richard Flanagan was born at Healesville, Victoria. He was the son of Luke & Annie Flanagan. He was a 41 year old, single, Post and Telegraph official from Coolgardie, Western Australia when he enlisted on 20th January, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 16th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6762 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mary Flanagan, Tower Hotel, Russell Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Pte John Richard Flanagan embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917.

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

Pte Flanagan was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 10th January, 1917.

On 24th January, 1917, Pte Flanagan received an offence for neglecting to obey an order and was awarded 24 hours detention.

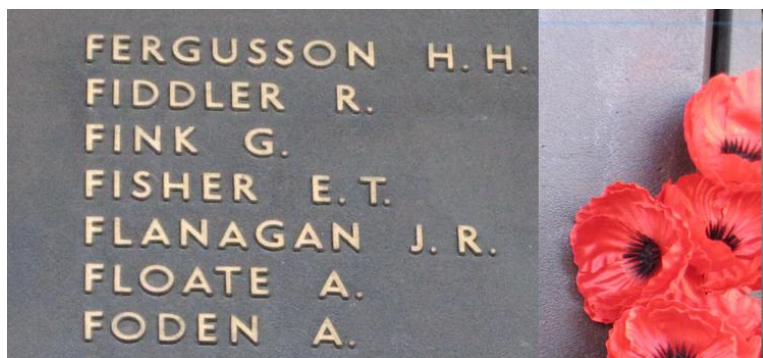
On 18th February, 1917, at 9.30 p.m., Pte Flanagan was admitted sick to Group Hospital at Codford.

Pte John Richard Flanagan died at 2 a.m. on 19th February, 1917 of pneumonia, at No. 3 New Zealand Hospital, Codford, less than 5 hours after being admitted.

A death for John R Flanagan, aged 41, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte John Richard Flanagan – he was buried on 22nd February, 1917 at St Mary's Cemetery, Codford in Grave no. 87.

Private J. R. Flanagan is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 79.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte John Richard Flanagan was entitled to the British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque & Pte Flanagan's War Medal were not able to be sent to Pte Flanagan's sister that was listed as his next of kin – Miss Mary Flanagan, as he had an older sister – Mrs M. J. Murtoogh & she was the one that was entitled to receive his medal, Scroll & Plaque – sent (October, 1922 & May, 1923)

(38 pages of Pte John Richard Flanagan'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) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR -276th CASUALTY LIST

DEATHS

J. R. Flanagan (Melbourne, V.) died of illness

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia, Friday 9th March, 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 at Codford War Graves Cemetery. 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 J. R. Flanagan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte J. R. Flanagan's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)