Durrington War Graves

Lest we Forget

World War I

19845   DRIVER

O. FEENEY

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY.

18TH OCTOBER, 1916   Age 21

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Driver O. Feeney is located in Grave Plot # 114

of Durrington War Graves Cemetery

Owen FEENEY

Owen Feeney was born at Rokeby, Victoria in 1894, to parents Daniel and Ellen Feeney. He was a 21 year old, single Horse Driver from Warren Street, Kyneton, Victoria when he enlisted on 3rd November, 1915 with the 8th Field Artillery Brigade, 30th Battery of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 19845 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his Father - Mr Daniel Feeney of Warrant Street, Kyneton, Victoria.

Driver Owen Feeney embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 20th May, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th 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.
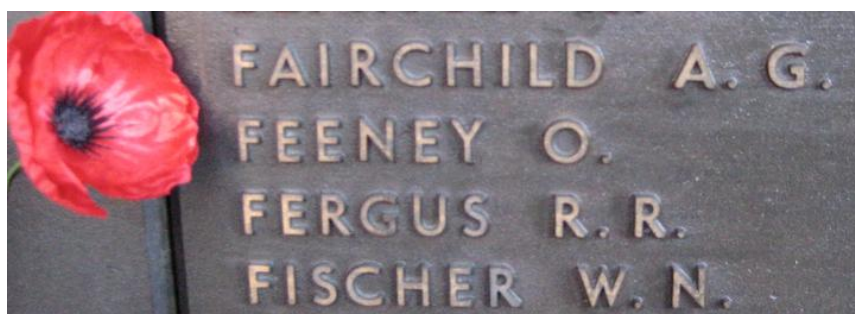
Driver Owen Feeney was admitted to Brimstone Bottom Hospital at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 3rd October, 1916, from Camp 16 at Larkhill, near Durrington, Wiltshire.

Driver Owen Feeney died at 10.20 p.m. on 18th October, 1916 of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis in Isloation Hospital at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire.

A death for Owen Feeney, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Driver Owen Feeney was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 114 on 23rd October, 1916.

Driver O. Feeney is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 15.
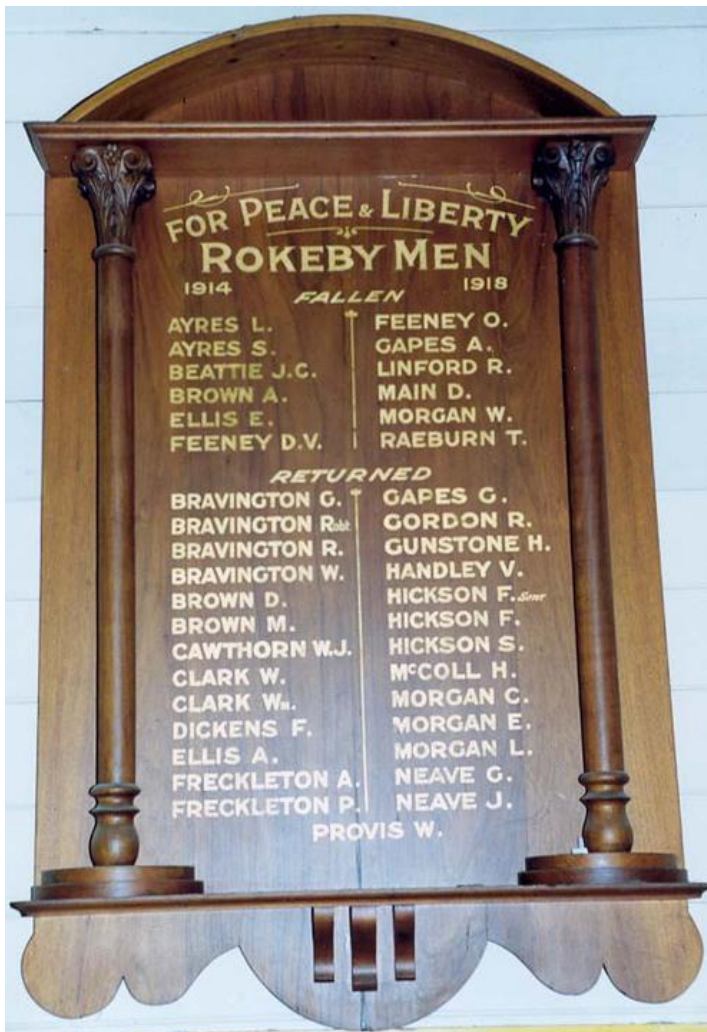

(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

O. Feeney is also remembered on the Rokeby Honour Roll (First World War) located in Rokeby Hall, Brandy Creek Road, Rokeby, Victoria.

(Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

Driver Owen Feeney was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Feeney's father – Mr D. Feeney 149 Smith St, Thornbury (March, 1922 & November, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Owen Feeney – service number 19845 as being 21 years old & served with 8th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Daniel and Ellen Feeney of 149 Smith St, Thornbury, Victoria. Born at Rokeby, Victoria.

(37 pages of Driver Owen Feeney'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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** Private Daniel Vincent Feeney (7100), older brother of Owen Feeney was killed in action on 4th October, 1917 in Belgium. He was aged 32 & was buried in Dochy Farm New British Cemetery, Belgium.

Newspaper Reports

CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Driver O. Feeney, Kyneton

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria Wednesday 8 November, 1916)

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 Durrington 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)

Driver O. Feeney does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Driver O. Feeney's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.

(Photo © Ian King - with permission)