**SAPPER DAVID FOLEY**

**5984 – 3rd Tunnelling Company**

David (Dave) Foley was born in Carrignavar, County Cork, Ireland about 1885 the son of John and Kathleen (nee Power) Foley. In March, 1901 the family were residing at 2 Glashaboy South, Carrignavar, Cork and consisted of John (60) farmer, Kate (50), Maggie (20), Daniel (18), David (16) farmer’s son, Con (12), Abina (12), John (10), Michael (9), Mary (7), Hannah (6), William (4) and Tom (1).

David and his sister Maggie came to her mother’s relatives residing at Clifton, Queensland where he worked as a farm hand. With relatives he went to central Queensland to work on station properties and in 1916 he is at Aramac.

At the recruiting depot in Aramac on 3 September, 1916 the thirty-year-old single labourer applied to enlist for active service abroad and passed the preliminary medical examination. Personal particulars taken show he was 162cms (5ft 6ins) tall with a chest expansion of 92-97cms (36-38½ins) and was declared fit with his application accepted by the recruiting officer.

Five days later he reported to the recruitment depot in Emerald, Qld where Attestation forms were completed and describe him further weighing 70kgs (154lbs) with a fresh complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair turning grey. Religion was Roman Catholic. Next-of-kin nominated was his mother Mrs Kate Foley of Carriag Navar, Co. Cork then changed to his father John Foley of the same address. He took and signed the Oath of Enlistment the same day.

At the barracks at Enoggera, Brisbane he commenced basic training from 12 September until 6 October when allotted to the Miners’ Depot (1st Military District). He signed a form not to take Final Home Leave in the 1st and 2nd Military Districts and was sent to the Miners’ training camp at Seymour, Victoria on October 14 and later assigned to the December, 1916 Reinforcements to the Tunnelling companies. His rank was Sapper with the regimental number 5984.

The 516 Reinforcements departed Melbourne, Victoria on October 25, 1916 at 1.30pm aboard the transport HMAT A38 *Ulysses.* The Australian coastline disappeared from view on October 30, 1916 with the port of Durban reached at 11.30am on November 13, 1916. Windy weather was experienced going around the Cape and arrived at Cape Town at 7am on November 19. Sierra Leone was the next port of call but their departure was delayed until December 14, 1916 as it was not safe to proceed further. Arrived at Plymouth, England on December 28, 1916 after 65 days at sea, with the troops disembarking at 1.30pm and detrained to the station at Tidworth and marched in to Perham Downs the following day for further training at the Aust. Details Camp.

The Reinforcement proceeded to France on 28 January, 1917 from Folkstone on board S.S. *Onward* arriving the next day at the Aust General Base Depot in Havre.

Sapper Foley went to join the 3rd Tunnelling Company in the field being taken on strength on 6 February 1917. During January under somewhat difficult conditions the company had been driving galleries in all faces of the Hill 70 mining system and at the start of February suffered rising water levels and bad ventilation requiring hand-pumping to keep working. Schools for mine rescue, proto work and listening continued and bombing of the area also continued.

The Unit Diary of the 3rd Tunnelling Company recorded the following in the arrival of the reinforcements:

“On 6/2/17 2/Lt Trebilcock reported with a draft of 95 O.R. as reinforcements.”

Sapper was wounded in action on 24 August, 1917 suffering a shell wound to his left arm and sent to the 9th Canadian Field Ambulance.

The Unit Diary of the 3rd Tunnelling Company reported the following for that day:

“On 24.8.17, 5984 Spr. Foley, D. was wounded”

On August 25 was taken to the 18th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to the 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples remaining until August 31, then moving to the 6th Convalescent Depot for a few days until 2 September when discharged to the Base Depot at Rouelles. On 7 September marched out to his unit re-joining them in the Field two days later.

Base Records advised his father on 3 September, 1917 that he had been wounded. His father’s address was changed and re-spelt as Carrignavar, Co. Cork with Base Records.

His name was among those listed in the Casualty List published in the:

*Telegraph* (Brisbane) Monday September 17, 1917:

ROLL OF HONOUR – 338TH CASUALTY LIST

The following is a continuation of the 338th casualty list: WOUNDED

Spr. David Foley, Ireland *Article abridged*

Two Blue Chevrons were issued to wear on his uniform on 25 October, 1917 for serving one year abroad.

Gifts of comfort were received from the Kalgoorlie Ladies Committee and he signed the Letter of Thanks which was reprinted in the:

*Kalgoorlie Miner* Tuesday April 16, 1918:

TUNNELLERS’ COMFORTS - MEN WHO RECEIVED THEM

Sometime ago gifts were despatched to the front by the No. 1 Tunnelling, Pioneers and Engineers committee, and a list of recipients has now been received by the secretary, Mrs R.M. Jordan as follows: -- D. Foley,

*Article abridged*

He went sick on 21 June, 1918 to the 34th Field Ambulance with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) uncertain origin) and was discharged to his unit returning on June 24.

He was with his unit when Peace was declared and the Tunnelling Companies remained on the front as part of the Army of Occupation assisting with rehabilitation of their district by clearing roads and bridges of booby traps and delayed action mines left by the enemy.

Leave from France was granted by the Furlough Department and taken from 8 December and returned to duty on 21 December, 1918.

Orders were received on 22 April, 1919 to return to the 1st Aust Base Depot from where they left on April 28 and conveyed across the English Channel arriving in camp to await their voyage home.

After demobilisation Sapper Foley embarked from Weymouth, England on 19 June, 1919 on board H.T. *Miltiades.* Base Records advised his next-of-kin on 3 July he was on his way home. The transport docked in Sydney (2nd M.D.) on August 8 with a report on their arrival appearing in:

*The Daily Telegraph* Saturday August 9, 1919:

RETURNED SOLDIERS – OVER 600 BY MILTIADES

Six hundred and six soldiers who returned home to New South Wales by the Miltiades yesterday morning were welcomed with sunshine and cheering crowds. With the exception of five invalids all looked fine.

At No. 1 Wharf Woolloomooloo the men were met by the District Commander Major-General Lee and Mr C.W. Oakes, Hon. Minister who represented the State Government.

Two hundred and twenty-five Queenslanders left by special train for Brisbane soon after arrival.

A special train took the Queenslanders back to Brisbane (1st M.D.) where their welcome home was published in the:

*Brisbane Courier* Monday August 11, 1919:

WELCOMED HOME – SOLDIERS ARRIVE ON SATURDAY

Ten officers and 217 of other ranks, being soldiers and nurses who returned to Australia by the Miltiades and the Rio Pardo, arrived in Brisbane on Saturday evening, and were conveyed to Kangaroo Point by the Returned Soldiers’ Motor Transport Brigade. Both at the Central Station and en route the men were warmly greeted, and the hearty reception was renewed at Kangaroo Point, where they were met by the Governor Colonel Muller. A.G.M.G (as representative of the district Military Officer), the Minister for Mines (Mr A. J. Jones, M.L.C.), for the State Government and by Alderman J. M’Master for the Mayor of Brisbane, Major Jackson, S.O.) and R.S. and Captain M.C. Tester (Australian Army) were also present. Tea was provided by the ladies of the Red Cross Kitchen to whom a vote of thanks was proposed with cheers.

He appeared before the Disembarkation Medical Board at Kangaroo Point Military Hospital the same day.

Military Discharge was issued in Brisbane (1st M.D.) on 16 September, 1919 on termination of his period of enlistment.

He is listed in 1919 as a labourer at Aramac, central Queensland.

The British War Medal (24251) and the Victory Medal (23449) were issued to Sapper 5894 David Foley, 3rd Tunnelling Company for serving his country.

From 1925 to 1928 he was located at Council Camp, Aramac with the same occupation. In 1936 and 1937 he was a boundary rider at Cooks Dam, Thallon, and in 1943 had returned to Clifton on the Darling Downs to lighter work duties.

A Statement of his Service was requested by the Brisbane Branch of the Repatriation Commission from Base Records and forwarded on 27 April, 1942.

His final years were spent at the Jubilee Men’s Home in Dalby.

David (Dave) Foley passed away in Dalby, Qld on 9 July, 1949 aged 64 years. Announcement was placed in the:

*Dalby Herald* Tuesday July 12, 1949:

OBITUARY – MR D. FOLEY

A former resident of Warwick, Mr David Foley, passed away at the Jubilee Hospital on Saturday at the age of 64 years. The funeral took place from the R.C. Church on Saturday, Father Hall officiating.

An Obituary was published in the Clifton district where his family was based in the:

*Warwick Daily News* Saturday July 16, 1949:

OBITUARY – MR DAVID FOLEY

CLIFTON: Mr David Foley (64), whose death occurred at Dalby on Saturday July 9, was a former resident of the Clifton district. A native of Carricknavar, County Cork, Ireland, he came to Australia as a young man, being accompanied by his sister, Madge.

Soon after their arrival in Australia they took up residence with their uncle, the late Mr William Power, his wife and family, at “Boundary Farm” outside Clifton. For some years after his arrival in the district he worked as a farm hand.

Later, he accompanied relatives to Central Queensland, and while there he worked on a number of pastoral holdings in the Aramac, Muttaburra and other localities.

Contd.

Continued

He was on active service abroad with the A.I.F. during World War I. For several years after his discharge he was a gardener at the Clifton Convent. Later he obtained employment at the King’s Hotel, Clifton. Failing health a few years ago compelled him to relinquish active employment duties, and he lived in retirement at Clifton, at times performing casual labour work of a light nature. He was a member of the Clifton sub-branch of the R.S.L., and took part in the Anzac Day parade at Clifton on many occasions. Following his recovery from an illness a few years ago he went to reside at the Jubilee Men’s Home at Dalby. His death took place there after an illness of a few days.

The late “Dave” Foley won the high esteem and respect of the community while a resident of Clifton. He was a bachelor and is survived by his sister, Miss Madge Foley, of Toowoomba.

A number of relatives reside in the Clifton district. During his last illness he received the spiritual ministrations of the Church from the Rev. Father W. Hall, of the Dalby parish, who also officiated at St Joseph’s Church and at the graveside. A number of relatives of the late Mr Foley, including Mrs M.C. Byrne, and her son John, of Willow Springs, Clifton were present at the funeral.

Business in connection with his Estate was advertised in the:

*Dalby Herald* Friday July 29, 1949:

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Re DAVID FOLEY, late of Dalby, formerly of Clifton in the State of Queensland, Retired, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having claims against the Estate of the abovementioned DAVID FOLEY late of Dalby formerly of Clifton in the State of Queensland, deceased, who died on or about the Ninth day of July, 1949 A.D., at Dalby in the said State, are hereby required to send their claims to the Public Curator, Brisbane, on or before the Twenty-eighth day of September, 1949. And that after the expiration of the last-mentioned date the Public Curator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice.

His grave is located in Section PC of the Dalby Cemetery within plot no. 3927.

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