Private Gerald M. Slattery (XC 1901-'02)

AWM ~ Roll of Honour
Gerald Malyon Slattery

Service Number: 272
Rank: Private
Unit: 60th Australian Infantry Battalion
Date of death: 19 July 1916
Place of death: Fleurbaix, France
Cause of death: Killed in action
Age at death: 27
Occupation: Buttermaker
Training: Student of Electrical Engineering
Place of association: Daylesford, Australia
Cemetery details: Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France

From “The Xaverian” 1914 p. 43
Gerald Slattery managed to come down from Iona for the Old Boys’ match, and has lost none of his old pace and tricks as a rover. We were surprised to see any old boy in such football form. He certainly outlasted both teams, but we heard later on that he plays the game as a star player in the district association. Politics is his other form of recreation, and Iona has appointed him secretary to the P.L.C. and conference delegate for the local branch. Next step, M.L.A.

From “The Xaverian” 1916 p. 65
Gerald Slattery (’99).—Killed in action in France on 19 July, 1916; and so ended at the young age of 28 a life that gave promise of so much good fruit. Before enlisting in the beginning of 1915 Gerald, in addition to managing a prosperous business at Wonthaggi, continued to study electrical engineering in his spare time, and had almost completed the course when the call to arms came and found him ready and willing to answer it. A’lay he rest in peace. His brother, William is at present engaged in the manufacture of munitions at one of the big factories in England. To him and to his family our sincerest sympathy on the death of a brother and son.

Fleurbaix was in Allied hands during the greater part of the war but it was captured by the Germans on 9 April 1918. It remained within the German lines until the following September.

The original Rue-du-Bois Cemetery, now comprising Plot I and Rows A and B of Plot II, was begun in November 1914 and used until December 1916. It was reopened in January 1918, and again in October.

The majority of the graves were Australian, with Plot I, Row B, containing the graves of 27 soldiers who died in the Attack at Fromelles (19-20 July 1916), which is when Private Slattery was killed.