

**St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard,
Whiston, South Yorkshire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1040 CORPORAL

R. H. FOERS

24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 24

Robert Henry (Bert) FOERS

Robert Henry Foers was born in 1892 at Donald, Victoria to parents Fred Frith Foers & Annie Maria Foers (nee Browne).

Robert Henry Foers attended school at Bealiba & Newstead, Victoria.

Robert Henry Foers was a 23 year old, single, Buttermaker from 2 Garvie Street, East Brunswick, Victoria when he enlisted on 8th March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1040 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Fred Foers, of Police Station, Box Hill, Victoria.

Robert Henry Foers was posted to Depot on 8th March, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Robert Henry Foers embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 10th May, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

Private Robert Henry Foers proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on Gallipoli Peninsula on 30th August, 1915.

Private Robert Henry Foers disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 27th December, 1915.

Private Robert Henry Foers proceeded overseas to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 20th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916.

Private Robert Henry Foers was promoted to Corporal on 1st July, 1916.

Corporal Robert Henry Foers was wounded in action in France on 5th August, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 5th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right thigh then transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station. Cpl. Foers was transferred & admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 6th August, 1916. Cpl. Foers was invalided to England from Calais on 20th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven*.

[Temporary Corporal Robert Henry Foers ceased to hold the rank of Temporary Corporal on being evacuated wounded on 8th August, 1916.] Note – this entry was to be deleted from the Service Record file. (Statement of Service form has the rank as "T/Cpl.").

24th Battalion

The 24th Battalion was raised in a hurry. The original intent was to raise the fourth battalion of the 6th Brigade from the "outer states", but a surplus of recruits at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria lead to a decision being made to raise it there. The battalion was formed during the first week of May 1915, and sailed from Melbourne at the end of that week.

Training shortfalls were made up in Egypt in July and August, and on 4 September 1915 the Battalion went ashore at Gallipoli. It spent the next 16 weeks sharing duty in the Lone Pine trenches with the 23rd Battalion. The fighting at Lone Pine was so dangerous and exhausting that battalions rotated every day. While the bulk of the battalion was at Gallipoli, a small party of 52, trained as packhorse handlers, served with the British force in Salonika.

The Battalion was reunited in Egypt in early 1916 and proceeded to France in March.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Corporal Robert Henry Foers was admitted to Carrington Hospital, Nottingham on 21st August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right thigh – severe.

Corporal Robert Henry Foers died on 24th September, 1916 at Military Hospital, Carrington, Nottingham, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds & compound Fracture thigh - Septic.

A death for Robert H. Foers, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England.

Corporal Robert Henry Foers's body was sent to Rotherham, Yorks on the 29th September, 1916 for interment in accordance with the wishes of his relations. He was buried in St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Whiston, South Yorkshire, England – in Family Grave and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone (listed as Special Memorial).

Administrative Headquarters, London wrote to Officer Commanding, Military Hospital, Carrington, Nottingham on 27th October, 1916 requesting information on the burial of the late Corporal Robert Henry Foers. The Military Hospital, Carrington replied that they were unable to supply any information as the family had organised the burial.

F. C. Foers wrote to Administrative Headquarters, London on 7th December, 1916 to advise that "*Cpl R. H. Foers was interred at a village by name of Whiston, near Rotherham, Yorkshire in our family grave. The names of relatives residing in Rotherham & who interred the burial are my mother Mrs A. Foers; my sister Mrs R. J. Fawcett; my mother-in-law Mrs R. J. Fawcett & I was one who accompanied the cortege from M. Hospital, Carrington, Nottingham to the station.*"

Three war diaries kept by Corporal Robert Henry Foers have been published. *Three war diaries, 1915-1916, kept by Corporal Robert H. Foers of the Australian Expeditionary Force (A Company, 24 Battalion, 6 Infantry, 2nd Division). Born in Melbourne in 1892 and wounded on the Somme in August 1916. One diary includes a newspaper clipping of the obituary for Robert Foers from a newspaper in the Whiston locality. Robert Foers was taken to a French hospital in Etaples, and subsequently to a military hospital at Nottingham in England, where he died on 24 September 1916. The collection includes a copy of a photograph and a photograph of Corporal Foers wearing his uniform; copies of work references from 1910 (Newstead Co-operative Butter & Cheese Factory Co. Ltd) and 1912 (Swan Hill Butter Factory); family genealogies. Also included are copies of Corporal Foers' death plaque and a photograph of his grave in Whiston Churchyard near Rotherham in South Yorkshire.*

Corporal Robert Henry Foers was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Foers' father - Mr F. Foers, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Robert Henry Foers – service number 1040, aged 24, of 24th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Fred F. and Annie M. Foers, of Police Station, Malvern, Victoria. Born at Donald, Victoria, Australia.

Corporal R. H. Foers is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 101.



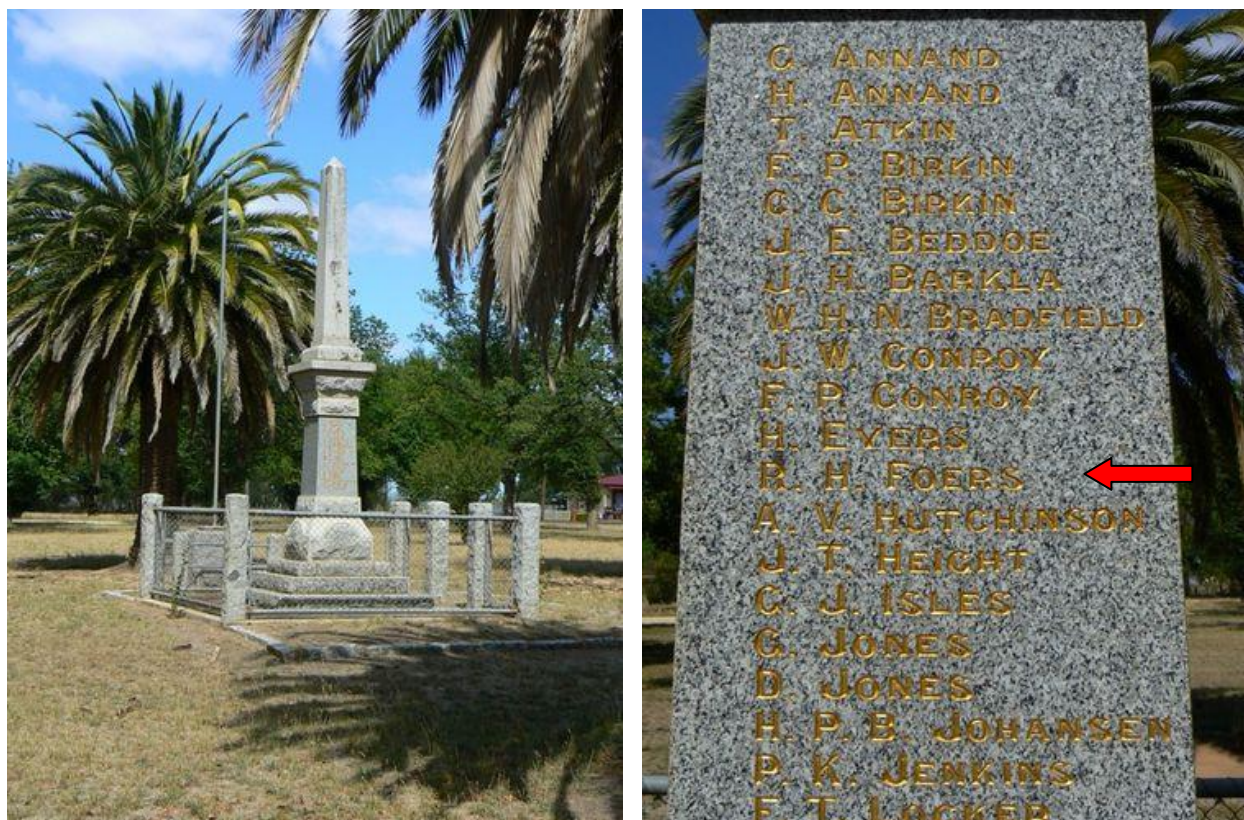
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. H. Foers is remembered on the Newstead School Roll of Honour, located in Newstead Primary School, Peel Street, Newstead, Victoria.



Newstead School Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

R. H. Foers is remembered on the Newstead War Memorial, located in Newstead Memorial Park, Creswick-Newstead Road, Newstead, Victoria.



Newstead War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

R. Foers is remembered on the Bealiba State School Honour Roll, located in Bealiba Primary School, Grant Street, Bealiba, Victoria.



Bealiba State School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

R. Foers is remembered on the Bealiba Mutual Improvement Society (B.M.I.S.) Honour Roll, which is located in Bealiba Public Hall, 30 Main Street, Bealiba, Victoria.

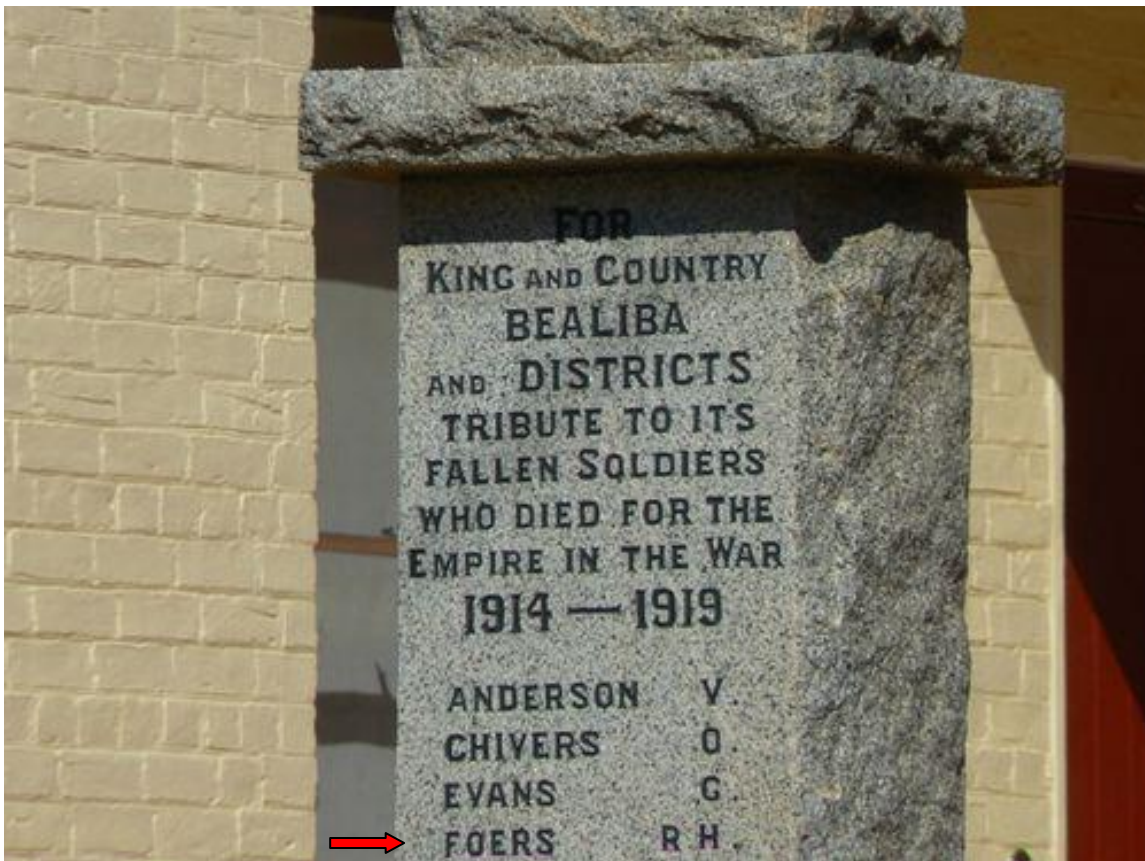


Bealiba Mutual Improvement Society Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

R. H. Foers is remembered on the Bealiba War Memorial, located outside the Bealiba Public Library & Hall, Main Street, Bealiba, Victoria.



Bealiba War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia –Kent Watson)



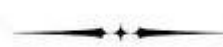
R. H. Foers is remembered on the Malvern War Memorial, located in Central Park, Wattletree Road & Kingston Street, Malvern Victoria.



Malvern War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

(38 pages of Corporal Robert Henry Foers' 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



Newspaper Notices

ITEMS OF NEWS

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At the Public Service special competitive examination for appointment as telegraph messenger, held on the 2nd inst., out of 265 candidates throughout the Commonwealth, 194 passed. They will be eligible for appointment until 21st March, 1907, or until they attain the age of 16, when in either case names of unappointed candidates will be removed from the list. Included amongst the successful candidates are the following, who have qualified for appointment at Newstead: —A. M. Ferguson, 481 marks out of a possible 600 ; Cyril Ernest Rodda, 450 ; B. Fennessy, 430 ; William James Baker, 421 ; Robert Henry Foers, 406 ; Federick Herbert Myer, 367.

(Mount Alexander Mail, Victoria – 23 September, 1905)

WOUNDED IN FRANCE

A cable message has been received by Police-Sergeant Foers, of East Brunswick police station, that his son, Lance-Corporal R. H. Foers, has sustained a slight fracture of the right thigh while on active service in France.

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 August, 1916)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CASUALTIES

The death from wounds is recorded of Corporal R. H. Foers (Bert), eldest son of Sergeant Foers, recently of Swan Hill, but now of Brunswick East.

(Swan Hill Guardian and Lake Boga Advocate, Victoria – 12 October, 1916)

Local and General News

Among the names of those who have died of wounds received in France we are sorry to note that of Robert Henry (Bert) Foers, whose father Sergeant Foers, was formerly in charge of the police station here.

(Bealiba Times, Victoria – 13 October, 1916)

For Freedom's Cause

DEATHS

FOERS – On the 24th September, 1916, Corporal R. H. (Bert), died from wounds received in France (Nottingham, England), dearly-loved nephew of Arthur and Carrie Foers (Crusoe), Mrs F. E. Power (NSW), Percy (Gippsland), Ernest (Diamond Hill) Walter (Preston).

His duty nobly done.

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 26 October, 1916)

DIED FROM WOUNDS

LATE CORPORAL R. H. FOERS

Corporal R. H. Foers, who died in the Nottingham Military Hospital, England, on 24th September, from wounds received in France, was accorded a military funeral. The "Rotherham Advertiser" of the 30th September states :-"In the quiet churchyard at Whiston, the village home of his ancestors, the body of Corporal R. H. Foers, of the Australian Imperial Infantry, was reverently conveyed to its last resting place. It was one of those sad, yet proud, events which brings home to Englishmen the fealty and the deep love for the motherland which animates the sons of the Empire in far away lands- lands they have willingly left in order to thrust back an enemy who threatened to invade the inviolate shores of old Albion. Corporal Foers was a great nephew of the late Mr. Frank Foers, of Rotherham, and the family had a close connection with the village of Whiston. With thousands of miles separating him from his home, his relatives in Rotherham made themselves responsible for his funeral, and it was a thoughtful act which prompted them to have his body buried in the village churchyard at Whiston amid surroundings familiar to his ancestors. Military honors were accorded the deceased soldier, a firing party of Durham Light Infantry being supplied. The rector of Whiston, the Rev. A. G. Allton, was the officiating clergyman."

Corporal R. H. Foers joined the forces at Broadmeadows on the 6th March, 1915, as a private, and rose to the rank of corporal in July, 1916. He served for three months at Gallipoli, and was at the evacuation in December, 1915. When he was wounded in France on the 4th August, 1916, in the course of the severe fighting on the Somme, he was taken to a French hospital, and subsequently to the Military Hospital at Nottingham, England, where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday, 24th September last. Corporal Foers was born at Donald, Victoria. He was

24 years of age, and the eldest son of Police Sergeant F. Frith Foers and Mrs. Foers (formerly of Swan Hill, now of Brunswick East), and grandson of the late Mr. J. Foers, of "Reservior View," Crusoe.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 25 November, 1916) &

(Swan Hill Guardian and Lake Boga Advocate, Victoria – 27 November, 1916) &

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 30 November, 1916) &

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FOR FREEDOM'S CAUSE



Corporal R. H. FOERS,

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 2 December, 1916)

LATE CORPORAL R. H. FOERS

BURIED IN ENGLAND

Corporal R. H. Foers (eldest son of Police-sergeant F. F. Foers, formerly of Swan Hill, and now of Brunswick, and grandson of the late Mr J. Foers, of Crusoe), who died in the Nottingham Military Hospital, England, on 24th September, 1916, from wounds received in France, was accorded a military funeral.. The 'Rotherham Advertiser' of the 30th September states: "In the quiet churchyard at Whiston, the village home of his ancestors, the body of Corporal R. H. Foers, of the Australian Imperial Infantry, was reverently conveyed to its last resting place. It was one of those sad, yet proud. events which bring home to Englishmen the fealty and the deep love for the motherland which animates the sons of the Empire in faraway lands - lands they have willingly left in order to thrust back an enemy who threatened to invade the inviolate shores of old Albion. Corporal Foers was a great nephew of the late Mr Frank Foers, of Rotherham, and the family has a close connection with the village of Whiston. With thousands of miles separating him from his home, his relatives in Rotherham made themselves responsible for his funeral, and it

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(Brunswick and Coburg Leader, Victoria – 22 December, 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. 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 R. H. Foers does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Whiston, South Yorkshire, England

St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Whiston contains 13 Commonwealth War Graves – 3 from World War 1 & 10 from World War 2.



Photo of Corporal R. H. Foers' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone above an empty plot in St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Whiston, South Yorkshire, England. Corporal R. H. Foers was buried elsewhere in a family plot in St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Whiston.

