

# Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk, War Graves



*Lest We Forget*

## World War 1



83 CORPORAL

**P. W. FOSTER**

36TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND OCTOBER, 1917

*He Fought For Honour*

*And For King*

*May God Help*

*Our Heavy Cross To Bear*

## Percy William FOSTER

Percy William Foster was born in 1887 on Harwood Island, Clarence River, NSW to parents Arthur and Isabella Foster (nee Whitton).

Percy William Foster was a 28 year old, single, Labourer from Mallanganee, New South Wales when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 6th January, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 36th Infantry Battalion, "A" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 83 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Arthur Foster of Mallanganee, NSW. Percy Foster stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 months with Mallanganee Rifle Club.

Private Percy William Foster was absent without leave from Broadmeadows Camp, Victoria from midnight on 2nd April, 1916 to 1945 hrs on 5th April, 1916. He was fined £1 & forfeited 3 days pay.

Private Percy William Foster embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 13th May, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9th 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.

Pte Foster was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 29th July, 1916 with a fracture of tibia & fibula (lower leg). Pte Foster was discharged from Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire on 3rd November, 1916 & rejoined his Unit from Bulford Hospital, Wiltshire on 14th November, 1916.

Pte Foster proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 22nd November, 1916.

Private Percy William Foster was wounded in action on 29th January, 1917. He was taken to 9th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station with a gunshot wound to thigh - severe. He was transferred to Ambulance Train 29 on 30th January, 1917 & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne. Pte Foster embarked from Boulogne for England on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian* on 1st February, 1917.

Pte Foster was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, near Southampton, Hampshire on 4th February, 1917 then transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent on 11th April, 1917.

Pte Foster was on furlo from 4th May, 1917 to 19th May, 1917 & then to report to Training Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Pte Foster was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire from 20th May, 1917. He was medically classified A3 – Fit for overseas training camp.

Pte Foster proceeded overseas to France from Training Draft Depot at Perham Downs & left via Southampton on 27th May, 1917.

Pte Foster was marched in from England to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 28th May, 1917. He was marched out to join his Unit on 10th June, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 14th June, 1917 in Belgium.

Private Percy William Foster was appointed Lance Corporal on 12th June, 1917.

L. Cpl. Foster was wounded in action – 2nd occasion on 21st July, 1917. He was taken to 11th Australian Field Ambulance with a gunshot wound to forearm then transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd July, 1917. L. Cpl. Foster was transferred to Ambulance Train on 23rd July, 1917 to Rouen. He was admitted to 6th General Hospital on 29th July, 1917 then transferred to Convalescent Depot at Rouen.

L. Cpl. Foster was marched out from Hospital to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles on 21st August, 1917 then marched out to join his Unit on 29th August, 1917. L. Cpl. Foster rejoined his Unit on 1st September, 1917.

Lance Corporal Percy William Foster was to be Corporal (vice McNeill) on 14th September, 1917.

Corporal Foster was detached to Divisional School on 16th September, 1917.

Corporal Percy William Foster was wounded in action – 3rd occasion on 12th October, 1917. He was taken to 11 Australian Field Ambulance then admitted to 44th Casualty Clearing Station on 13th October, 1917. Cpl. Foster was transferred to Ambulance Train & admitted on 14th October, 1917 to 2nd Australian General Hospital. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Dennis* on 18th October, 1917.

Corporal Percy William Foster was admitted to East Suffolk & Ipswich Hospital on 19th October, 1917 with a gunshot wound to right buttock and thigh.

Arthur Foster, father of Corporal Percy William Foster, died on 19th October, 1917. His death was registered in the district of Casino, NSW.

Corporal Percy William Foster died at 2.15 am on 22nd October, 1917 at East Suffolk & Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich, England from wounds received – 1. Gunshot wound to right buttock and thigh 2. Gangrene & Gas.

A death for Percy Foster, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Ipswich, Suffolk, England.

Corporal Percy William Foster was buried at 2 pm on 25th October, 1917 in Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk, England – Plot number BA. IA. 12. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal Foster - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Buglers, Bearers and Gun Carriage being supplied by the Northumberland Fusiliers. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted by several lovely floral tributes. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The service was conducted by the Rev. Kerr, Chaplain to the Hospital. No relatives were present at the funeral. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Percy William Foster requested in his Will, prepared before he went abroad on active service that his mother to be appointed Executrix & all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Isabella Foster of Mallangane, NSW.

Corporal Percy William Foster was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Cpl. Foster's father, as the closest next-of-kin – Mr A. Foster (Scroll sent September, 1922 & Plaque sent May, 1922). Base Records were probably not aware of Mr Arthur Foster's death but the Memorial Scroll, Memorial Plaque & Victory Medal were signed for my Cpl Foster's mother – Isabella Foster.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Percy William Foster – service number 83, of 36th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Arthur and Isabella Foster, of Mallangane, New South Wales, Australia.

Corporal P. W. Foster is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 126.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

P. Foster is remembered on the Mallangane Memorial Hall - Roll of Honour 1914-1918 located in the Mallangane Community Hall, Caren Johnson Ave, Mallangane, NSW.



**Mallangane Roll of Honour 1914-1918**

*(Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Mallangane Memorial School)*

P. Foster is also remembered on the Mallangane Memorial Park Arch located at Sandiland Street, Mallangane, NSW.



**Mallangane Memorial Park Arch**

*(Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Mallangane Memorial School & Mr N. O'Mally of the local RSL)*



(62 pages of Corporal Percy William Foster's 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*



**Corporal Percy William Foster**

### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **AN UNFORTUNATE FAMILY**

A fourteen-year-old boy named Ernest Ambrose Foster was accidentally killed near Mallanganee (NSW) on Friday evening, through a cart he was driving capsizing. One of the deceased's brother (Lance-corporal Percy William Foster) was severely wounded in France on February 4th last, but is now progressing favourably. Two of the children of the family were burnt to death, and another child died from meningitis.

*(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 13 March, 1917)*

## **AN UNLUCKY FAMILY**

### **Father and Two Sons Killed**

The death occurred at the Casino (N.S.W.) District Hospital on Saturday of Mr Arthur Foster, of Mallanganee, About two months ago he met with a riding accident, his horse falling over an embankment. The horse was killed, and the rider sustained injuries to the head which rendered him unconscious. He received medical aid at the time, and later entered the hospital. A son of the deceased was wounded in France recently, and another son was killed by being thrown out of a cart in March last.

*(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 23 October, 1917)*

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## **LATEST CASUALTIES**

354th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Wounds

Cpl. P. W. Foster, Mallanganee (previously reported wounded, second occasion)

*(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 23 November, 1917)*

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## **AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER'S FUNERAL**

### **AT IPSWICH**

The following, which appeared in an Ipswich (England) paper, was sent to Mrs A. Foster, of Mallanganee, who wishes it republished here:-

The funeral took place in the Ipswich Cemetery of the remains of Corpl. Percy William Foster, of the Australian Imperial Force, whose death occurred on Monday at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, to which institution the deceased was admitted on the previous Tuesday, arriving with a convoy of wounded from the Western front. He was in a critical condition on arrival, suffering from severe gunshot wounds, in which gangrene had supervened. Corpl. Foster, who was 29 years of age, was a native of Mallanganee, Australia. The remains were accorded full military honors, the coffin, covered with the Union Hack, being conveyed from the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital on a gun-carriage drawn by a team of six black horses, under the charge of Corpl. Hammond, furnished by "A" Battery, 352nd Brigade, R.F.A., by kind permission of Colonel Goff. A firing party, with buglers and bearer party of six corporals, under the charge of Sergt. Hurst, were sent by the Northumberland Fusiliers, by permission of Col. Hay, the officer commanding. The funeral service was read by the Rev. W. F. Kerr, rector of St. Peter's, and chaplain to the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital. The funeral was attended by Mr G. F. Archer, visitor to the Australian Red Cross Society, and Miss K. M. Packard, hon. secretary to the Victoria League; whilst there were present at the graveside Warrant-Officer Yeomans, representing the Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force, London; Lance-Corpl. Hanrahan, M.G.C., A.I.F. and Pte Walters, M.G.C., A.I.F. Floral tributes were sent by the Victoria League, the Ipswich Women's Guild, Mrs E. C. Ransome, Mrs G. F. Archer (Whitton Rectory). Nurse Scrimgeour, and the children of Whitton School. The coffin, of polished elm with brass fittings, bore on the breastplate the inscription: "Corpl. Percy William Foster, Australian Imperial Force, died October 22, aged 29 years." The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Hastings and Son.

*(The Richmond River Express and Casino Kyogle Advertiser, NSW – 25 January, 1918)*

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### 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 Percy William Foster does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Fought For Honour  
And For King  
May God Help  
Our Heavy Cross To Bear*

### **Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk**

Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk contains around 366 Casualties from both World Wars. Around 265 War Graves are from World War 1. There are 4 Australian War Graves from World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



**Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk** *(Photo from CWGC)*



Photo of Corporal P. W. Foster's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk, England.



*(Photo by Andy Baker 2015)*