

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2201 CORPORAL

T. C. FOSTER

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

21ST JUNE, 1916 Age 46

Thomas Charles FOSTER

Thomas Charles Foster was born on 14th October, 1869 at Fulham, London, Middlesex, England to parents Charles Thomas and Ann Footner Foster (nee Standen). He was baptised on 10th November, 1869 in St. Luke's Church, Chelsea. His father was listed as a Hosier & the family lived at 121 Fulham Road.

The 1871 England Census recorded Thomas C. Foster as a 1 year old living with his family at 2 Chessan Road, Fulham, London, England. His parents were listed as Charles Foster (Hosier and Glazier, aged 28, born Hastings, Sussex) & Anne Foster (aged 25, born Fulham, Middlesex). Also listed was Thomas' younger sister – Florence G. Foster (aged 3 months, born Fulham, Middlesex). Three others were listed in the household – Harry G. Gearing (Apprentice Hosier, aged 16, Shipton, Wiltshire), Hannah Pitman (Domestic Servant, aged 20, born Fulham, Middlesex) & Harriet Bridger (Nurse Girl, aged 15, born Fulham, Middlesex).

According to information provided by his widow for the Roll of Honour – Thomas Foster came to Australia when he was about 14 years old.

Thomas Foster, aged 13, from Middlesex was a passenger on the *Assaye* which arrived in New South Wales on 3rd September, 1883. His parents – Charles Foster (Hosier, aged 40, born Sussex) & Anne Foster (aged 37 born Middlesex) & their 6 children, also arrived on the *Assaye* which arrived in New South Wales on 3rd September, 1883, however they were listed separately to Thomas. His siblings were listed as Ernest (aged 10), Edith (aged 8), Alice (aged 7), Beatrice (aged 4) Ethel (aged 2) & Samuel (aged ? months).

Thomas Charles Foster stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an apprentice with N.S.W. Government Railways for 5 years.

Thomas Charles Foster, Engineer, aged 25, married Mary Scott, aged 20, on 14th October, 1895 at St. John's Bishopthorpe, Glebe, Sydney, NSW. A son – Arthur Scott Foster was born on 13th April, 1900 at Albany, Western Australia & a daughter Maureen Jane Scott Foster was born in 1903 at Leederville, Western Australia.

Thomas Charles Foster joined Western Australia Railways as a Fitter at Perth on 31st May, 1897. He stated his date of birth as 14th October, 1870 & was married. Thomas Foster was dispensed with on 26th November, 1898 & re-entered as a Fitter on 14th December, 1898 at Fremantle. He resigned on 21st March, 1899 & re-entered on 8th April, 1899 as a Fitter at Perth. Thomas Foster was transferred to Albany on 13th April, 1899 then to Northam on 16th February, 1901.

Thomas Charles Foster, Engineer, had joined United Grand Lodge of England – Albany Lodge, Western Australia on 1st November, 1899.

Charles Thomas Foster, father of Thomas Charles Foster, died on 21st August, 1901 at Marrickville, Sydney, NSW, Australia. He was buried in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW.

Thomas Charles Foster was transferred to Fremantle as a Fitter with Western Australia Railways on 13th January, 1902. He was "*transferred on account of not being reliable enough for R/S*" (unsure if the transfer comment was related to transfer to Fremantle or transfer to Midlands). He was transferred to Midlands on 4th April, 1904.

The 1903 & 1906 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of West Leederville, Western Australia listed Thomas Charles Foster, Engineer, & his wife – Mary Foster, Home Duties, of Monger Street, Leederville.

The 1913, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of Subiaco, Western Australia listed Thomas Charles Foster, Engineer, & his wife – Mary Foster, Secretary, of 27 Monger Street, Leederville.

Thomas Charles Foster was a 45 year old, married, Fitter from 27 Monger Street, West Leederville, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 12th May, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2201 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Mary Foster, 27 Monger Street, West Leederville, Western Australia. Thomas Foster stated on his Attestation Papers that

he had served with Railway Ambulance Corps in W. A. & NSW & with Medical Staff Corps in NSW for 8 years & 4 months but had left the State.

According to information provided by his widow for the Roll of Honour – Thomas Foster had served with P.P. Forces in NSW with the rank of Sergeant, A.M.C.

Private Thomas Charles Foster was posted to Australian Medical Corp for training on 12th May, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Transport Corps on 19th May, 1915.

Corporal (rank as listed on Embarkation Roll) Thomas Charles Foster embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on RMS *Mooltan* on 24th May, 1915 with the Army Medical Corps – Hospital Transports. (Note: The Australian War Memorial's Embarkation Rolls list Corporal Thomas Charles Foster twice. He is also listed as embarking from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Kanowna* (A 61) no date recorded.)

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster was detailed for duty to Australia per *Ballarat* from Egypt on 4th July, 1915. He sailed from Suez per *Ballarat* & returned to Australia per Hospital Ship *Ballarat*, disembarking at Melbourne, Victoria on 6th August, 1915 as Staff.

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster re-embarked at Sydney, New South Wales on Transport A61 *Kanowna* on 22nd December, 1915 with 2nd Hospital Ship.

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster re-embarked at Fremantle, Western Australia on A7 *Medic* to rejoin his Unit on 18th January, 1916 as Acting Sergeant. He returned to Egypt on 21st February, 1916 from Australia with Medical Details.

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster was transferred to Miscellaneous Reinforcements in Camp at Egypt on 17th April, 1916.

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster was transferred to 2nd Training Battalion in Egypt on 27th April, 1916 from A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) Details

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster embarked for England from Alexandria on 8th May, 1916 (as per "handwritten" Casualty form – Active Service, however the "typed version" has the date as 28th May, 1916) on H.M.T. *Corsican*.

A Telegram was received by Base Records on 20th June, 1916 stating "*News received Corporal Foster A M C transport corps ill tidsworth first intimation Private can you ascertain wife inquires reply Foster Monger Street West Leederville reply collect.*"

Base Records replied to Mrs Mary Foster, 27 Monger Street, West Leederville, Western Australia by letter on 21st June, 1916 stating "*.....no advice had been received at this office to the effect that your husband, Private T. C. Foster, A.M.C. Hospital Transport, is ill. If you have authentic evidence to show that he is ill and will forward same to this department inquiries will, if it is decided such action is necessary, be instituted, and the result communicated to you in due course. If your informant is a member of the Australian Imperial Force, it will be necessary for you to forward his full name, regimental number and unit. It is noted you refer to your husband as "Corporal" – he is recorded here as "Private" and no information has been received concerning his promotion.*"

A Telegram was received by Base Records on 22nd June, 1916 stating "*Corporal Foster Mansport details A M C Reported ill Private Cable Tidsworth wife anxious if any record Please wire Colonel Battys Library Perth.*"

Base Records sent advice to Colonel Battys, Library, Perth, Western Australia on 23rd June, 1916 stating "*No report received this Office to the effect that Thomas Charles Foster Hospital Transport is ill. Mrs Foster advised twentyfirst and requested to forward evidence when investigations would be made of considered warranted.*"

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster died on 21st June, 1916 at General Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded he died on 21st June, 1916 having spent 9 days in Hospital with Double Pneumonia "*a very active & septic case.*"

[Note: there is some discrepancy with the date of death. The following forms in the Service Record file of Corporal Thomas Charles Foster have the date of death as 21st June, 1916 – Statement of Service form, Non-Effective

Statement form, Hospital Admissions form. The following have the date of death as 22nd June, 1916 – The Imperial War Graves Commission Order Form, letter to widow dated 31st July, 1917 advising of the death of her late husband & additional details regarding his place of death & burial, Lettergram D. 9325 dated 5th September, 1916 to Base Records (?), Lettergram to Military Paymaster, Perth, W.A., Final Summary Form (page 71/72) has date of death listed twice as 22nd June, 1916. The Casualty Form Active Service “Handwritten” & “Typed” version have date as 22nd June, 1916 but crossed out & in pencil marked “21”, however another typed Casualty Form – Active Service “Typed” has date as 22nd June, 1916.. The same with the Field Service form – “Report of Death of a Soldier”. Another Field Service form has date of death as 21st June, 1916, another exact same form has date of death as 22nd June, 1916. The Australian War Memorial has date of death as 22nd June, 1916. The Nominal Roll searchable on the Australian War Memorial website has date of death as 21st June, 1916. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website has the date of death as 22nd June, 1916, however the Graves Registration form on the CWGC website has date of death as 21st June, 1916, yet the Headstone information form has 22nd June, 1916 as the date of death. The Private Headstone for Corporal Thomas Charles Foster has the date of death engraved as 21st June, 1916.]

A death for Thomas C. Foster, aged 46, was registered in the June quarter, 1916 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

[UPDATE: CWGC & the Australian War Memorial have both changed the date of death on their websites thanks to the Death Certificate provided by Mary Bastalich (relative of the late Corporal Thomas Charles Foster)]

Registration District ANDOVER.									
1916. DEATHS in the Sub-District of AMPORT in the County of SOUTHAMPTON.									
Columns —	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	
92	Twenty first July 1916 Military Hospital South Sedworth H. B.	Thomas Charles Foster	Male	46 years	Corporal in The Australian Medical Corps Imperial Force (Engineer)	(1) Double Pneumonia 10 Days Certified by J. P. Markland J. H. G. S.	M. Fairbairn Lt. Col. H. A. M. G. Chief Medical Officer Military Hospital South Sedworth	Twenty first June 1916	Thomas John Boacher Registrar.

Death Certificate provided by Mary Bastalich

Registration Di				
1916. DEATHS in the Sub-District of AMP				
Columns:—	1.	2.	3.	4.
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.
92	Twenty first July 1916 Military Hospital South Sedworth H. B.	Thomas Charles Foster	Male	46 years

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster was buried on 24th June, 1916 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 170. He shares a Private Headstone with Private Lawrence Pearce (also of Australian Army Medical Corps), however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Australian Mutual Provident Society, West Australia Branch, wrote to The Secretary, Defence Department, Melbourne, Victoria on 30th June, 1916 to request the Official Certificate of Death for the late Corporal T. C. Foster, A.M.C. Hospital Transport. The letter was forwarded to Base Records who replied on 12th July, 1916 stating that the "necessary official confirming documents covering the report of death" of Corporal T. C. Foster had not yet been received.

Acting Commandant of 5th Military District, Perth, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 5th July, 1916 with the following: "*Mrs Foster, wife of Corporal Thomas Charles Foster (decd) called at this office and complained about the treatment she has received by this Department. She complains of having sent a reply-paid telegram to Base Records in which she stated she had been informed that her husband Corporal T. C. Foster was worse, and asked you for particulars of his illness. She considers that on receipt of her telegram a reply should have been sent and action taken to ascertain his condition. A few days before received your memo 61443 copy attached, she had private advice that her husband was dead (vide Base Records telegram 62287 of the 27th ultimo. The remarks contained in your memo 61443 regarding the rank of this man are not understood as he embarked on the "MOOLTAN" on the 24th May 1915 with the rank of Corporal.*"

Base Records replied on 20th July, 1916: "*... it is regretted a little more discretion was not exercised in dealing with this case, particularly in view of the telegram from Mrs Foster being "reply Collect" – this latter was inadvertently overlooked in the heavy rush experienced in the branch. The telegram was not the usual "Reply paid" wire, hence was treated as an ordinary enquiry and, in consequence of the lengthy reply entailed in cases where no official report is to hand, was dealt with through the post. Explicit directions have been issued to all correspondence clerks in the branch which should prevent a recurrence of cases of this nature. My instructions preclude any investigations being made concerning soldier about whom no official report has been received unless authentic evidence of some sort is produced. No report of any sort concerning Corporal Foster was received prior to the cable announcing his death, and that information appears to have been received privately by Mrs Foster before the official intimation. If the source of her advice as to her husband's illness can be obtained investigations will be made as to why no report of his illness was transmitted.*"

The Australian Mutual Provident Society, West Australia Branch, sent a telegram to the Secretary of Defence, Melbourne on 15th August, 1916 "*...corporal Thomas Charles Foster died pneumonia twentysecond June Military Hospital Tidsworth England settlement claim urgent required kindly wire official record of death.*"

The Telegram was forwarded to Base Records who advised on 17th August, 1916 "*the necessary confirming documents pertaining to this case should come to hand in the next mail from England, when immediate action will be taken to fulfil your request.*"

A War Pension was granted to Mary Foster, 29 Northwood Street, West Leederville, widow of the late Corporal Thomas Charles Foster, in the sum of 52/3 a fortnight granted from 23rd August, 1916. A War Pension was also granted to Maureen Jane Scott Foster, daughter of the late Corporal Thomas Charles Foster, in the sum of 20/- a fortnight granted from 23rd August, 1916.

The Australian Mutual Provident Society, West Australia Branch, sent a telegram to the Secretary of Defence, Melbourne on 14th September, 1916 "*...corporal Thomas Charles foster have confirming documents yet been received death certificate required as widow urgently needs payment assurance monies early reply will oblige.*" Handwritten in red pen was the following "*Cert was despatched to the A.M.P. on 5/9/16 would cross this.*"

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. Foster, 27 Monger St. West Leederville, Western Australia on 3rd October, 1924 stating that "*the Memorial Bronze Plaque issuable on account of the services of your husband, the late No. 2201 Corporal T. C. Foster, A.A.M.C., is now at this office awaiting disposal, and I should be glad to learn whether the undermentioned is your present address to which this memento may be safely forwarded.*" The envelope (& letter) was returned to Base Records marked "Left" & "Unclaimed".

Base Records then wrote to The Deputy Commissioner, Repatriation Commission, Perth, Western Australia on 7th November, 1924: "*With reference to the affairs of the late No. 2201 Corporal T. C. Foster, A.A.M.C., I should be glad to learn whether your files disclose the present address of the deceased's widow, Mrs M. Foster, who was formerly residing at 27 Monger St, West Leederville. Failing this, kindly inform me of the name of the Post Office at which*

addressee is in receipt of a war pension, also the relative certificate number, in order that further enquiries may be instituted in this direction."

The Deputy Commissioner, Repatriation Commission, Perth, Western Australia replied to Base Records on 29th November, 1924 stating that "*Mrs Mary Mattei, remarried widow of the abovenamed is residing at 20 Macleay Street, Potts Point, Sydney."*

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Foster's widow – Mrs M. Foster, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922 but was returned September, 1924 & redespached in December, 1924 to Mrs Mary Mattei, remarried widow of the late Corporal Foster).



Corporal Thomas Charles Foster's Medals (Photo courtesy of Mary Bastalich)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Thomas Charles Foster – service number 2201, aged 46, of Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Charles and Ann Foster; husband of Mary Foster, of 29 Northwood St., West Leederville, Western Australia.

T. C. Foster is remembered on the West Leederville War Memorial, located in West Leederville Memorial Gardens, Cambridge Street, West Leederville, Western Australia.



West Leederville War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Rosemary Ritorto)

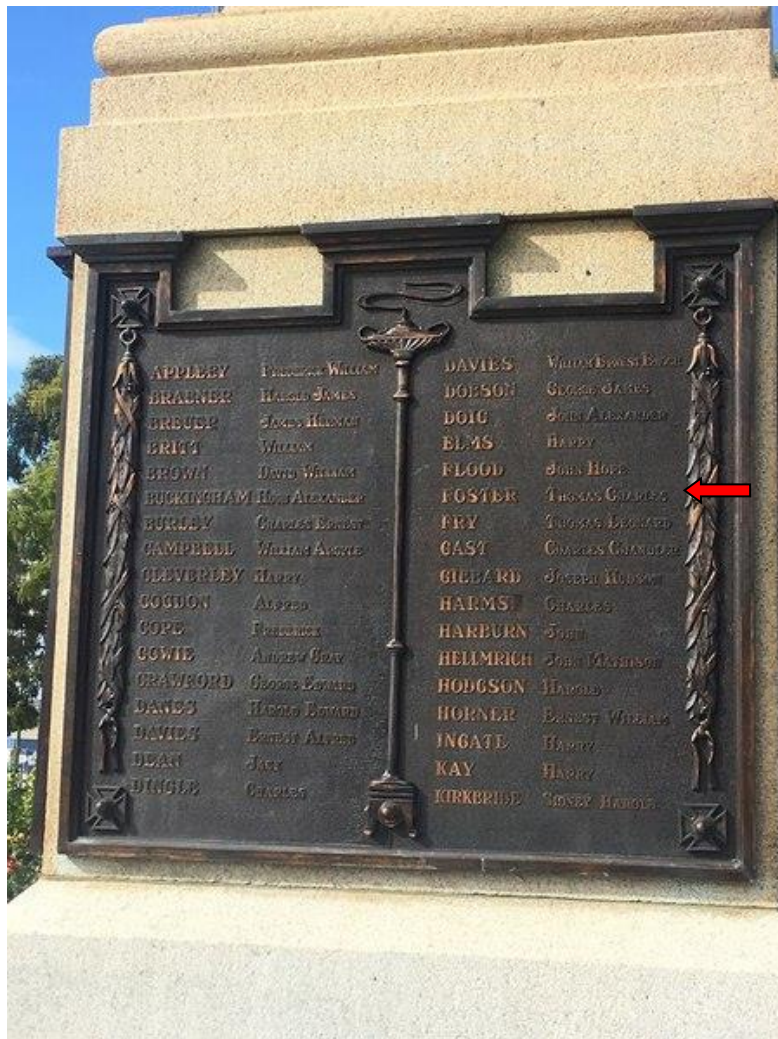


Thomas Charles Foster is remembered on the Midland Railway Workshops Soldiers' Memorial, located in former Midland Railway Workshops, Yelverton Drive, Midland, Western Australia.



Midland Railway Workshops Soldiers' Memorial

(Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Midland and Districts Historical Society Inc.)



(Photo by Rosie Ritorto)

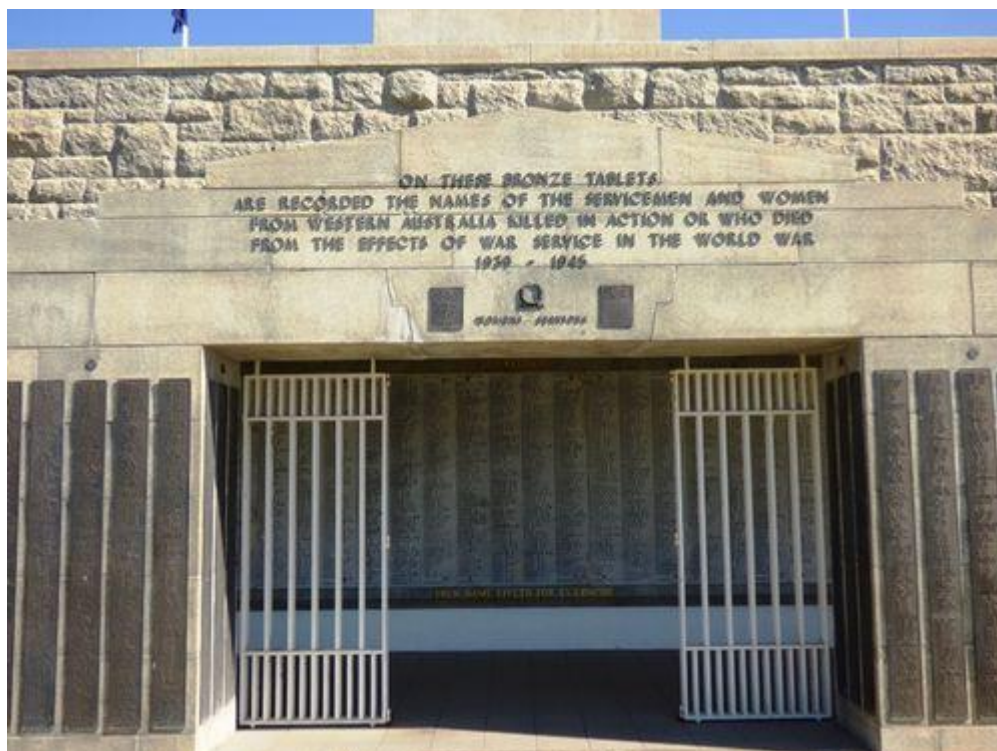
T. C. Foster is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Corporal T. C. 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 182.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(72 pages of Corporal Thomas Charles 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



Australia's Fighting Sons of The Empire:

2

AUSTRALIA'S FIGHTING SONS OF THE EMPIRE



The above soldiers are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cleaver, Beaufort-street, Perth.

Private PERCY CLEAVER.

Private Percy Cleaver was born and educated at Eton, England. He enlisted in 1914, and went to Egypt, where he was wounded on the 27th August, 1915. He returned home in 1916.

Private WILLIAM JOHN CLEAVER.

Private William John Cleaver was born and educated at Eton, England. He enlisted on the 21st May, 1916, and was wounded on the 28th March, 1918.

Bombardier CHARLES CLEAVER.

Bombardier Charles Cleaver was born at Eton on the 9th February, 1897, and educated at Eton. He enlisted on the 17th September, 1915, and embarked for Egypt on the 24th November, 1915, and then went on to France. He returned home on the 23rd October, 1919.

Private BERTIE CLEAVER.

Private Bertie Cleaver was born and educated at Eton, England. He enlisted in June, 1917, and left for active service in August, 1917. He returned home in 1919.



Sergeant THOMAS CHARLES FOSTER.

Sergeant Thomas Charles Foster, son of the late Charles and Annie Foster, was born on the 14th October, 1870, at Knightsbridge, Eng., and educated in London. He was married in 1895 to Mary Scott, daughter of the late James and J. Scott, and had two children, Arthur and Maureen. He enlisted with the A.M.C. Transport Corps in 1915 and served with them in Egypt and was also on various transports. He died of pneumonia at Tidworth on the 22nd June, 1916.

Staff-Sergeant WILLIAM HENRY SOUTAR.

Staff-Sergeant William Henry Soutar (170) was born at Five Dock, Sydney, on the 4th February, 1895, and educated in W.A. He is a son of William and Margaret Soutar. He was rejected for active service in October, 1914, but was mobilised for duty on the 7th November, 1914, at the R.A.G.A. Barracks, Fremantle, with the 22nd A.A.M.C. He was transferred to No. 8 A.G.H. on the 10th of July, 1915. He was promoted to Corporal on the 1st August, 1915. He was again rejected for service abroad in June, 1916. On the 7th July, 1916, he was promoted to Staff-Sergeant in charge of the Clerical Staff, No. 8 A.G.H., demobilised on the 24th October, 1919.



Corporal JAMES JOSEPH MULLINS.

Corporal James Joseph Mullins (913), son of James Thomas and Raphael Mullins, was born at Surrey Hills, N.S.W., in 1868. He sailed for France on the 29th January, 1917, and was in action there and also in Belgium. He returned to Australia in November, 1917.

Private VICTOR HERBERT MULLINS.

Private Victor Herbert Mullins (2186), 28th Batt., 7th Brigade, son of Corporal James Joseph Mullins and Catherine Mullins, was born at Sydney, and was educated at Perth, W.A. He was married on the 22nd July, 1915, to A. M. C. Hutchings, who died on the 27th November, 1918, and they had one child. He enlisted at Boulder in July, 1915, and went into Blackboy Camp attached to the 4th Rein., 28th Batt. He sailed for Egypt on the 5th October, 1915, arriving there on the 25th October, 1915. He remained there for about four months, and then went to France, and was in action there until the 5th November, 1917, when he made the supreme sacrifice at Boulogne, as the result of a very heavy gas attack.



Sergeant Thomas Charles Foster, son of the late Charles and Annie Foster, was born on the 14th October, 1870, at Knightsbridge, Eng., and educated in London. He was married on 1895 to Mary Scott, daughter of the late James and J. Scott, and had two children, Arthur and Maureen. He enlisted with the A.M.C. Transport Corps in 1915 and served with them in Egypt and was also on various transports. He died of pneumonia at Tidworth on the 22nd June, 1916.

(Note: Incorrect date of death – should be 21st June, 1916)



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

FOSTER – On June 22, of pneumonia, whilst on active service, at Tiddesworth Barracks, Andover, England, Acting-Sergeant Thomas Charles Foster, A.M.C. Transport Corps, the beloved husband of Mary Foster, Arbecdon(?), Monger-street, West Leederville, father of Arthur and Maureen Foster, and eldest son of the late Mr Charles Foster and Mrs Foster, of Ashfield, New South Wales. He heard the call.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 30 June, 1916) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 7 July, 1916)

DEATHS

FOSTER – At Tidsworth Barracks, Andover, England, whilst on active service, on June 22, of pneumonia, Acting-Sergt Thomas Charles Foster, A.M.C. Transport Corps, beloved husband of Mary Foster, Arlecdon, Monger-street, West Leederville, father of Arthur and Maureen, eldest son of the late Mr Charles Foster and Mrs Foster, of Ashfield, New South Wales.

“His duty done.”

(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 2 July, 1916)

W. A. Casualties

At the Fighting Front

183rd OFFICIAL LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

CORPORAL T. C. FOSTER (West Leederville)

(Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 8 July, 1916)

Probates and Administrations – The following were issued out of the Supreme Court during the past week:- Thomas Charles Foster, late of Leederville, to Mary Foster and William Patterson, £445 3s....

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 11 August, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Hero

FOSTER – In loving memory of Sergeant T. C. Foster, husband of Mary Foster and father of Arthur and Maureen, who died on active service at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, on June 22, 1916. His duty done.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Hero

FOSTER – In loving memory of Sergeant T. C. Foster, Medical Transport Corps, husband of Mary Foster and father of Arthur and Maureen, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital, June 22, 1916.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Hero

FOSTER – In loving memory of Sergeant T. C. Foster, husband of Mary Foster and father of Arthur and Maureen, who died on active service June 22, 1916.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 June, 1920)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 12th July, 1921, to Mrs M. Foster, 27 Monger St. West Leederville, Western Australia, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No. 2201 Corporal T. C. Foster, A.M.C. Hospital Transport, had not been answered. Another form and addressed envelope was being forwarded & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken. It was requested that the form be filled in and returned in the next few days as the information was required urgently.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Corporal Thomas Charles Foster has a shared Private Headstone.

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)

Photo of Corporal Thomas Charles Foster's shared Private Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

