

**St Margaret's Churchyard,  
Rottingdean, Sussex**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

**D. D. FOWLER**

**ROYAL FLYING CORPS**

**17TH MARCH, 1917 Age 19**

## David Dennys FOWLER

David Dennys Fowler was born on 20th June, 1897 at Glenelg, Adelaide, South Australia to parents James & Mary Harriet Fowler (nee Morgan).

The 1901 England Census recorded Dennys Fowler as a 4 year old, living with his family at 44 & 45 Albert Gate, Westminster, London, England. His parents were listed as James Fowler (Merchant Grocer (Employer), aged 40, born South Australia) & Mary Fowler (aged 31, born South Australia). Also listed on the household – Etta M. Gibson, a visitor (aged 29, born New Zealand) & 4 Servants – Sarah Daly (Housemaid, aged 30, born Ireland), Kate Daly (Nurse (domestic), aged 27, born Ireland), Lizzie Brookes (Cook (domestic), aged 30, born Gloucestershire) & Daisy Newton (Housemaid, aged 18, born Chatham, England).

The 1911 England Census recorded David Dennys Fowler as a 13 year old, Boarder attending (Wick Prep) School at The Wick, Hove, Sussex, England. The Headmaster was Lawrence T. Thring.

David Dennys Fowler attended Harrow School then Trinity College, Cambridge. He was admitted as a pensioner at Trinity on 25th June, 1915.

Mary Harriet Fowler, mother of David Dennys Fowler, died on 14th November, 1915 at Wimbledon, Surrey, England.

David Dennys Fowler applied for an appointment to the Special Reserve of Officers – Royal Flying Corps on 13th January, 1916. At the time of applying he was a Student at Trinity College, Cambridge. As David Dennys Fowler was under the age of 21 his father James Fowler signed his consent. He stated he had no experience in flying at all but had driven a car for 2 years & had been associated with cars for 10 years.

David Dennys Fowler was advised that he had been selected for appointment as a 2nd Lieutenant on probation in the Special Reserve of Officer, R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps) with effect from 15th March, 1916 & was directed to report to the Staff Captain, 5th Brigade, R.F.C. on 15th March, 1916 for instruction in aviation.

London Gazette – 28 March 1916:

*SUPPLEMENTARY TO REGULAR UNITS OR CORPS.*

*ROYAL FLYING CORPS.*

*Military Wing.*

*The undermentioned to be Second Lieutenants (on probation): —*

*Dated 15th March, 1916.*

*David Dennys Fowler.*

David Dennys Fowler was advised to meet at Oxford on 6th April, 1916 for preliminary instruction in aviation.

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler gained his Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate (No. 3007) on 29th May, 1916 at Military School, Catterick Bridge on a Maurice Farman Biplane.

London Gazette – 5 August, 1916:

*ROYAL FLYING CORPS.*

*Mil. Wing.—The undermentioned appts. are made:—*

*Flying Officers.—*

*17th July 1916.*

*2nd Lt. D. D. Fowler, Spec. Res.*

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler reported from England and posted to No. 1 Squadron, A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps), at Heliopolis on 4th September, 1916.

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler embarked from Alexandria on 25th September, 1916 on H.T. *Rhesus* and disembarked at Salonica on 29th September, 1916.

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler arrived for duty as Flying Officer on 29th September, 1916 in the field.

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler was wounded in Air Combat on 5th October, 1916. He was admitted to 31st Casualty Clearing Station on 5th October, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left foot. Second Lieutenant Fowler was transferred to Ambulance Train on 6th October, 1916 & admitted to No. 4 Canadian General Hospital at Salonica on 6th October, 1916. He was admitted N.Y.D. (cause – not yet determined). Second Lieutenant Fowler was reported with gunshot wound to foot & Synovitis Ankle & was transferred to Hospital Ship on 17th October, 1916.

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler was admitted to Military Hospital at Tigne, Malta on 22nd October, 1916 from Hospital Ship *Valdivia*.

A Medical Report was completed on Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler at Tigne, Malta regarding his injuries that occurred on 6th October, 1916 at Struma Valley. The Board found *“that on October 6th was fighting an enemy aeroplane at height of 9000 feet, when bullet from machine gun hit him on inside of left foot and came out on same side in front of internal malleolus. Track of wound passes just beneath skin and has missed bones, vessels and nerves. Was sent to 4th Canadian Hospital and transferred to Tigne Hospital per H. S. “Valdivia.”*” The Board were *“of the opinion that he will be fit to rejoin for Active Service.”* The injuries were described as slight and not permanent & the officer would be incapacitated for military duty for two months (calculated from the date of injury).

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler was invalided to England (via Italy) on Hospital Ship *Isonzo* on 21st December, 1916 from Military Hospital at Tigne, Malta.

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler was attached to No. 78 Squadron, R.F.C.

On night of 17th March, 1917 (Casualty Card has date as 16th March, 1917), Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler was flying a B.E.2s Serial number 7181 on a Zeppelin patrol after an air raid. He was turning too near to the ground, causing the left wing tip to touch & the plane crashed about one and a half miles from Telscome Cliffs Aerodrome (also known as Newhaven).

## **B.E.2 Biplane**

The Royal Aircraft Factory B.E.2 was a British single-engine tractor two-seat biplane designed and developed by the Royal Aircraft Factory. Most production aircraft were constructed under contract by various private companies, both established aircraft manufacturers and firms that had not previously built aircraft. Around 3,500 were manufactured in all.

Early versions of the B.E.2 entered squadron service with the Royal Flying Corps in 1912; the type continued to serve throughout the First World War. It was initially used as a front-line reconnaissance aircraft and light bomber; modified as a single-seater it proved effective as a night fighter, destroying several German airships.

By late 1915, the B.E.2 was proving inadequate in defending itself in combat with German fighters such as the then new Fokker *Eindecker*, leading to considerable losses of the type in the period of the aerial war known as the Fokker Scourge. Although by now obsolete, it had to remain in front-line service for some time while suitable replacements were designed, tested and brought into service. Following its belated withdrawal from operations, the type served in various second line capacities, seeing use as a trainer and communications aircraft, as well performing anti-submarine coastal patrol duties.

*(Information from Wikipedia)*



R.A.F. B.E. 2c (Photo by Rlandmann)

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler died on 17th March, 1917 near Piddinghoe, Sussex, England as a result of an air crash, on a Zeppelin Patrol, during an enemy air raid. (The UK Army Registers of Soldier's Effects records Lt. D. D. Fowler, of R.F.C. having died on 16th March, 1917).

A death for David D. Fowler, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Newhaven, Sussex, England.

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler was buried on 20th March, 1917 in St. Margaret's Churchyard, Rottingdean, Sussex, England. He has a Private Headstone however, his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Flight Global – April 5, 1917:

*PERSONALS*

*Second Lieutenant DAVID DENNYS FOWLER, R.F.C., elder son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Fowler, of Wimbledon and Rottingdean, was born in South Australia, and was 19 when he was killed on March 17th. He was educated at Harrow, and after a short time at Trinity College, Cambridge, joined the Royal Flying Corps, and spent some months on service in the North of England. In September, 1915, he was ordered to Salonica, and in October was wounded in action and placed in hospital at Malta. In December he was invalided home, and on recovery was posted to an aerodrome at home. Both his brother officers and his men speak of him as a most fearless and competent airman. He was buried with military honours in Rottingdean Churchyard on March 20th.*

Probate details:

*1918 - Fowler, David Dennys of Dyxcroft, Rottingdean, Sussex, second lieutenant Royal Flying Corps died 17 March, 1917 at Piddinghoe, Sussex. Administration (limited) London 2 January to Joel Herbert Scaverns, Merchant. Effects £3,645 18s. 6d.*

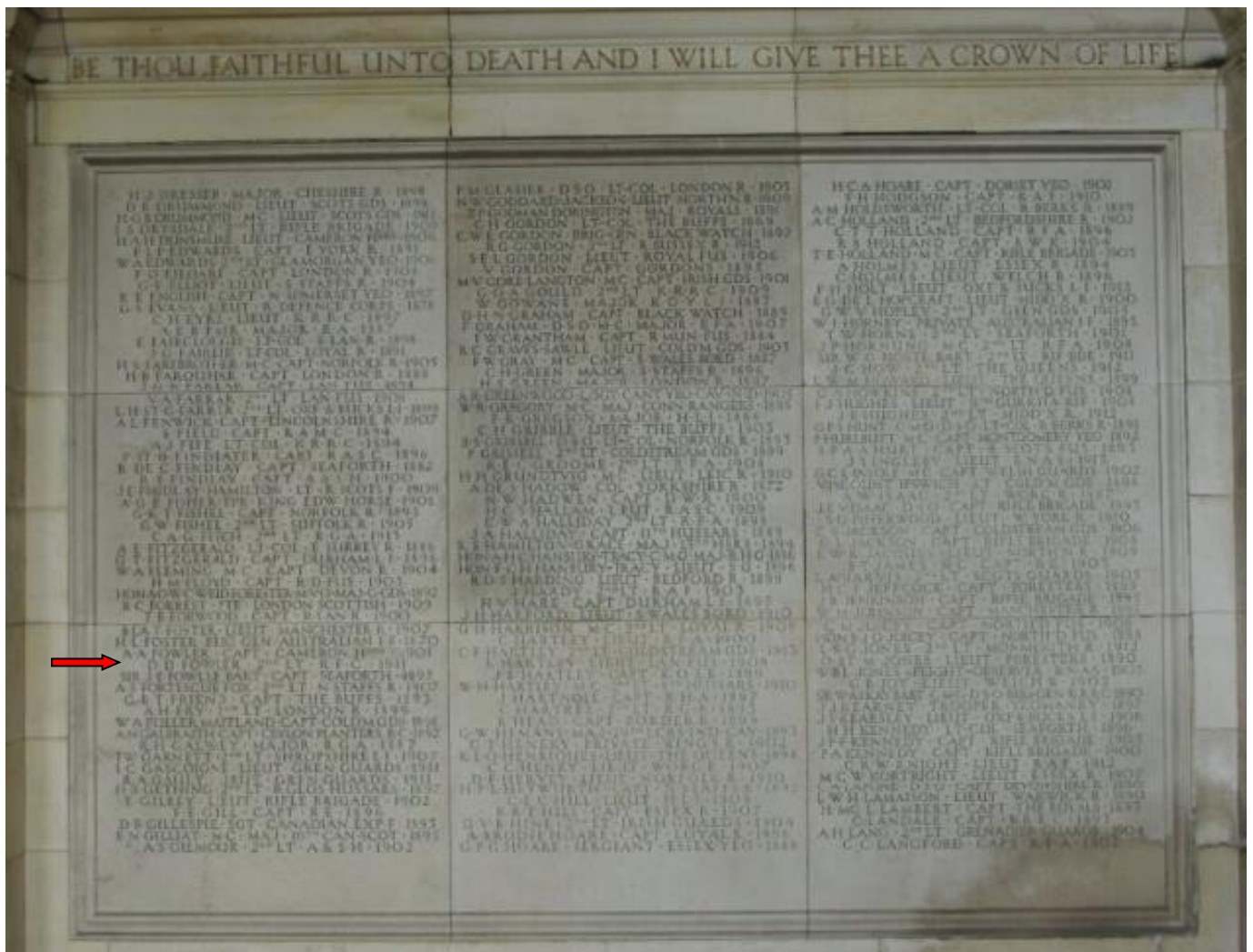
*1924 - Fowler, David Dennys of Dyxcroft, Rottingdean, Sussex, died 17 March, 1917 at Piddinghoe, Sussex. Administration London 22 May to Carl David Roeder, gentleman. Effects £6,748 16s. 11d. Former Grant P.R. January, 1918.*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler, aged 20, of Royal Flying Corps. He was the son of the late James and Mary Fowler.

D. D. Fowler is remembered on the Harrow School World War 1 Shrine, High Street, Harrow, Greater London, England.



Harrow School War Memorial Building (Photo from War Memorials Online)



Harrow School WW1 Shrine (Source: Andrew Tatham © WMR-11322)



David D. Fowler is remembered on the Trinity College Chapel War Memorial, Cambridge, England.



Trinity College Chapel War Memorial

David Dennys Fowler is also remembered on a Brass Memorial Tablet in St. Margaret's Church, Rottingdean, Sussex, England. The Fowler Memorial Tablet is in memory of Mr and Mrs James Fowler and their son - Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler & occupies a place on the west wall.



*To The Glory of God*

*in affectionate Remembrance of*

**MARY HARRIET FOWLER**

*youngest daughter of Sir William and Lady Morgan of*

*Netherby, Mitcham*

*who died at Wimbledon, England*

*In November, 14th 1915*

*also of JAMES FOWLER husband of MARY FOWLER*

*who died at Rottingdean, England*

*on December 5th 1916*

***also of their second son DAVID DENNYS FOWLER***

***2nd Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps***

***Killed while flying in England***

***on March 16th 1917. Aged 19 years***

*and in their death they were not divided.*



Dennys Fowler is remembered on the Great War Roll of Honour in St. Margaret's Church, Rottingdean, Sussex, England.



St. Margaret's Church, Rottingdean Great War Roll of Honour





Dennys Fowler is remembered on the Rottingdean War Memorial, located on The Green, opposite St. Margaret's Church, Sussex, England.



**Rottingdean War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online – Matt Ebeling)

David Dennys Fowler is also remembered on a Brass Memorial in St. Michael's Church, Mitcham, South Australia.

Newspaper article on St. Michael's Church – News, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 December, 1927:

### **ADELAIDE CHURCHES**

#### **7--St. Michael's, Mitcham**

#### **RICH HISTORIC MEMORIES**

(By Rev. C. H. Nield)

Commanding a glorious view of Adelaide, the plains, and the sea, with a setting of noble trees, and a back ground of imposing hills, St. Michael's Church, Mitcham, presents a pleasing picture. Under its sheltering pines and gums 'have stood and talked together some of the most illustrious citizens and builders of the State.

.....

The roll of honor contains 53 names, 13 of whom made the supreme sacrifice in the great war. A brass memorial to Mary Harriet, daughter of Sir William and Lady Morgan, and her second son, David Dennys Fowler (killed in the war) and another in memory of Annie and George Wilcox are in the church.

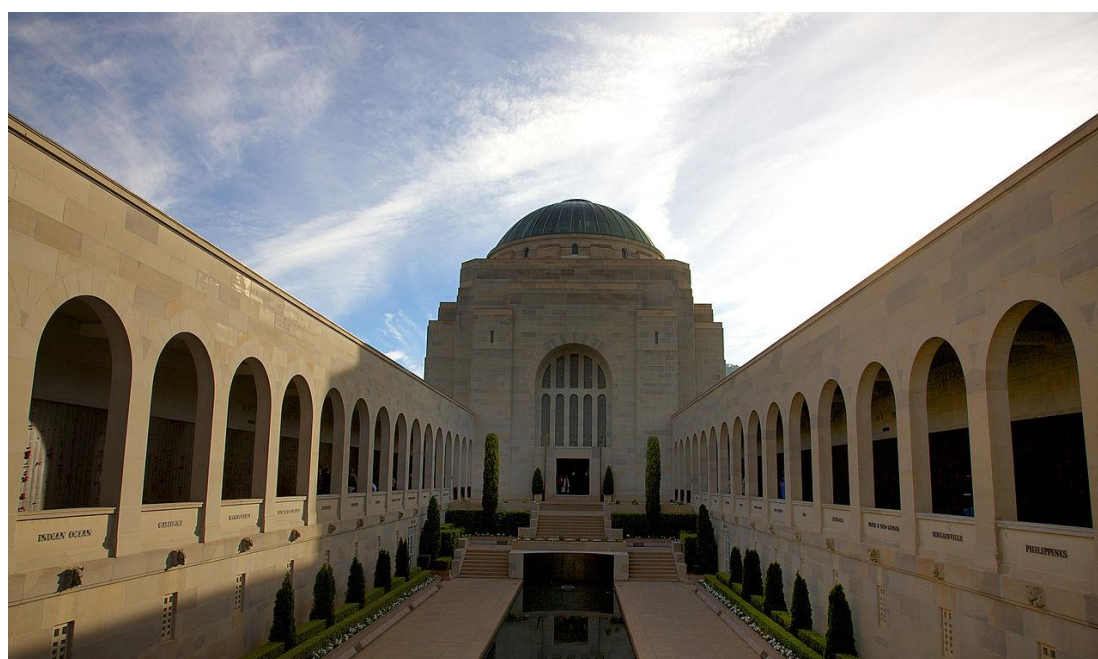
.....

Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler is now remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

*(Note: His case for inclusion on the Commemorative Roll at the Australian War Memorial was submitted at the time of research - May, 2018)*



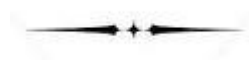
**Commemorative Roll** *(Photo from AWM)*



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** *(Capital Photographer)*



**Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler**



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

London, March 20

Second-lieutenant David Dennys Fowler, of The Flying Corps, son of Mr James Fowler, formerly of Adelaide, was accidentally killed while flying.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 22 March, 1917) & (The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - 22 March, 1917)*

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### **THE ARMY**

#### **ROYAL FLYING CORPS**

KILLED -.....2nd Lieuts. W. P. Bowman, R. W. Kent Regt. attd., **D. D. Fowler**, J. Muirhead, G. B. Firbank, E. C. Pashley, G. H. Bourne, K.R.R., attd., J. Thwaytes, Border Regt., attd., E. W. Flinn, L. G. Vernon, Mc, P. C. Johnson.

*(Army and Navy Gazette, England – 31 March, 1917)*

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**St. Margaret's Churchyard, Rottingdean, Sussex, England**

St. Margaret's Churchyard, Rottingdean contains 13 Commonwealth War Graves – 8 from World War 1 (plus an unidentified seaman of the S.S. *Tycho*) & 5 from World War 2.



**St. Margaret's Church, Rottingdean** (Photo by *julia&keld* - Find a Grave)



**Second Lieutenant David Denny Fowler's Private Headstone** marked by red arrow

(Photo by *julia&keld* - Find a Grave)



Photo of Second Lieutenant David Dennys Fowler's Private Headstone in St. Margaret's Churchyard, Rottingdean, Sussex, England.



*(Photo by js – Find a Grave)*

*DAVID DENNYS FOWLER*

*2ND Lieut. Royal Flying Corps*

*Born June 20, 1897. Killed on Active Service Mar. 17, 1917*

*In His Twentieth Year With Every Promise Of Happiness Before Him*

*He Gave His Life To His Country*