

**Weymouth Cemetery,
Weymouth, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3228 PRIVATE

A. E. FOULIS

5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

23RD MARCH, 1917

He Gave His Life

For A Noble Cause

A Sacrifice Supreme

Alexander Evan FOULIS

Alexander Irving Foulis was born at Golden Grove, Adelaide, South Australia on 3rd July, 1872 to parents Thomas & Mary Ann Foulis (nee Steele).

Mary Ann Foulis, mother of Alexander Foulis, died on 8th June, 1876.

Thomas Foulis, father of Alexander Foulis, died on 15th January, 1900.

The 1910 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Swan, subdivision of Williams, Western Australia listed Alexander Irven Foulis, Labourer, Cornfield, Williams.

The 1913, 1914 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Swan, subdivision of Williams, Western Australia listed Alexander Ervin Foulis, Farmer, Williams.

Alexander Evan Foulis was a 43 year old, single, Farmer from Williams, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 14th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3228 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr T. S. Foulis, Williams, Western Australia.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis was posted to 63 Depot on 14th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 4th May, 1916.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis was transferred to Tunnelling Company Reinforcements on 16th July, 1916 with the rank of Sapper.

Sapper Alexander Evan Foulis was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 5th Pioneers on 4th September, 1916 with the rank of Private. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements, 5th Pioneers (no date recorded).

Private Alexander Evan Foulis embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9th November, 1916 with the 5th Pioneer Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917.

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.

5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

Members of the Pioneer Battalions were trained as infantrymen and were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. The 5th Pioneer Battalion was formed from volunteers from the 5th Division who possessed relevant trade qualifications, or who were deemed to be suitable for manual labouring tasks. Many were skilled and experienced in mining and other artisanal trades. (Information from Wikipedia)

A Medical Report was completed on Private Alexander Foulis, 7th Reinforcements, 5th Pioneer Battalion on 22nd January, 1917 while at Camp 26, Larkhill, Wiltshire. Private Foulis was described as having poor physique. The Medical Board recommended that Private Alexander Foulis was permanently unfit for General Service.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis was marched out from No. 5 Company to No. 6 Company – Home service on 22nd February, 1917 while posted at Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis was classified as C3 (Poor physique) at Pioneer Training Battalion, Larkhill on 2nd March, 1917.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis was marched out from Pioneer Training Battalion, Larkhill on 5th March, 1917 & marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset the same day.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis was sent sick to Isolation Hospital at Weymouth, Dorset on 21st March, 1917.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis died on 23rd March, 1917 at Borough Isolation Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Alexander Foulis, aged 43, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis was buried on 24th March, 1917 in Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number. "Gen." 323 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Alexander Evan Foulis - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. Pte Foulis reported at this depot on 6th March and was taken ill on 21st March. He was admitted to the camp Hospital Monte Video and transferred to the Borough Isolation Hospital on the same day and died as stated above. His personal effects were forwarded to the A.I.F. Kit Store for transmission to his next of kin.*

Base Records contacted Mr T. Foulis, of Williams, Western Australia, brother of the late Private Alexander Evan Foulis, in May, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mr T. Foulis, of 992 Hay Street, West Perth, advised that he was the only surviving brother & had no surviving mother, father or sisters.

Private Alexander Evan Foulis was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Foulis' brother – Mr T. Foulis, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alexander Evan Foulis – service number 3228, of 5th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Thomas and Mary Ann Foulis, of Adelaide, South Australia.

Private A. E. Foulis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Foulis 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.

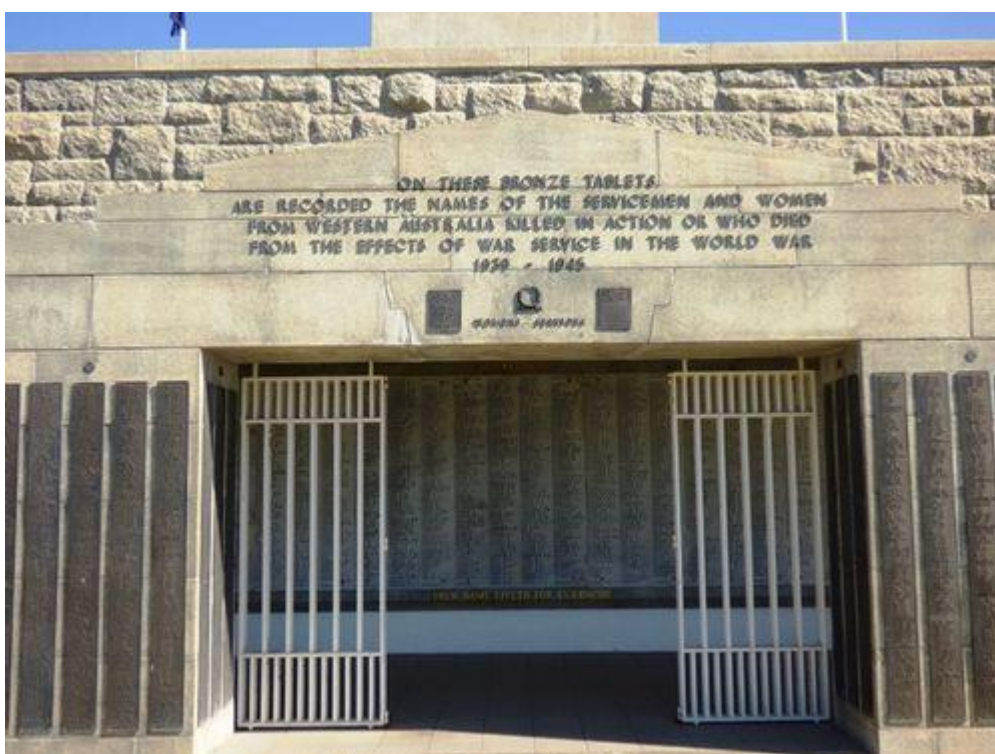
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a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



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)

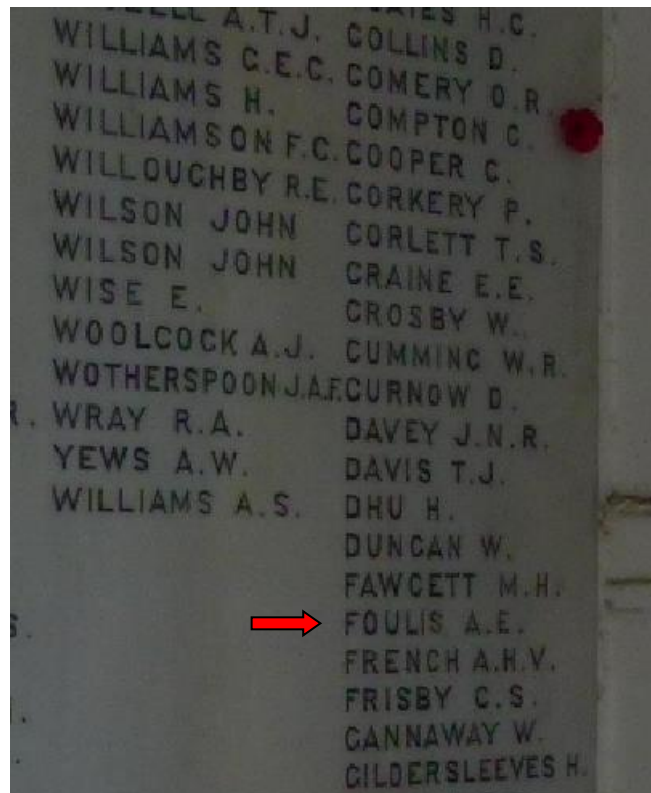
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

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





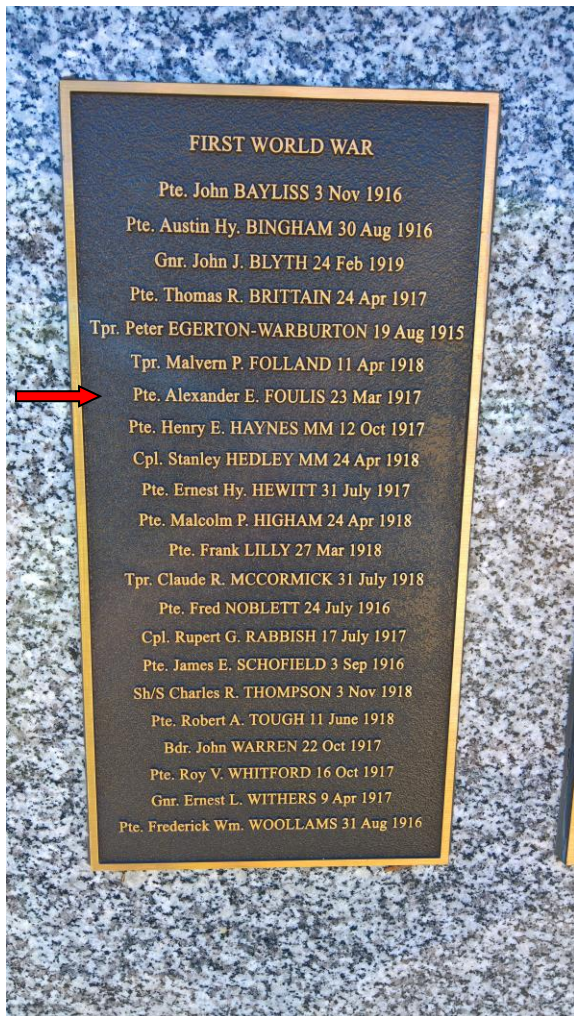
(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



A. E. Foulis was named on the Williams War Memorial, located next to Williams RSL Hall, Brooking Street, Williams, Western Australia.



Williams War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Shire of Williams)



Williams War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Shire of Williams)

A. E. Foulis is named on the Williams Road Board District Honour Roll, located in Williams RSL Hall, Brooking Street, Williams, Western Australia.



**WILLIAMS DISTRICT ROLL OF HONOUR
UNVEILING CEREMONY**

The unveiling of the honor board to perpetuate the memory of those who had enlisted from the Williams Road Board District was formally unveiled on Wednesday afternoon last. The attendance greatly exceeded the expectations of all with the result that the Agricultural Hall, where the ceremony was held, proved totally inadequate to accommodate the assemblage present.

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There were mothers in the audience who had as many as four sons at the Front viz. Mesdames Lucas, Macleod, and Warburton. The honor board at present comprised 87 names (of whom 10 had fallen), whilst six more were to be added.

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The drapings of National flags were then reverently removed from the face of the honor board by Mesdames Macleod and Lucas, displaying each of the undermentioned names on a neat tablet: E. Aldum, S. Bumstead, T. Brittain, J. Baylis, A. E. Bingham, A. H. Bingham, W. Bingham, J. Blyth, E. Carr, R Collins, J. H. Duckham, S. Forsyth, A. E. Foulis, G. Fisher,

(Great Southern Leader, Pingelly, Western Australia – 29 June, 1917)

(58 pages of Pte Alexander Evan Foulis' 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



PRIVATE A. I. FOULIS,
(Died of Meningitis, at Weymouth,
England.)

Newspaper Notices

W. A. CASUALTIES

285th Official List

DIED OF ILLNESS

PRIVATE A. E. FOULIS, Williams

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 5 April, 1917)

DEATHS

FOULIS – On March 23, at Borough Isolation Hospital, Weymouth, England, died of cerebro-spinal meningitis, Private Alexander Irving, dearly beloved brother of Thomas Steele Foulis, of Williams, aged 44 years and 8 months. Deeply mourned.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 23 April, 1917) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 27 April, 1917)

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)

Private A. E. Foulis does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth Cemetery contains 78 Commonwealth War Graves – 63 from World War 1 & 15 from World War 2.



Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth (Photos courtesy of Carol Pollard)



Photo of Private A. E. Foulis' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photos courtesy of Carol Pollard)

