

Baverstock War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4539 PRIVATE

G. FOWLIE

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25th FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 31*

(*Age should be 21)

George FOWLIE

George Pirie Fowlie was born in Brechin, near Montrose, Scotland in 1895, to parents John Fowlie & Annie Fowlie (nee Henderson).

Annie Fowlie died on 19th August, 1898 & was buried in Stracathro Churchyard, Angus, Scotland. John Fowlie married Eliza between 1898 & the 1901 Census.

The 1901 Scotland Census records George Fowlie, born Brechin, Forfarshire, Scotland, as a 6 year old living with his family in Blacksmith's House, Stracathro, Angus Scotland. Included in the household was John Fowlie (aged 40), Eliza Fowlie (aged 41), John Fowlie (aged 19), James Fowlie (aged 13), Mina C. Fowlie (aged 11), Robert Fowlie (aged 8) & George.

The family moved to Australia after the death of Mina Fowlie who died on 3rd August, 1907 at Old Montrose, Scotland & were settled in Queanbeyan, NSW, Australia by 5th November, 1912 when Thomas Fowlie died (aged 28 years).

George Fowlie was a 21 year old, single, Blacksmith from Monaro Street, Queanbeyan, NSW when he enlisted on 4th November, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4539 & his religion was Presbyterian*. His next of kin was listed as his mother (step-mother) – Mrs Eliza Fowlie, Antel Street, Queanbeyan, NSW. The Attestation Papers for George Fowlie state his religion as Roman Catholic.*

Pte George Fowlie embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 25th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th 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.

Private George Fowlie was admitted to Fovant Hospital on 13th February, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott.

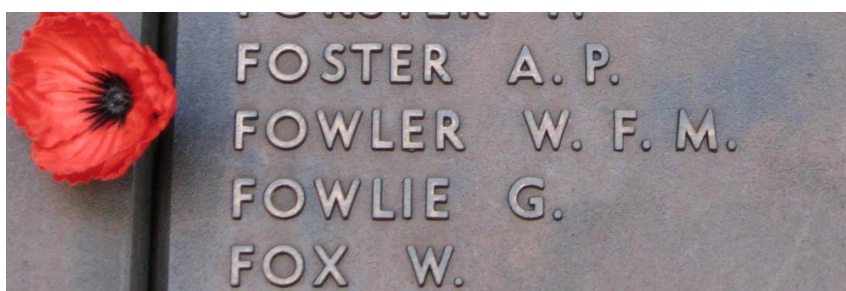
Private George Fowlie died at 3.30 p.m. on 25th February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for George Fowlie, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private George Fowlie was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 28th February, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

A letter dated 8th March, 1917, from the Presbyterian Minister of Queanbeyan, D. Finlayson, was sent to Colonel Luscombe of Victoria Barracks, Sydney enquiring as to why a telegram advising the death of Pte George Fowlie was sent to Rev. Father Hogan of the Roman Catholic Church, Queanbeyan when Pte G. P. Fowlie was a member of the Presbyterian Church. The Attestation Papers for George Fowlie state his religion as Roman Catholic*.

Private G. Fowlie is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 117.

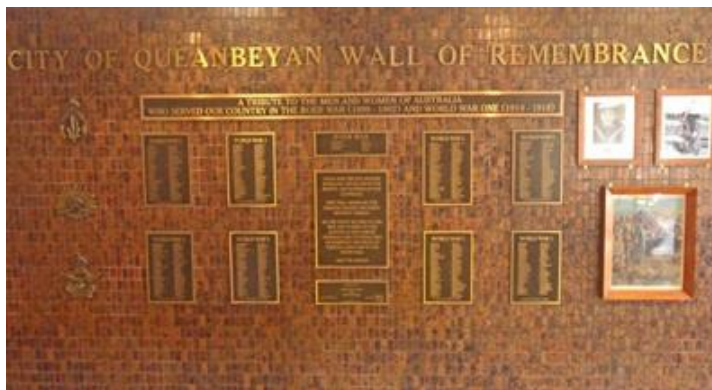


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte G. Fowlie is also remembered on the City of Queanbeyan Wall of Remembrance located at Queanbeyan RSL building Memorial Arcade, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, NSW.



City of Queanbeyan Wall of Remembrance

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Michael Hall and Sandra Young)

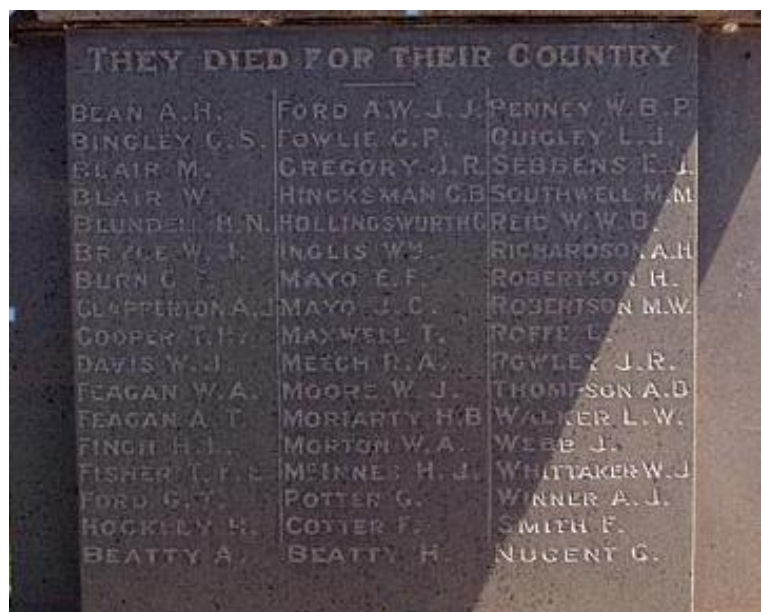
Pte G. P. Fowlie is also remembered on the Presbyterian World War 1 Roll of Honour located in St. Stephen's Anglican Church, corner of Lowe & Morisset Sts, Queanbeyan, NSW.



St. Stephen's Anglican Church Roll of Honour

(Photo from Register of War memorials in NSW – Michael Hall and Sandra Young)

Pte G. P Fowlie is also remembered on the Queanbeyan WW1 Memorial located at Farrer Place, intersection of Lowe St, Monaro St & Canberra Ave, Queanbeyan, NSW.



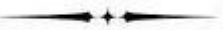
Queanbeyan WW1 Memorial *(Photos from Register of War memorials in NSW – Peter Levarre-Waters)*

Pte George Fowlie was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Fowlie's father – John Fowlie (Both sent August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Fowlie – service number 4539, as being 31 years old & served with 30th Battalion Australian Infantry. No Other family information is listed.

(52 pages of Pte George Fowlie's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Monument in Stracathro Churchyard, Angus, Scotland:

Erected by JOHN FOWLIE, blacksmith, in memory of his wife ANNIE HENDERSON who died at Inchbare, 19th August 1898, aged 37 years. Also of his family, HELEN, WILLIAM, and ANNIE, who died in infancy. ROBERT who died 21st July 1901, aged 8 years. MINA who died at Barnhead, Old Montrose 3rd August 1907, aged 16 years. THOMAS who died at Queanbeyan, N.S.W., 5th Nov. 1912, aged 28 years. Pte. GEORGE PIRIE FOWLIE A.I.F. who died at Fovant, England, 25th Feb. 1917, aged 21 years.



Stracathro Parish Church (Photo by Andrew Wood 2010)

Pte George Fowlie is included in a postcard entitled "Our Queanbeyan Boys No. 4" bearing portraits of 42 soldiers from the Queanbeyan district who served in the First World War. Pte Fowlie can be located on the bottom row, third from left.



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 279

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Private G. Fowlie (Queanbeyan).

(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – Friday 16 March, 1917)

Australia's Dead Heroes

Not only on the heights of Gallipoli, in the cemeteries of France and Flanders, and elsewhere on foreign soil, but in the Homeland, where for the greater part sickness or wounds have a fatal termination in our military hospitals, it is gratifying to us all, but especially so to the bereaved relatives, to be assured of the care and reverence which are manifested by the military authorities for the resting places of our fallen soldiers. An evidence of this is now before us as we write Mr. John Fowlie has entrusted us with a souvenir forwarded to him by Major McLean, officer in charge of the Base Records Office, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. It is a beautifully executed photograph of the grave of his soldier-son, Private G. Fowlie, No. 4539, 30th Battalion Australian Imperial Force. The picture shows a simple grave at the head of which is erected a solid-looking massive cross, bearing the inscription, "A.I.F., Australia, 4539, Pte. G. Fowlie, 30th Bn, 25/2/17." in neat but plain letters. The grave beneath is massed over with groups of floral blooms. Its locality appears to be just within an iron palisaded enclosure, opposite a gateway turning off from a public road. So that the resting place of this particular dead Australian soldier is visible from the highway. Apart from what makes this photo of special value to George Fowlie's relatives, the picture itself is highly artistic. The record attached to it, amongst other information, states that Private George Fowlie died on 25th February, 1917, at the Military Hospital, Fovant, and was buried in St. Edith's Cemetery, Baverstock, Wiltshire, on 28th February, 1917. To show that every effort is being made to express the care which those in authority are exercising with regard to departed soldiers, a communication accompanying the photograph states: "A special branch of the Adjutant-General's Department of the British Army has been created for the purpose of suitably caring for these last resting-places, and whilst it is not possible to arrange for the distribution of flowers, plants, or wreaths for individual graves, where military conditions allow cemeteries are being planted with flowers and shrubs, and carefully tended." Thus it will be seen that everything possible is being done that reverence for our fallen soldiers, the respect due to their memory, and the sympathy and condolences claimed by their relatives, can suggest.

(Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer, NSW – Tuesday 26 March, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

FOWLIE – In loving memory of Pte GEORGE P. FOWLIE, who died in Military Hospital, Fovant, England, on February 25, 1917.

His duty done.

(Inserted by his Mother and Father)

(Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer, NSW – Tuesday 25 February, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of GEORGE P. FOWLIE, 30th Batt. A.I.F., who died in England February 25th, 1917.

"Not forgotten."

Inserted by his loving parents, J. and R. M. Fowlie

(Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer, NSW – Friday 24 February, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

FOWLIE.-In loving memory of our son, GEORGE P. FOWLIE, who died in Fovant Hospital on February 25, 1917.

He went leaving all for duty,
And died for King and Country.

Nor is forgotten by those who loved him.

Inserted by J. and R. M. Fowlie

(Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer, NSW – Friday 23 February, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

FOWLIE.-In loving memory of our son, GEORGE P. FOWLIE, who died in Fovant Hospital on 25th February, 1917.

He went leaving all for duty,
And died for King and Country.
Nor is forgotten by those who loved him.

Inserted by J. and E. M. Fowlie

(Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer, NSW – Friday 23 February, 1925)

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 at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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 28th June, 1921, to Mr J. Fowlie advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte George Fowlie had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken. A reply was sent from Mr J. Fowlie, dated 4th July, 1921 advising that no such letter had been received.

Pte G. Fowlie does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte G. Fowlie's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.

(Photo from CWGC)