

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



109 PRIVATE

W. J. FOWELL

39TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST AUGUST, 1916 Age 19

Peace Perfect Peace

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. J. Fowell is located in Grave Plot # 101
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

William James FOWELL

William James Fowell was born at Deniliquin, New South Wales in 1897, to parents George T. H. & Emma Fowell. He was a 19 year old, single, Farmer from Narracan, Victoria when he enlisted on 23rd February, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 39th Infantry Battalion, "A" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 109 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Emma Fowell of Narracan, Gippsland, Victoria.

Pte William James Fowell embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 27th May, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 18th 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.

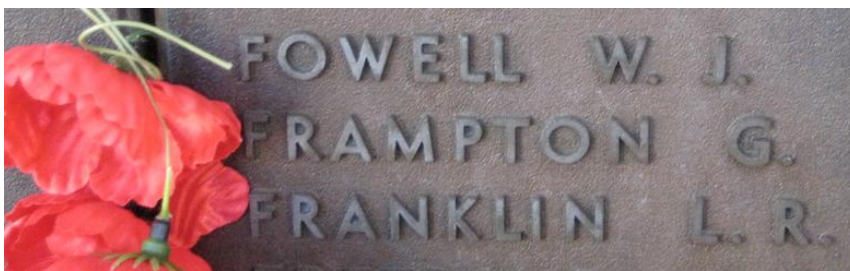
Pte William James Fowell was reported seriously ill with pneumonia on 16th August, 1916.

Pte William James Fowell died on 21st August, 1916 of Measles & Bronchial Pneumonia at Brimstone Bottom Isolation Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England.

A death for William J. Fowell, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Pte William James Fowell was buried on 24th August, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 101.

Private W. J. Fowell is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 131.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. J. Fowell is also remembered on the Narracan Shire Honour Roll (First World War) located in Old Shire Office, Narracan, Victoria.



(Photo from Victorian War Heritage)

Pte William James Fowell was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Fowell's eldest brother (Mother was deceased 4/8/1918 & Father was deceased 20/5/1918) – Henry James Fowell, Narracan East, Victoria (February, 1922 & September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William James Fowell – service number 109 as being 19 years old & served with 39th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George Holland Fowell and Emma Fowell.

(27 pages of Pte William James Fowell'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

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Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

SERIOUSLY ILL

Pte W. J. Fowell, Narracan

(Gippsland Mercury, Sale, Victoria Tuesday 5 September, 1916)

209th LIST

VICTORIA – DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. J. Fowell, Narracan (prev. rep. ser. III), 21/8/16

(The Queenslander, Brisbane Saturday 16 September, 1916)

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 Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)

Pte W. J. Fowell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Peace Perfect Peace

Photo of Pte W. J. Fowell's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)