

Hedley Foster 1892-1917

Hedley Foster was a local boy who attended Sir William Borlase's School between 1902 and 1908. He was also a member of Marlow Rowing Club before the War. He served in France from 1914 and was an officer in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry when he was killed on 22 August 1917.

Hedley was born in Cookham in 1892. After his father died, in 1898, Hedley and his mother and sister moved to River View, Marlow, where his mother was the Lodging House Keeper. By 1911 Hedley's mother had married again, to John Langley and they were living at Glade Road, Marlow. By the time war broke out in 1914, the family had moved to Bridge House, St Peter Street. John Langley was a successful local businessman who became Chairman of Marlow Urban District Council.

Hedley attended Sir William Borlase's School between 1902 and 1908, where he was a prefect and won the special prize for science and maths. He was good at sport and played in the school football team. By 1911, and aged 19, he was working as a Clerk to the Port of London Authority. He was a member of Marlow Rowing Club and was a part of the successful Marlow rowing eight of 1913 and 1914.

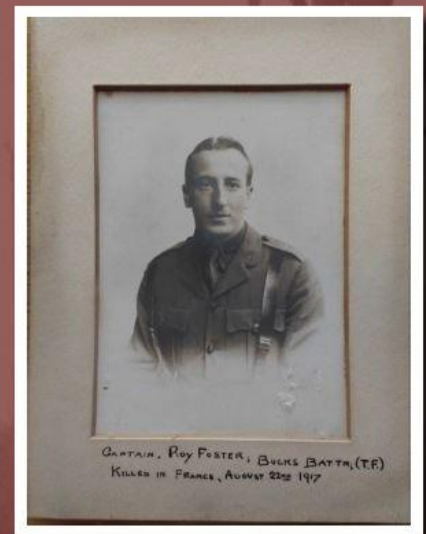


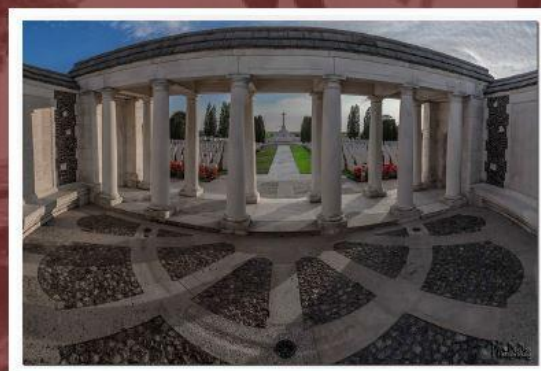
Photo of Hedley (Roy) Foster. Courtesy of Marlow Rowing Club.

Hedley joined the Army early in the War and was promoted to Acting Captain in June 1917. He was involved in the assault on German defences on 22nd August 1917 and was initially reported as missing in action. He was not officially reported as having been killed until April 1918 and his body was never recovered. The South Bucks Free Press reported that 'he made a splendid officer and was exceedingly popular in the battalion'.



The successful Marlow Eight crew of 1913-14. Hedley Foster is second from the right. All these men signed up and fought in the War. Courtesy of The Marlow Society.

Hedley is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium and at All Saints Church, Marlow, Sir William Borlase's School and Marlow Rowing Club.



Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium where Captain Hedley Foster is commemorated.