

## **Herts at War**

([www.hertsatwar.co.uk](http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk))

**Name:** FOWLER Cyril William  
**Rank:** Private  
**Service Number:** 3174  
**Date of Death:** 26 May 1915  
**Age:** 19  
**Regiment/Service:** London Regiment 1<sup>st</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Bn.



### **Award:**

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Panels 45 & 46.

**Cemetery/Memorial:** Le Touret Memorial, France

**UK Cemetery/Memorial:** Hoddesdon and Rye Park Town Memorial  
St Catherine and St Paul Church Memorial, Hoddesdon  
Separate Plaque in St Catherine and St Paul's Church,  
Hoddesdon  
Hertford Grammar School (now Richard Hale School)

### **Pre War:**

Born on 25 Nov 1895 in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire and baptised on 19 Jan 1896 in Hoddesdon son of William Jacob (Schoolmaster) and Mary Fowler and living in the School House, Back Lane, Hoddesdon in 1901. Educated at Hertford Grammar School.

### **Wartime Service:**

Enlisted at Clapham Junction, London and was killed in action.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's account of: "*The British Campaign in France and Flanders 1915*" sheds some light onto how Private Fowler may have met his death. - "On the evening of 25th May the 142nd Brigade, which occupied the front line trench, was ordered to make an attack on the German line opposite. The first line battalions were the 23rd and 24th, of which the 23rd on the left had 300 yards of open ground to cross, while the 24th on the right had no more than a 150. Both battalions reached their objectives in safety, and within 3 minutes had established telephonic communication with their supports. The capture of the trenches had not been difficult, but their retention was exceedingly so, as there was a ridge from which the German machine guns commanded the whole line of the trench. Each man had brought a sandbag with him, and officers and men worked desperately in building up a defensive traverse. Three German counter attacks got within 10 yards of the trenches, but all were beaten back. The German hand - grenadiers, however, were deadly, and many officers and men were among their victims." - This was the attack on Givenchy.

### **Additional Information:**

Brother of Lance Corporal Wilfred Leslie Brimley Fowler who was killed in action on 12 May 1917 and is also commemorated on these memorials.

### **Acknowledgments:**

Malcolm Lennox  
Phil Holland

