

THE DOVER WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT AN AMALGAMATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT ROBERT REEDER

Robert Reeder was killed on 6 January 1918. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records him as serving in the Royal Flying Corps. He was a pupil at St Martins Boys' School, Dover; casualty Alfred Thomas Eaves may have helped and encouraged him as a teacher, as Robert went to the same teacher-training college – St John's, Battersea.

The town of Dover has proud connections with Canada, many Dovorians today have cousins in Canada, owing to migration at the turn of the 19/20 centuries. Many Dovorians served in Canadian forces during the Great War. Some of these are recorded on our Town Memorial. Robert Reeder, while of English nationality, was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Born

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on 18 June 1893. His brother Charles was also born there two years later. (It is possible that if his father, Captain Robert Reeder, was at that time in the Royal Engineers, then he would have been serving in Halifax. The British Royal Engineers were in Halifax between 1740s to 1906; they constructed and maintained military defence structures, for example, the Citadel in Halifax.

In the 1901 census Mrs Lilian Maud Reeder, their mother, born at Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Kent, was living at 178 Stanley Road, Cheriton, Folkestone, with her two sons.

Education

Robert Reeder was educated at St Martin's Primary School, Dover County (now Grammar School), and St John.s Battersea (now Marjon, Plymouth), for teacher training

Extracts from C/E55/121/1/1 - The Log Book of St Martin's School Currently held at East Kent Archives, Whitfield, Dover

29 July 1907 – Robert Reeder of the junior school was one who succeeded in the Kent County Scholarships

29 August 1910 school reopened, Sydney H Smith born 17 1 92 and Robert Reeder born 18 6 93 were appointed as student teachers

on 18 October 1910 R Reeder gave a lesson to Class i on evaporation

**Information from Dover County (now Grammar) School
collected by Paul Skelton, owner of the Old Pharosians website**

Robert was in the school football team between 1908-1911. There are several photos of him in the team; this picture is from 1910-1911, and shows him in the back row (the tallest boy) and his brother Charles, second row, second from the left (next to the teacher). Charles would become Hon Secretary of the Football team the following year.



There are a number of references to Robert Reeder's sporting prowess at the school. Examples are:

Pharos, Christmas 1908 – Practice Match

On September 30th a Practice Match was held at the Danes, under ideal cricket conditions. The two teams were captained respectively by Gann and **Reeder**

Pharos, Christmas 1909 – Cricket Match, Dover County School vs Old Boys

This match, which, in spite of the defeat of the School by a very strong Old Boys' team, proved to be the most interesting of an enjoyable season, was played at the Athletic Ground, on July 30th. The Old Boys batted first, and the School did well in getting them out for a total of 104 runs, although 60 of these were on the board with only two wickets down. A. Belchamber gave a splendid display, making the top score of his side. **The success of the School, after a certain point, was mainly due to the Robert Reeder**

excellent bowling of R. Reeder. Rain caused an adjournment towards the end of the Old Boys' innings, and possibly its effect on the pitch may account for the poor reply the School made OLD BOYS.— Pritchard, b **Reeder**, 7; A. Belchamber, b Fishwick, 30; Buss, c Hall, b Fishwick, 4; Downs, c and b Fishwick, 16; A. Durban, b **Reeder**, 5; Bryson, b **Reeder**, 5; Newing, b **Reeder**, 7; T. Durban, c Took, b Hall, 10; Green, lbw, b Fishwick, 7; S Belchamber, c and b Fishwick, 2; Borrow, not out, 2; extras, 6; total, 104.

BOWLING.— Fishwick, 46 runs, 5 wickets; Bond, 15 runs, 0 wickets; **Reeder**, **28 runs, 4 wickets**; Hall, 4 runs, 1 wicket.

COUNTY SCHOOL.— Hall, run out, 24; Bond, run out, 5; Jones, c Buss, b Belchamber, 9; Fishwick, b Bryson, 1; Gann, c S. Belchamber, b Durban, 1; Fisher, c Durban, b Bryson, 0; Belchamber, c Buss, b Bryson, 2; Kay, b Durban, 0; **Reeder**, **not out, 1**; Carey, b Bryson, 0; Took, c Belchamber, b Durban, 2; extras, 4; total, 49.

BOWLING.— A. Belchamber, 18 runs, 1 wicket; Bryson, 13 runs, 4 wickets; A. Durban, 10 runs, 3 wickets.

Pharos July 1911 - Boys' School Sports. The Sports Day.

The first of the Annual Sports Days was held at the Athletic Ground, Crabble, on May 31st. The town rose splendidly to the occasion and a long list of valuable prizes was placed at the disposal of the Staff to assign to the events. From the outset it was evident that each junior had his special hero whom he determined to support with all his powers, and cries of "Go it Bert!" "Stick it Frank!" and "**Well run Bob!**" were common, and testified to the respective merits of Fisher, Hardy and **Reeder**. ...the mile was well contested, **Reeder's** measured strides, keeping time with the band, landing him first, with Wilbraham, who ran very pluckily, a good second.**Reeder** in the mile and half-mile ran well, and with training would improve his running.

Marriage – from Pharos, December 1917

REEDER (07/10)—NOWERS.—On August 28th, at Dover, Robert Reeder, second Lieutenant, —th Manchester Regiment and R.F.U., son of Lieut, R. J. Reeder, Royal Engineers, and Mrs. Reeder, to Mabel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nowers, of De Burgh Street, Dover. Pharos Dec 1917 (Mabel Gertrude Nowers was born in 1884. In 1921 she remarried in Dover, to Ralph J O King.)

Note: Mabel was sister of Leslie Frederick Filer Nowers, presumed killed in the Atlantic Ocean on 27 June 1917. Their parents were Frederick George Nowers, b abt 1860 in Dover, and Laura Dinah Filer

Intermission - Notes about Charles, Robert's brother

Pharos – Christmas 1910

C. Reeder is Acting-Assistant-Scoutmaster of the Hougham Troop. Christmas 1910

Pharos – July 1912

Congratulations to C. E. Reeder, who has passed the Army Schoolmasters' Entrance Examination 9th on the list of 81. He enters the Duke at York's School in the autumn.

Marriage – Pharos, July 1918

REEDER (07/12)—HOSKINS.—On 28th March, 1918, at St. James's Church, Dover, Charles Edward Reeder, Corps of Army Schoolmasters, only surviving Son of Captain R. J. Reeder, R.E.. and Mrs. Reeder, to Clara, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Hoskins, of 7, Avenue Road, Dover.

St James register – 1918 March 28 Reeder, Charles Edward, Sergeant Major, of Brentwood, father Robert John Reeder, Captain RE to Hoskins, Clara, 17 Castle Hill Road, father David Hoskins, Colonel Government Official

Pharos, June 1944

Sub-Lieutenant Robert Charles Reeder

Killed on active service, January, 1944. In connection with the death of Sub-Lieut. Robert Charles Reeder, it is recalled that his father is also an Old Pharosian, and that his uncle was Capt. **Robert Reeder**, whose name you have so often heard at 11 a.m. on November 11th. (Robert Charles was the son of Charles Edward, the brother of our Robert Reeder, and his wife Clara, née Hoskins. The school held memorial ceremonies each year after the Great War, in memory of their former pupils)

End of Intermission

Death - Pharos, March 1918

It was with great regret that we heard of the death of Robert Reeder, who visited us just before Xmas and gave the fifth and sixth such an interesting account of the work of the flying corps. His loss, less than three week after, and following so closely on his marriage (chronicled in last term's Pharos) brought the war very closely home to us. He came of a military family, his father being a Lieut. in the R.E. After leaving school he was on the staff of the Barton Road Boys' School, and was at College at the time when war broke out. From the O.T.C. (*Officer Training Corps?*) attached to the College, he passed to the Artists' Rifles, and did service in Ireland during the Sinn Fein Rebellion.. He was later gazetted to the Manchester Regiment and subsequently transferred to the R.F.C., in which corps he speedily distinguished himself and gained rapid promotion.

Robert Reeder trophy

The "Robert Reeder" trophy was presented to the school by Captain R J Reeder, father of Robert. (It was presented for a number of years; the first reference appears to be in 1926. At the moment (2010) the cup cannot be located.)

Teacher Training

Information by courtesy of the Archivist at Marjon (University College, Plymouth, St Mark and St John)

Address: 4 Burnaby Rd, Portsea

Period of study: 1914-1916 (as it turned out he left in year 1915)

D of B: 18 June 1893

Place of Birth: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Career before entry: St. Martin's Boys' School, Dover

Dover County School

Student teacher at St. Martin's

Assistant at Barton Rd Boys' School (*Dover*)

His Teaching Practice Reports are as follows:-

1st year 25 hours of teaching practice. Attendances -2 Sept-3 Oct 1914. The Latchmere School.

Mr Carr's Report.

"Mr Reeder proved very capable. He is gentlemanly, of good presence, and gets on well with his boys. His class management is distinctly good. His chief flaw is that he does not get on quickly enough. His speech is clear.

B.B work good. An experienced man of good promise."

18 Attendances. 9-20 November 1914. Shillington Street School.

Mr. Jarvis's Report.

"Preparation good. Good methods - quite an experienced manner with the boys. Illustrations very good. Questioning too good. Excessive. He dropped it a good deal and his work was better.. Language -very good. Commanding manner. Quite above average. Working of class very good. Class management and discipline very good.

General estimate: Quite an 'A' man."

First Year Examinations

Pt1 - Class 1

Pt2 - Class 1

Year 2

Second year on military service

Killed in France January 6, 1918.

Captain RFC

Flight Commander.

Robert Reeder

The Dover War Memorial Project

www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk

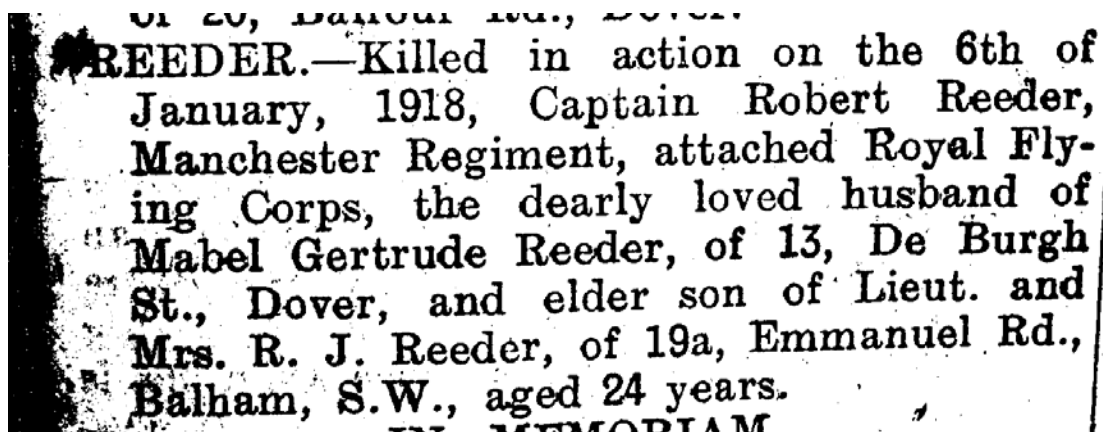
Battersea Club Year Book 1918, p52.

"We regret to announce the death in action of Captain R. Reeder ('16), R.F.C. Captain Reeder - who is an old County School boy - was formerly a teacher on the staff of the Barton Road Schools, but at the time of the outbreak of war was at College: subsequently he joined the Artists' Rifles, and did duty in Ireland at the Sinn Fein Rebellion. He received his commission from the Artists' Rifles and was transferred to the Manchester Regiment, and later to the Royal Flying Corps, in which he quickly distinguished himself and received rapid promotion. At the time of his death he was Captain and Flight-Commander.

The sad news was imparted to his relatives by his Commanding Officer, who wrote of him in the highest terms, saying: 'He was a splendid officer, and his loss is very keenly felt by all the officers of his squadron.'"

Newspaper Reports

from the Dover Express and East Kent News – 18 January 1918



OF 20, BARTON ROAD, DOVER.
REEDER.—Killed in action on the 6th of
January, 1918, Captain Robert Reeder,
Manchester Regiment, attached Royal Fly-
ing Corps, the dearly loved husband of
Mabel Gertrude Reeder, of 13, De Burgh
St., Dover, and elder son of Lieut. and
Mrs. R. J. Reeder, of 19a, Emmanuel Rd.,
Balham, S.W., aged 24 years.
MEMORIAM

Report follows:

CAPT. REEDER, R.F.C., KILLED

The sad news was received on the 10th inst., by the relatives of Capt. Robert Reeder, R.F.C., that he had been killed in action in France, on January 6th. Capt. Robert Reeder is the son of Lieut. R. J. Reeder, of the Royal Engineers, and of Mrs. Reeder; and on September 28th, 1917, was married to Miss Mabel Nowers, of Dover. The deceased officer's parents now live at Balham, his father being engaged in work at the War Office; but previous to the war, his mother resided for some time at Malmaims Rd., Dover, while her husband was on foreign service. Before the war, Capt. Reeder—who is an old County School boy—was a teacher on the staff of the Barton Rd. Schools. At the time of the outbreak of war, he was at college, and became attached to the Officers' Training Corps at his college. Subsequently he joined the Artists' Rifles, and did duty in Ireland at the Sinn Fein Rebellion. He received his commission from the Artists' Rifles, and was transferred to the Manchester Regt., and later to the Royal Flying Corps, in which he quickly distinguished himself, so much so, that he received rapid promotion, and at the time of his death was Captain and Flight-Commander. The late Capt. Reeder was home on leave just before Christmas, returning to the front on December 23rd.

Buried

Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1, Somme France – grave IV A 12

Robert Reeder

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The Dover War Memorial Project

www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk

Request for Commemoration
letter in East Kent Archives, ref DO/CA/17/1/5

Captain R J Reeder, Robert's father, writing to the Town Clerk of Dover, requesting that his son be commemorated on Dover Town Memorial (unveiled November 1924)

9, Staff Colonep
Tideworth, Hants
19. 11. 24

Sir, I understand you have
been calling for particulars of
name of men of Dover, who
fell during the Great War, I
therefore attach particulars of
my son, who was killed in
France. I also enclose a Cheque
for three Guineas, as a Contribution
towards the War Memorial.

Yours faithfully
R J Reeder
Capt R J

Town Clerk
Dover

Robert REEDER. Captain
6th Manchester Regt & High Commissioner
Roupe Spring Camps. Killed in
action, in France, 6th Jan: 1918.

Was a Scholar & Pupie Teacher
at St. Martin's & the County
School and Assistant Master at
Barlow Road School.

Exploited in the Artists Rifles
while a student at St. John's
College, Battersea, eventually being
commissioned in the Manchester
Regt. (T.F.).

The entry on the Commonwealth War Grave Commission gives Capt. R. J. Reeder (Royal Engineers) and Lilian Maud Reeder living at 19A, Emmanuel Rd., Balham, London.

War Memorials

Robert Reeder is named on memorials at St Martin's School, at Dover County (now Grammar) School, and at Marjon, the teacher training college. (*Images in the notes for casualty Alfred Thomas Eaves*)

Marilyn Stephenson-Knight
4 July 2010