

**St. Edith's Churchyard,
Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4315 PRIVATE

C. HAYES

29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 36

Christopher HAYES

Christopher Hayes was born at Colac, near Geelong, Victoria around 1880. (He may have been the son of James & Mary Ann Hayes (nee Brain) who was born at Colac, 1882).

Christopher Hayes was a 36 year old, single, Labourer from Queensland Hotel, Mungindi, Queensland (Mungindi is on the border of NSW & Queensland) when he enlisted at Armidale, NSW on 19th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4315 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his friend – Mrs Ada Cashman of Queensland Hotel, Mungindi, NSW. (Christopher Hayes originally had listed his brother – John Hayes as next-of-kin but his address was unknown).

Private Christopher Hayes was posted to Narrabri Camp in NSW for recruit training from 26th April, 1916. He was transferred to Armidale Depot Battalion on 10th May, 1916. Trooper Christopher Hayes was transferred to Light Horse Depot Regiment at Menangle Park, NSW on 6th July, 1916. He was transferred on 10th October, 1916 to 11th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion & reverted to the rank of Private.

Private Christopher Hayes embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 3rd November, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th 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 Christopher Hayes was admitted sick to Military Hospital, Fovant on 10th February, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Christopher Hayes died at 7.30 a.m. on 14th February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

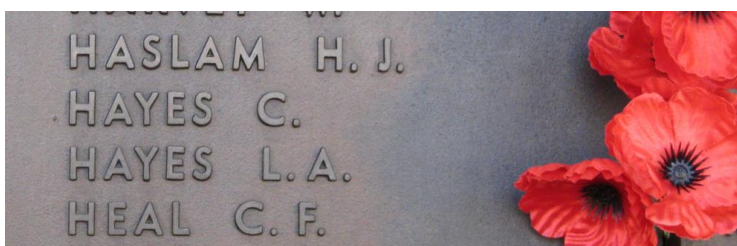
A death for Christopher Hayes, aged 37, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Christopher Hayes was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire (date not recorded) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

Private Christopher Hayes was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to the soldier's next of kin, however in the case of the late Private Christopher Hayes, no next-of-kin could be located so his medal, plaque & scroll were sent to Untraceables Section. His personal effects were sent to his friend, Mrs A. Cashman of Queensland Hotel, Mungindi, NSW whom Private Hayes had listed on his Attestation Papers. Mrs Cashman had signed a Statutory Declaration stating she did not know if any of his family were alive.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Christopher Hayes – service number 4315 as being 36 years old & served with 29th Battalion Australian Infantry. No further family information is recorded.

Private C. Hayes is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 115.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Hayes is remembered on the Mungindi District Roll of Honour, located in Mungindi RSL Club, St. George Street, Mungindi, NSW.



Mungindi District Roll of Honour

(49 pages of Private Christopher Hayes' 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



Newspaper Reports

CASUALTIES - 275th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte C. Hayes, Mungindi

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – Friday 2 March, 1917)

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)

Private C. Hayes does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock contains 32 World War 1 War Graves – 3 London Regiment Graves in the south-west corner & 29 Australian War Graves.



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock (Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts)





St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock (*Photos courtesy of Helen Roberts*)



Photo of Private C. Hayes' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)