# Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England War Graves



# Lest vve Torget

# World War 1



4128 PRIVATE

A. HAYES

**5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS** 

**7TH APRIL, 1917** 

# **Andrew HAYES**

Andrew Patrick Hayes was born at Ballarat East, Victoria on 12th June, 1881 to parents James & Mary Hayes (nee Jackson).

Mary Hayes, mother of Andrew Hayes, died in 1900 at Ballarat, Victoria.

James Hayes, father of Andrew Hayes, died on 14th December, 1901 at Ballarat, Victoria.

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Ballarat, subdivision of Ballarat East, Victoria listed Andrew Hayes, Miner, of 4 Princess St., Ballarat East. Edward Hayes, Miner, was also listed at that address.

Andrew Hayes married Catherine Veronica Brain on 12th September, 1904 at Ballarat, Victoria.

A son – Andrew George Matthew Hayes was born on 24th January, 1906 at Ballarat East, Victoria.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Ballarat, subdivision of Ballarat East, Victoria listed Andrew Hayes, Miner, & his wife – Catherine Hayes, Home Duties, of 189 Humffray St., Ballarat East.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Yarra, subdivision of Abbotsford, Victoria listed Andrew Hayes, Line Repairer, & his wife – Catherine Hayes, Home Duties, of 32 Cook St., Abbotsford. Jack Hayes, Labourer was also listed at that address.

A daughter – Eileen Mary Constance Hayes was born on 21st February, 1913 at Richmond, Victoria.

The 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Yarra, subdivision of Richmond North, Victoria listed Andrew Hayes, Labourer, & his wife – Catherine Hayes, Home Duties, of 8 Lennox St., Richmond.

Catherine Hayes petitioned against Andrew Patrick Hayes for a divorce in 1914 for adultery & cruelty within the marriage. It was granted on 17th May, 1915.

Andrew Hayes was a 34 year old, married, Labourer from (wife Mrs Catherine Hayes) 339 Johnston Street, Abbotsford, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 4th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4128 & his religion was Church of England (however his religion is listed as R.C. on his Attestation Papers). His next of kin was listed as his brother – Edward Hayes, Ballarat East, Victoria.

Private Andrew Hayes was posted to 23rd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 10th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion at Broadmeadows on 7th February, 1916.

Private Andrew Hayes embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th March, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements.

Andrew Hayes' original Attestation Papers, dated 4th January, 1916, have his details as shown below.

Age 3 4 years 6 months. Height 5 feet 64 inches.	DISTINCTIVE MARKS. Vacc Vil
Weight 124 lbs.  Chest Measurement 32-34 inches.	Flishy male R breast
Complexion Medium	
Eyes	
Hair Brown	

A second lot of Attestation Papers were completed & signed on 15th March, 1916 at Fremantle, Western Australia. See below.

Age years 6 months.	DISTINCTIVE MARKS.
Height 5 feet 1 inches.	
Weight 10 Stare lbs.	
Chest Measurement 33 - 35 inches.	
Complexion Dark	
Eyes Brown	
Hair Brown	

A communication was made on 15th March, 1916 on board Troopship Wilthsire A 18 while at Sea by O.C. 10th. 21st Reinforcments to Staff Officer of Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria which reads: "The following inaccuracies and omissions on our Nominal Roll have been remedied; kindly note on your copy.... The following men who were transferred to us from 4th/29th Reinf. on the Wharf, have been added to our Nominal Roll and the following numbers issued them [7 names & service numbers listed] No. 4128 Private Andrew Hayes, was marked A.W.L. off our strength at the Wharf by the Records Clerk. Owing to some error he embarked with us. He is now on our strength and particulars are the same as on the Nominal Roll before being struck out. He has been re-attested."

Private Andrew Hayes was transferred to 5th Pioneer Battalion on 16th April, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir from 6th Training Battalion. He was taken on strength of 5th Pioneer Battalion at Ferry Post on 17th April, 1916 from 21st Battalion.

### 5th Pioneer Battalion

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was an Australian infantry and light engineer unit raised for service during the First World War as part of the all volunteer Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Formed in Egypt in March 1916, the battalion subsequently served on the Western Front in France and Belgium, after being transferred to the European battlefields shortly after its establishment. Assigned to the 5th Division, the 5th Pioneer Battalion fought in most of the major battles that the AIF participated in between mid-1916 and the end of the war in November 1918. It was subsequently disbanded in early 1919.

The 5th Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 5th Division. The battalion was formed in the aftermath of the failed Gallipoli campaign when the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was expanded as part of plans to transfer it from the Middle East to Europe for service in the trenches along the Western Front. This expansion saw several new infantry divisions raised in Egypt and Australia, as well as specialist support units such as machine gun companies, engineer companies, artillery batteries and pioneer battalions, which were needed to meet the conditions prevalent on the Western Front.

Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. The pioneer concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but had not initially been adopted in other British Empire forces. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was formed from volunteers from the 5th Division who possessed relevant trade qualifications, or who were deemed to be suitable for manual labouring tasks. Many were skilled and experienced in mining and other artisanal trades. According to some sources a majority of the battalion's recruits were from South Australia, although others refer to a significant proportion originating from Western Australia.

(Extract of Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

Private Andrew Hayes was sent sick to Hospital on 15th May, 1916. He was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance on 15th May, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged to his Unit on 19th May, 1916.

Private Andrew Hayes embarked from Alexandria on 19th June, 1916 on Troopship *Canada* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th June, 1916.

Private Andrew Hayes was sent sick to Hospital on 13th January, 1917. He was admitted to 1 A. R.R.S. (Rest Station) with "*Def Teeth*" on 13th January, 1917. Private Hayes was transferred to S. M. Casualty Clearing Station on 26th January, 1917 with a scald foot.

Private Andrew Hayes was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 29th January, 1917 with Bronchitis. He was marked for transfer to England on 4th February, 1917 with Debility. Private Hayes embarked for England from Havre, France on 4th February, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Formosa* with Bronchitis.

Private Andrew Hayes was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital at Birmingham, England on 5th February, 1917 with Debility & Bronchitis. He was transferred to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital at Southall on 26th February, 1917.

Private Andrew Hayes was granted furlo from 2nd Auxiliary Hospital, Southall from 20th March, 1917 to 4th April, 1917 & was to then report to Training Draft.

Private Andrew Hayes was admitted to Weymouth Military Hospital, Dorset, England on 31st March, 1917 with Pneumonia (as per Hospital Admissions form, however, the Casualty Form – Active Service & Statement of Service form both have recorded that Private Andrew Hayes was sent sick to Sidney Hall Hospital at Weymouth on 31st March, 1917.)

Private Andrew Hayes died at 7.30 am on 7th April, 1917 at Sydney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Pneumonia. The Hospital Admission form recorded "Patient died of heart failure."

A death for Andrew Hayes, aged 35, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private Andrew Hayes was buried on 10th April, 1917 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number III.C.2706 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Andrew Hayes - Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. Military Funeral. Pte Hayes was admitted to Sidney Hall Military Hospital on 31.3.17 & died at 7.30 am 7.4.17. He was visited by me several times and fortified by the rites of the Church, was anointed and received Holy Communion etc. He was also visited by the local priests, Fathers Sheehan & Tyndall. He often spoke of his wife and children and died a most peaceful death.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Andrew Hayes contains a letter from Matron E. L. McAllister, Sidney Hall, Weymouth which reads: "Died of Pneumonia. Pte A. A. Hayes was admitted to Sidney Hall suffering from Pneumonia on the 31st March and died on the 6th June, He asked one of the Sisters (about half an hour before he died) to write to his wife and this was done. He is buried at Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth."

A War Pension was granted to Catherine Hayes, 339 Johnston St., Abbotsford, widow of the late Private Andrew Hayes, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 12th June, 1917. Pensions were also granted to his children – Andrew George Hayes, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight & Eileen Mary Constance Hayes, in the sum of 15/- per fortnight – both from 12th June, 1917.

The personal effects of the late Private Andrew Hayes were sent to his widow Mrs A. Hayes, 339 Johnston Street, Abbotsford (date unknown).

The District Paymaster, 3rd Military District wrote to Base Records in May, 1917 regarding Private A. Hayes "The appended extract of a letter received from Mrs E. Hayes, 43 Eastwood Street, Ballarat East, relative to the abovenamed soldier, is forwarded for your information, and reply direct to write, please. "His brother would like you to forward his personal belongings."

Mr E. Hayes, McLeod Street, Wonthaggi, Victoria wrote to Base Records in April, 1918 to "inquire if there is anything of any value come to hand as regards re Private A. Hayes 4128 5th Pioneers as a letter came on Saturday for his wife that was & the Post man said she was not to be found in Melbourne so it came on to me & I sent it back to town as I am his Brother. If there is any thing to hear would you kindly let me know in course of a few days....."

Base Records wrote to Mr E. Hayes, McLeod Street, Wonthaggi, Victoria in May, 1918 advising full details of the death of his brother the late Private Andrew Hayes & also details regarding the burial. (Base Records had sent the same details to the widow of the late Private A. Hayes - Mrs A. Hayes, 339 Johnston Street, Abbotsford in August, 1917). The letter went on to state "The address of Private Hayes' wife is recorded here as Post Office, Wonthaggi, but if she has removed from that district I should be obliged if you could furnish me with her present address."

Mrs E. Hayes, corner Broome Cres & Dixons St, Wonthaggi, wrote to Base Records in July, 1921 on behalf of Mr E. Hayes stating that Private Andrew Hayes' brother – E. Hayes was his next of kin. The letter states "... & when we could get no satisfaction as to who got his allowance pension money or deferred pay...! was given to understand his brother E. Hayes was to receive it if you could kindly give me the information required you would save a lot of anxious as we have been waiting for years to try & find out particulars...."

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer, 3rd Military District on 29th July, 1921, referring to the letter from Mrs Hayes "....Would you be kind enough to let me know who got his money..." & requested to be given the present address of the soldier's widow, Mrs Catherine Hayes. A reply was sent to Base Records on 8th August, 1921 from District Finance Officer stating that the address of the widow of the late Private Andrew Hayes was Mrs Catherine Hayes 47 Lithgow Street, Abbotsford, Victoria.

Base Records replied to Mrs E. Hayes on 28th July, 1921 stating that the records showed that a pension was being paid to the widow & 2 children of the late Private Andrew Hayes.

Private Andrew Hayes was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hayes' widow – Mrs C. Hayes, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1922, returned & redespatched May, 1923. Plaque sent December, 1921 & redespatched December, 1924).

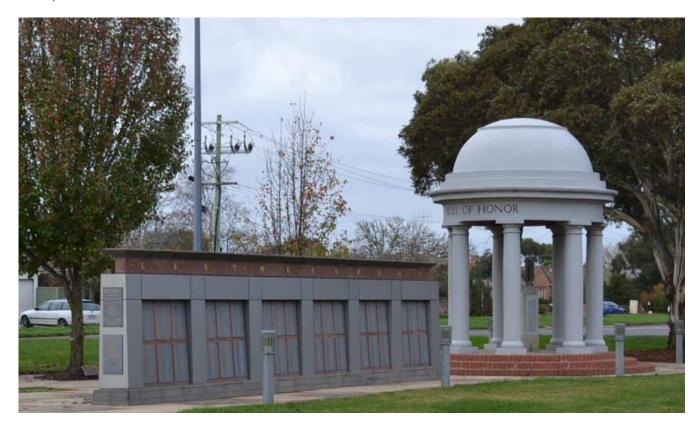
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private A. Hayes – service number 4128, of 5th Australian Pioneers. No family details are listed.

Private A. Hayes is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Hayes is remembered on the Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda located at Sturt Street and Learmonth Avenue, Ballarat, Victoria.



Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda (Photo from Carol's Headstone Photos)

A. Hayes is also remembered on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour (1917-1919) where almost 4,000 trees were planted to represent the number of men and women from the Ballarat district who served in World War 1. The trees were planted at intervals of 12 metres along 22 kms of the Ballarat-Burrembeet Road. The Ballarat Avenue of Honour is famous for being the first avenue of its kind in Australia. Tree number 1977



The Arch of Victory was built as an entrance to the Avenue of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia)



**Ballarat Avenue of Honour** (Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

(63 pages of Private Andrew Hayes' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



## **Newspaper Notices**

Shortly after 8 o'clock yesterday morning the house occupied by Mrs Andrew Hayes, at the corner of Queen and Humffray streets, Ballarat East, was found to be on fire. Mrs Hayes left the lamp burning on the washstand, and as she is subject to fits, she is of opinion that the lamp was knocked over while she was struggling. Aroused by the woman's screams, William Brain, brother of Mrs Hayes, rushed into the burning building, and rescued his sister, who was standing in the passage. In doing so he was badly burnt about the arms, and his eye brows and hair were singed. The brigade managed to save some of the property, but two rooms were completely gutted. Mr Balfour, of the Railway Department, rendered first aid to Mr Brain. There was an insurance of £75 on the furniture with the Union Insurance Company.

(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 18 March, 1910)

### **HAYES UNHITCHED**

### Wife Accuses Him of Misconduct and Cruelty

Misconduct and cruelty were urged by Catherine Hayes, of Lennox-street, Richmond, in support of her petition for divorce from Andrew Patrick Hayes, who did not defend the suit.

The couple were married at Ballarat East in September, 1904, respondent being a miner. Taking to drink, he treated his wife so cruelly that she was forced at times to leave him. He gave her little money, and she was obliged to take in dressmaking to support herself and children. When she instituted maintenance proceedings against him, her brother,

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William Brain, induced her to abandon them for the sake of her family, who are well known in Ballarat. She accompanied respondent to Zeehan, but almost immediately left him on account of his cruelty. On his return to Victoria she forgave him, and they lived together in Melbourne. In February, 1914, she discovered that respondent was suffering from a loathsome complaint, for which he was medically treated, and she refused to cohabit with him any longer. Since that time they had been separated, and she had received nothing from him towards her own or the children's maintenance.

A decree nisi was granted.

(Truth, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 May, 1915)

### **DEATHS**

### On Active Service

HAYES - Died in hospital, England, Private A. Hayes, loving father of Georgie and Connie.

-Inserted by his loving wife Katie, 339 Johnston-street, Abbotsford.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 April, 1917)

### THE 288th CASUALTY LIST

**DIED OF ILLNESS** 

Private A. Hayes, Ballarat East.

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 25 April, 1917)

### **IN MEMORIAM**

### On Active Service

HAYES – In loving memory of our dear father, Private Andrew Hayes, 5th Pioneers, who died 7th April, 1917, of shell shock and pneumonia, Weymouth Hospital, England.

Gone is the face we loved so dear,

Silent the voice we loved to hear;

A painful shock, a b low severe,

To part with one we loved so dear.

No one know how much we miss him,

Friends may think the wound is healed;

But they little know the sorrow

Deep within our hearts concealed.

-Inserted by his loving wife and family, Katie, George and Connie, 200 Stokes-street, Port Melbourne.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 April, 1919)

### 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. 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)

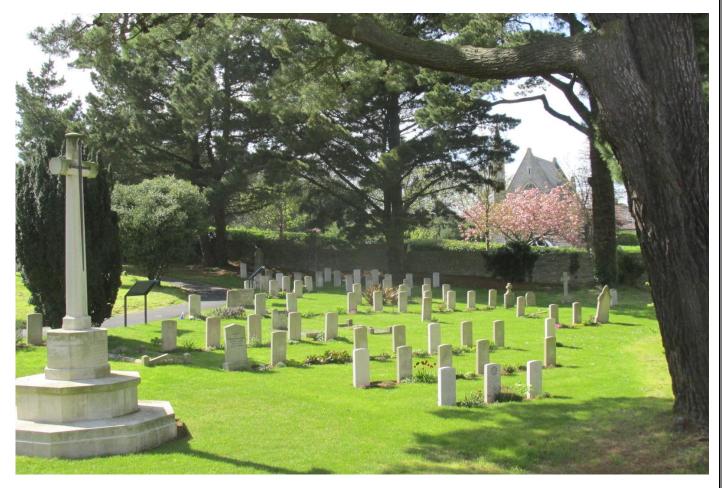
A letter from Base Records, dated 15th July, 1921, to Mr E. Hayes, McLeod Street, Wonthaggi, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his brother - the late Private A. Hayes had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

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

### Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth became a depot for Australian forces in 1916 and 83 of the 147 First World War burials in Melcome Regis Cemetery are of Australian servicemen; most of these graves are scattered in the old part. The 36 Second World War burials are in the extension. The cemetery also contains seven war graves of other nationalties and one non-war burial.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo courtesy of Steve Stewart)



Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, front row, left to right: unidentified; Butler; 5917 Private Edgar Allan Thornell, 22nd Battalion (Bn), died 9 August 1918; 1207 Corporal Jesse Adams Davis, 12th Bn, died 15 November 1918.

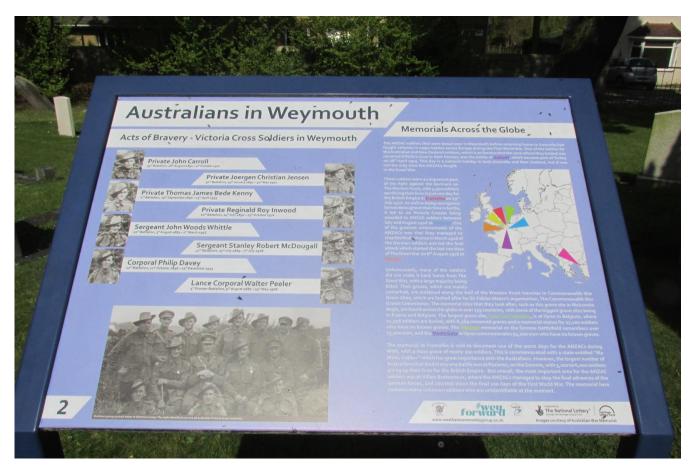
Back row: 5329 Private Frederick Albert Archer, Anzac Provost Company, died 6 November 1918; 5990 Private Albert Robert Blackmore, 12th Bn, died 2 November 1918; 11099 Driver Matthew Charles Percival Nettle, 6th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, died 22 October 1918; 3942 Private Walter Alick Weckman, 51st Bn, died 9 November 1918.



Some of the Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, left to right: Captain Francis Arthur Deravin, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 8 July 1917 aged 41 years (large headstone); 138 Private Louis Nelson Matthews, 27th Battalion, 4 July 1917; 5082 Private Victor George Smith, 21st Battalion, died 13 November 1918.

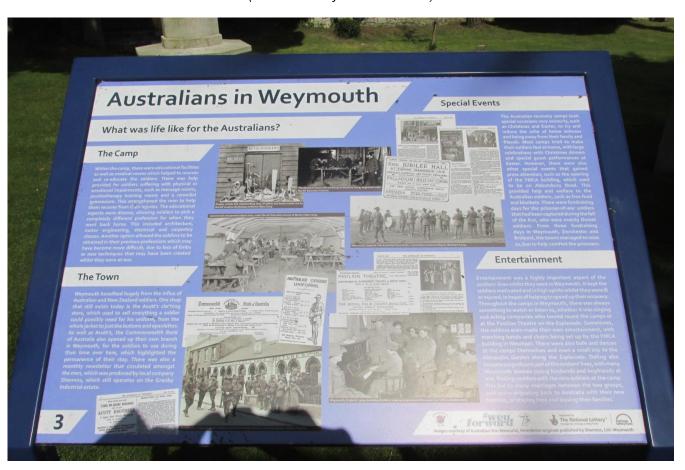




(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)



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(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

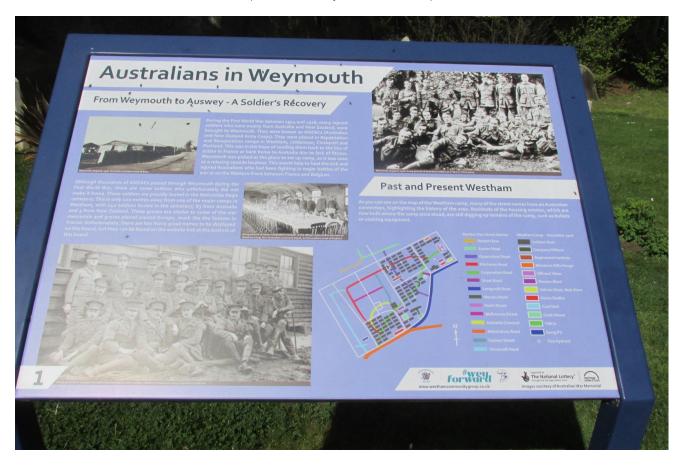


Photo of Private A. Hayes' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)



Private A. Hayes (red arrow) & Private J. T. Crane

(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)



(Photo by Janice Dennis – 2016)