

Baverstock 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, NSW when he enlisted at Armidale on 19th April, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (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).

Pte Christopher Hayes embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 3rd November, 1916 & 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.

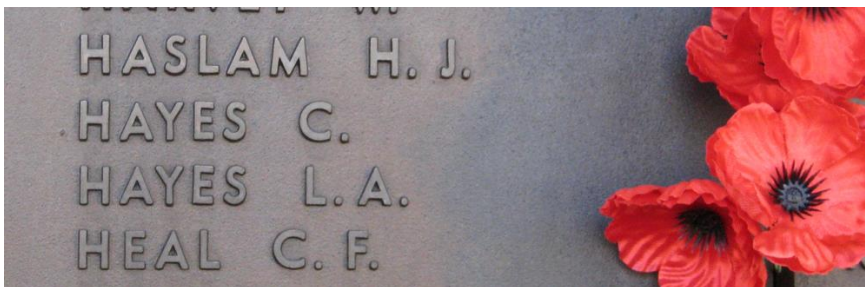
Private Christopher Hayes was admitted sick to Military Hospital, Fovant on 10th February, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

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 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)



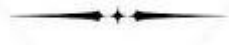
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Christopher Hayes was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to the soldier's next of kin, however in the case of the late Pte 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 that Pte Hayes listed on his Attention Papers.

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.

(49 pages of Pte 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*)

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

Photo of Pte C. Hayes' CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.

(Photo from CWGC)