

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

5/242B QMR. SERJT.

C. W. HAYES

N.Z. ARMY SERVICE CORPS

16TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 34



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Qmr. Serjt. Hayes is located in Last Row
Grave Plot # 79 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)
(CWGC Reference - Grave # 134)*

Charles William Hayes was born around November, 1894 at Invercargill, New Zealand, the son of Porter & Elizabeth Hayes (nee Ross). Charles' birth was registered in the name of Charles Wesley Hayes in 1895. He was a 27 year old, single, Cook from Northcote, Auckland, New Zealand when he enlisted on 13th January, 1915 in London with the New Zealand Army Service Corps. His service number was 5/242B. He had served 3 years with S.C. Rifles. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs P. Hayes of Northcote, Auckland, New Zealand.

Charles William Hayes embarked for Egypt & arrived on 6th February, 1915 headed for Gallipoli. He was admitted to Hospital for 4 days from 8th to 11th February, 1915 then transferred to Convalescent Hospital for 6 days from 11th February to 16th February, 1915. On 18th May, 1915 Hayes was diagnosed with Pharyngitis while at Dardanelles & was transferred to No. 17 General Hospital at Alexandria, Egypt on 25th May, 1915. Hayes was discharged to duty on 4th June, 1915.

On 16th August, 1915 Hayes was appointed to Company Cook & was promoted to "Local Corporal whilst acting as Company Cook" on 25th September, 1915.

Hayes was marched out to Moascar from Maadi, Egypt to on 24th December, 1916 & promoted to Corporal at Moascar on 20th January, 1916. On 29th February, 1916 Hayes was listed as being at Tel el Kebir, Egypt & on 9th April, 1916 he embarked for France.

Corporal Hayes was admitted to General Hospital at Rouen, France on 23rd April, 1916 & then transferred to 9th Stat. Hospital on 25th April, 1916. Corporal Hayes was discharged from Hospital on 15th May, 1916 & rejoined his Company on 20th May, 1916.

Corporal Hayes was on leave to England from Rouen, France on 15th September, 1916.

Charles William Hayes married Emily Finlayson in St. Pancras Registry Office, London on the 19th September, 1916.

Corporal Hayes was appointed Baker on 18th April 1916, then relinquished the appointment of Baker on 23rd April, 1916 then reappointed Baker again on 20th May, 1916.

Corporal Hayes was promoted to Sergeant on 30th September, 1916, dated from 23rd March, 1916.

Sergeant Hayes was written up for "Neglect of Duty –in that he had 140 rations of bread burnt" as was ordered to pay costs of damage – "Admonished" whilst at Rouen on 24th November, 1916 with 1st New Zealand Field Bakery.

Sgt Hayes was appointed Acting Staff Sergeant in May, 1917 & then Staff Sergeant later in May, 1917.

Staff Sergeant Hayes proceeded on leave on 18th July, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 31st July, 1917.

Hayes was promoted to W. O. Class 2 S/QMS on 2nd April, 1918.

He left for England on leave on 3rd October, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 20th October, 1918.

Hayes was detached to UK for return to New Zealand on 7th January, 1919 & relinquished the appointment of Baker at Rouen.

He was admitted to VD Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 14th January, 1919 & discharged to Convalescent Section at Codford on 1st February, 1919.

Quartermaster Sgt. Hayes was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 8th February, 1919 with Broncho-pneumonia. He was reported Seriously ill on 15th February, 1919 & transferred to Dangerously ill on 16th February, 1919.

Quartermaster Sgt. Charles William Hayes died at 10.10 p.m. on 16th February, 1919 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia.

A death for Charles W. Hayes, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Quartermaster Sgt. Charles William Hayes was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford on 19th February, 1919.

(Staff Sergeant) Charles William Hayes, Baker in 1st New Zealand Field Bakery, left in his Will, dated 18th March, 1918, his estate, both real & personal to Emily Hayes, wife, of 292 Fulham Rd, London – as noted in his Service Record File.

Quartermaster Sgt. Charles William Hayes, 5/242B was last attached to New Zealand Army Service Corps. He had served in Balkans – 1915, Egypt – 1915-16, & Western European – 1916-17-18 War fronts.

Quartermaster Serjeant Charles William Hayes was entitled to 1914-15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Qmr. Serjt. Hayes' wife – Mrs Emily Hayes of Parkview, Gordon St, Clifton Hill, Melbourne, Australia (July, 1921 & May, 1922)

(47 pages of Qmr. Serjt. Charles William Hayes's Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand website).

Information obtained from the Archives New Zealand, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Commonwealth War Graves Commission & PapersPast, National Library of New Zealand.

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14 pages of correspondence are included in Quartermaster Sergeant Charles William Hayes' Service Record File – between Headquarters, New Zealand Military Forces & New Zealand Police as he was suspected of having committed bigamy in London. The correspondence dates between 28th March, 1918 & 13th May, 1920.

According to a letter dated 28th March, 1918 to the Commissioner of Police, Wellington from Headquarters, New Zealand Military Forces, the Military Forces believed that Charles William Hayes 5/242B had committed bigamy due to:

“(1) On 11th December, 1914, his Attorney, Mr H. D. Harrison, made an allotment in favour of Hayes wife, Mrs Isabel Hayes, c/o H. D. Harrison, Solicitor, Whangarei.

(2) On 18/9/1916, Hayes made an allotment in favour of Miss Emily Finlayson of 66 Goodge Street, London.

(3) Since the last mentioned date, he has made a further allotment to Mrs Emily Hayes, Wife, 66 Goodge Street, Tottenham Court Road, London.”

Investigations were carried out by New Zealand Police & it was found that Mr & Mrs Hayes were conducting a Boarding House in Whangarei. Mr Hayes enlisted & Mrs Hayes gave up the Boarding House to live in Auckland. A reliable source told Police that the couple were not married & that Mrs Hayes' maiden name was Hughes. They had one child but under the influence of alcohol, Mr Hayes would tell boarders that the child was not his & that he was not married. The “Mrs Hayes” mentioned above stated & signed for the Police that she was not C. W. Hayes wife – Isabella Hughes (dated 20/4/18). No record of a marriage between Charles Hayes & Isabella Hughes was found at Registrar General's Office.

From this information Charles Hayes & Isabella Hughes were not married but lived together as Mr & Mrs Hayes & therefore Charles Hayes had not committed bigamy.

Investigations then turned to Charles Hayes' lawful wife –re her character – Mrs Emily Hayes (nee Finlayson) who had arrived in New Zealand in November, 1919. Mrs Emily Hayes had applied for her late husband's Gratuity. The War Expenses Office provided information to New Zealand Police that Mrs Emily Hayes was visiting Rotorua in the company of an elderly man named Parish, in a letter dated 16th March, 1920. Enquiries were made by New Zealand Police & they stated that Mr Mark Parish, an elderly gentleman, was a widower & well known settler of Northcote who grew strawberries. The Police also stated that Mrs Hayes was a frequent visitor to Mr Parish's house at Northcote & it was intended that she would leave for Australia as soon as she received her late husband's gratuity. Further investigations by Police found that Mrs Emily Hayes always referred to Mr Parish as “Uncle” & when staying at Hotels they occupied separate bedrooms. The Police stated that as far as their investigations went they could find “nothing that would suggest that Parish & Mrs Hayes were behaving in an immoral manner”. However Police stated that “if Parish is not her “Uncle” as she always called him, the fact of them staying together at Hotels in Ranginui and probably Rotorua also, is somewhat suspicious.”

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Quartermaster Sergeant Charles William Hayes is remembered in the book – “Salute to Service: A History of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport and its Predecessors 1860-1996”.

Newspaper Reports

SICK AND WOUNDED

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

Seriously Ill

Hayes, C. W., 5/242B, S.Q.M.S., Auckland

(Evening Post, Volume XCVII, Issue 43, 21 February, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DEATHS FROM SICKNESS

AUCKLAND DISTRICT

Died of Sickness

New Zealand Army Service Corps.

Hayes, C.W. (Mrs Hayes, England, w. Feb. 16)

(Dominion, Volume 12, Issue 130, 26 February, 1919)

QMR. SERJT. Hayes has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photo of QMR. SERJT. Hayes' Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)