

In Memory of
HENRY ROBERT HAYES
Corporal
26/999
4th Bn. 3rd, N.Z. Rifle Brigade
who died on
Sunday, 9th December 1917. Age 22.

Additional Information: Son of George Strathalan Hayes and Margaret Ann Hayes, of Murchison, New Zealand.

Commemorative Information

Memorial: BUTTES NEW BRITISH CEMETERY (N.Z.) MEMORIAL, POLYGON WOOD, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Location: The New Zealand Memorial to the Missing is located within Buttes New British Cemetery, 8 kilometres east of Ieper town centre, on the Lange Dreve, a road leading from the Meenseweg (N8) connecting Ieper to Menen. From Ieper town centre the Meenseweg is located via Torhoutstraat and right onto Basculestraat. Basculestraat ends at a main crossroads directly over which begins the Meenseweg. 4.5 kilometres along the Meenseweg lies the left hand turning onto Oude Kortrijkstraat. 2 kilometres along the Oude Kortrijkstraat the road crosses the A19 motorway. Immediately after this bridge is the left hand turning onto the Lotegatstraat, which borders Polygon Wood. 800 metres along the Lotegatstraat is the right hand turning onto Lange Dreve. The Cemetery is located 1 kilometre along the Lange Dreve on the right hand side of the road. The Memorial commemorates the "Officers and Men of New Zealand who fell in the Polygon Wood Section, September 1917 to May 1918 and whose graves are known only to God". It takes the form of two shelter buildings linked by a colonnade and is built of Euville Marbrier stone with the names of the servicemen engraved on stone panels.

Historical Information:

The Polygoneveld, or Bois de Polygone, is a wood about 1,200 yards North of the Ypres-Menin road at Veldhoek. On the North-East edge of the wood is a prominent artificial mound called the Butte. At the South-West end of Buttes New British Cemetery lies the Memorial to those "Officers and Men of New Zealand who fell in the Polygon Wood Sector, September, 1917, to May, 1918, and whose graves are known only to God." The New Zealand Division left the Messines area in August, 1917, after the Battle of Messines and the fighting towards La Basse-Ville. The 3rd (Rifle) Brigade, with the XXII Corps Cyclist Battalion, was left working on cable communications behind the Ypres battlefield, while the rest of the Division was training near Lumbres; and certain names from the Rifle Brigade are the earliest in date on this Memorial. In the last days of September the Division took over the old German trenches about Wieltje and St. Jean; and on the 4th October they fought in the Battle of Broodseinde, and on the 12th October in the First Battle of Passchendaele. The infantry of the Division returned to Lumbres; and in November, after rest and training, they took over the line from In de Ster Cabaret (on the Passchendaele-Becelaere road) to the Reutelbeek, immediately North-West of the spur on which stood Polderhoek Chateau. On the 3rd December the 1st Canterbury and 1st Otago Battalions attacked the Chateau, which had been the scene of serious fighting earlier in the autumn; but although ground was won the Chateau itself was not taken. At the beginning of December, the Divisional front was extended North for a further 500 yards East of Molenaarelsthoek. The new line was held by the Division until the end of January, and a slightly more Northerly sector (including Broodseinde ridge) until the 24th February. The dug-outs under the Butte were used as Brigade and Battalion Headquarters until on the 19th February they were gassed and abandoned. In February the 4th Brigade was abolished and absorbed, part of it forming the three Entrenching Battalions; the II Anzac Corps Cyclist Battalion became a purely New Zealand Unit, and was renamed the XXII Corps Cyclist Battalion; the Machine Gun Companies became the Machine Gun Battalion. On the 24th February the 2nd and Rifle Brigades were about Staple, in rest, while the 1st Brigade were left working on the Corps defence system. On the 24th and 25th March the Division entrained for the Somme, and of the New Zealand units only the 2nd (Army) Brigade of Field Artillery, the Cyclist-Battalion, the 2nd Entrenching Battalion and the Otago Mounted Rifles were left in Flanders. These played their part in the Battles of the Days, and the last man named on this Memorial fell on the 10th May, 1918. The dead of the Division in November, 1917 - February, 1918, inclusive numbered 452, and the missing 89. The names on this Memorial, covering the same period (and excluding the losses of detached units before and after) number nearly 350, a number of these belonged to the Canterbury and Otago Regiments, the two which attacked Polderhoek Chateau. The greater part of the dead fell in the trenches, or in working and carrying; and the conditions in the Salient during the winter of 1917-18 must explain the comparatively large number of names on this Memorial, which deals with only one set attack on an enemy position. The Memorial is composed of two shelter buildings linked by a colonnade, and is built of Euville Marbrier stone. The names of the war dead, 378 casualties, are engraved on stone panels.

Murchison County Council
held at 11.30 a.m. on January 26th, 1918.

Present. Councillors J. Brown, J. Badcock, J. Lester,
F. L. Newman, F. C. Page, and Geo. Thomson.
The clerk explained that Cr. Monahan
had gone to Canterbury & would not be present.

Motions of sympathy
Before proceeding with business, the Chairman
referred with regret to the fact that another
of our local boys had made the supreme
sacrifice in the war, viz. Harry R. Hayes.
He moved that the sympathy of the Council
be conveyed to Mr. & Mrs. Hayes and family.
He also moved that the Council send a
letter of condolence to the relatives of the late
Mr. W. Widdowson.

Both motions were carried in silence, all present
standing.

Minutes confirmed. Minutes of the ordinary meeting held
on Decr. 22nd. were confirmed & read.

Overseer's Report. The Overseer's report was read, and arising
therefrom it was resolved:-

ball tenders. That tenders be called for the erection
of a bridge over Husband's Creek.

Overseer to spend money on Howard
&c. Roads. That the Overseer be authorized to open
up to £50 on the Howard Road between the
Buller crossing and Howard Township, and
up to £10 if necessary on the track to Kitter's
Amalgamated Claim: and

Overseer to arrange re
Griggs Road. That arrangements be made with Mr. Ku
to maintain the Griggs Road from Letter Box
to Howard crossing at the rate of six days work
a month. The Report was then adopted.