

Lt. Ernest Edward Haines MC 14th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment



Ernest Edward Haines is buried in the churchyard of St Sebastian's Church in Wokingham, one of 28 war graves from the First World War, of whom the majority are British, but there are 11 Canadians, one New Zealander from the Maori Battalion, and one Australian. They are buried here because they died while receiving treatment at the London Open Air Sanatorium at Pinewood, which was in the parish.

Haines' gravestone reads: 'In loving memory of Lieut. Ernest Edward Haines M.C., 14th Batt. King's Liverpool Regiment, who died February 11th 1917 from malaria contracted on active service with the British forces at Salonika, aged 42 years. *One who never turned his back, never doubted clouds would break, but marched breast forward, never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph. Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better, Sleep to wake.*' The quotation is from Robert Browning's poem 'Epilogue to Asolando'.



What more do we know about Haines' life? He was born in Tasmania and served in the Boer War as a Private in Number 2 Company of the 2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen¹. His unit arrived in South Africa on 27 March 1901 and returned to Tasmania on 25 June 1902. We have a photograph of him from this time². Later Haines moved to Argentina, where he worked in the Administration department of the Central Argentine Railway³.

We next find him as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant with the 14th (Service) Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment, which was formed at Seaforth, Liverpool, in October 1914, and landed at Boulogne on the 5th September 1915. Their stay in France was to be brief, since they were moved to Marseilles in October and embarked for Salonika on the 27th. In 1916 the division fought in the Battles of Horseshoe Hill and Machukovo.⁴ Haines was mentioned in despatches on 22nd September 1916:

¹ Australian War Memorial Records <http://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1448772/>

² http://alh-research.tripod.com/2nd_tasmanian_imperial_bushmen_album/index.album/356-private-edward-ernest-haines?i=197. The photograph is taken from John Bufton, *Tasmanians in the Transvaal War*, Launceston, 1905, pp. 334 – 342.

³ Roll of Honour 1914-18, Employees of Argentine Railways. <http://www.diaagency.ca/railways/Casualties.htm>

⁴ <http://www.wartimemoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/kingsregimentliverpool14-gw.php>

*'Temp. 2nd Lt. Ernest Edward Haines, Gen'l List, attd. L'pool R. For conspicuous gallantry. He carried out by day a very risky reconnaissance of the enemy's position, capturing an enemy sentry before he could give the alarm. He brought back valuable information.'*⁵

It was presumably this act of bravery that led to Haines receiving his Military Cross. At some point during this period, however, Haines contracted malaria, was brought to England, and died at Pinewood on 11th February 1917.

Rev Andrew Marsden
Vicar of St Sebastian's Church, Wokingham
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⁵ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/29760/supplement/9275/data.pdf>