

## Lt. Ernest Edward Haines MC 14<sup>th</sup> 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., 14<sup>th</sup> Batt. King's Liverpool Regiment, who died February 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Wandsworth<sup>1</sup> and served in the Boer War. Later Haines moved to Argentina, where he worked in the Administration department of the Central Argentine Railway<sup>2</sup>.

Haines served in the Balkan theatre of the First World War from 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915. He was a Corporal with the Army Veterinary Corps and was later promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<sup>3</sup>. We next find him as a temporary 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 14<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment.

Haines was awarded the Military Cross in September 1916:

*'His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to confer the Military Cross on the undermentioned Officers and Warrant Officers in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the field.... 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*

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=55468668:6864&d=bmd\\_1595843552](https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=55468668:6864&d=bmd_1595843552)

<sup>2</sup> Roll of Honour 1914-18, Employees of Argentine Railways.  
<https://www.fcbap.ca/railways/volunteers.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Medal Index Card: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D2505492>

*position, capturing an enemy sentry before he could give the alarm. He brought back valuable information.*<sup>4</sup>

At some point during this period, however, Haines contracted malaria, was brought to England, and died at Pinewood on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1917.

Rev Andrew Marsden  
Vicar of St Sebastian's Church, Wokingham  
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<sup>4</sup> The London Gazette 22 September 1916.  
<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/29760/supplement/9275/data.pdf>