

**Whitstable Cemetery,
Whitstable, Kent
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2764 PRIVATE

H. E. HAGGER

41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

30TH OCTOBER, 1918

Dearly Loved Husband

Of Margery Hagger

Greater Love Hath No Man

Hubert Edward HAGGER

Hubert Edward Hagger was born in Forest Hill, Kent, England in 1884 to parents George and Kate Hagger (nee Stapleton).

The 1891 England Census recorded Hubert E. Hagger as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at 1 Ennersdale Road, Lewisham, London, England. His parents were listed as George Hagger (Secretary of Joint Stock (?), aged 46, born Southwark, Surrey) & Kate Hagger (aged 27, born Greenwich, Kent). Hubert was the eldest of two children listed on this Census – Hubert then Jeffery C. Hagger (Scholar, aged 5, born Lewisham, Kent). Also listed was Eliza Hagger (Sister of George Hagger, aged 43, Living on own means) & two servants – Esther Kingsmouth (General Servant, aged 23) & Florence C. Gilbert (Nurse servant, aged 16).

The 1901 England Census recorded Hubert Hagger, aged 16 & his brother Clarence Hagger, aged 15 as pupils at Kent Coast College. Samuel Mobbs was the Headmaster.

Hubert Edward Hagger attended Wye College, England.

Hubert E. Hagger, Carpenter, aged 19 was listed as a passenger on *Omrah* which departed from London, England on 3rd July, 1903 bound for Sydney, Australia & arrived 9th September, 1903.

Hubert Edward Hagger married Margery Wells in New Zealand in 1908.

A birth was registered in New Zealand in 1909 for George Clarence Hagger, son of Margery & Hubert Edward Hagger.

A birth was registered in New Zealand in 1911 for Elizabeth Burton Hagger, daughter of Margery & Hubert Edward Hagger.

The 1911 New Zealand Electoral Roll listed Hubert Edward Hagger as a Journalist, residing at Coleman's Private Hotel, Hawera, New Zealand.

Hubert Edward Hagger was a 30 year old, married Station Book-keeper from Boulia via Cloncurry, Queensland when he enlisted on 17th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2764 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Marjorie Hagger, Tainui, Woolcombe Terrace, near Plymouth, New Zealand.

Hubert Edward Hagger was posted to Depot Battalion as Private on 17th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Depot Battalion on 26th May, 1916. Pte Hagger was sent to Corporals School on 1st September, 1917 the returned to 11th Depot Battalion on 20th October, 1916 as Corporal. Corporal Hagger was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 41st Battalion on 9th November, 1916 with the rank of Private.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 22nd December, 1916 with the 41st Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements and was appointed the rank of Corporal (voyage only). He disembarked at Plymouth, England on 3rd March, 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.

Corporal Hubert Edward Hagger was marched in to 11th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1917 & reverted to the rank of Private on joining 11th Training Battalion.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was attached to Ministry of Munitions in connection with a Bomb & Gun which he invented. His address was 8 Woodhouse Square, Leeds. Pte Hagger was given Leave to 6th June, 1917. This leave was extended in monthly periods to 1st November, 1917 by D.A.A.G. Headquarters.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 5th November, 1917 from 11th Training Battalion.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 8th January, 1918 from 9th Training Battalion at Fovant.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 9th January, 1918. He was marched out from A.I.B.D. on 11th January, 1918 & was taken on strength of 41st Battalion in the field on 13th January, 1918.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was wounded in action on 1st September, 1918. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance on 1st September, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to right arm. Pte Hagger was transferred the same day to 6th Casualty Clearing Station. He was transferred & admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 2nd September, 1918, dangerously ill. Base Records, Melbourne advised Base Records Wellington, New Zealand on 8th September 1918 to advise Mrs M. Hagger of Tainui, Woolcome Terrace, New Plymouth that her husband was admitted to Hospital in France with gunshot wounds to arm which was fractured & he was dangerously ill. Mrs Hagger was again advised on 26th September, 1918 that Pte Hagger's condition was stationary. Pte Hagger was invalided to England on 2nd October, 1918. Base Records, Melbourne advised Base Records Wellington, New Zealand on 2nd October, 1918 to advise the next of kin of Pte Hagger that he had been removed from the dangerously ill list.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was recommended for the Military Medal – *“On the 1st September, 1918, during operations North of PERONNE, this man was working with the Intelligence Section of Battalion Headquarters and realising the importance of information he pushed forward with the most advanced troops and at times fought a hand to hand combat with the enemy.*

Some of the information greatly assisted various Company Commanders in quickly locating positions where resistance might be expected, and in this way he very materially assisted in the success of the operation.”

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

41st Battalion

When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.

The Allies launched their own offensive on 8 August 1918, and the 41st played an active role both in the initial attack and the long advance that followed throughout August and into September.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary - 41st Battalion:

Haut Allaines

Battalion Routine Order No. 666 1st September, 1918.

.....

STRUCK OF STRENGTH

The following Officer, NCOs and men evacuated WOUNDED are struck off strength dated 1.9.1918

..... 2764 Pte HAGGER, H. E.

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was admitted to 2 / 1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham, England on 3rd October, 1918 with gunshot wounds & compound fractured right arm. He was transferred & admitted to Shorncliffe Military Hospital on 11th October, 1918. Pte Hagger was discharged on 19th October, 1918 for leave.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was admitted to Military Hospital, Herne Bay, Kent, England on 26th October, 1918. His condition was recorded as serious. On 29th October, 1918, Pte Hagger's condition was reported as worse.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger died at 6.30 am on 30th October, 1918 at Military Hospital, Herne Bay, Kent, England from Pneumonia following influenza.

A death for Hubert E. Hagger, aged 34, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Blean, Kent, England.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was buried on 4th November, 1918 in Whitstable Cemetery, Whitstable, Kent, England – Plot number B. 34 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte H. E. Hagger - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from: Mother & Father, Cousins Messrs Davies, Miss Hagger, Mrs Window, Mrs Tyars, Mr Piclar and Mr & Mrs Stapleton. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev. C. Watkins. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Names of relatives or friends present at the funeral – Uncle – Mr H. Stapleton, 48 Manor Park Lee, London; Cousins-Messrs G. G. & W. F. Davies, Vicars Hill, Ladywell, London.*

Newspaper item - *Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*, Kent, England –16 November, 1918:

THE PASSING OF A HERO.

On Monday, November 4th, there was laid to rest in Whitstable cemetery Private H. E. Hagger, the elder son of one of Whitstable's most respected inhabitants, Mr George Hagger, of Culvers, Borstal Hill. The story of Private Hagger was that of many a gallant man who has laid down his life that we might be free and the military honours paid to him at the last were but the small public recognition of the passing of a brave soul.

When the war broke out Private Hagger, who had been some 16 years in Australia, was prospecting for water in the "Back-blocks" of Queensland, hundreds of miles from civilisation. But even there the news of the great world-conflict travelled. The call of Britain to her sons resounded even to those uttermost corners. Private Hagger left all his machinery and came home to take his share in the imperial battle for freedom and right. The whole of his active service was in France and it was during the later months that he was recommended for the D.C.M. for one of those acts which will be told as sagas to our children long after the more passing incidents of the world's great war have been forgotten.

On the night of the first of September he and four companions went out scouting, attacked and captured a German trench taking 38 prisoners. This, however, was not enough for the gallant quartet. Private Hagger and two others went on in search of a machine gun which had opened fire. One of the three was killed and the other man seriously wounded. Private Hagger continued alone, got the machine-gunner (who was "camouflaged" as a shock of wheat) but just at that moment was shot in the arm. He lay in the open for 14 hours when he was rescued by a stretcher party and was carried to the "dangerously wounded" ward. There he lay for some weeks, but gradually recovered and came home for leave. While at home he caught the prevailing epidemic, was removed to the military hospital at Herne Bay, and although every effort was made to save his life, the illness, following upon his wounds, proved fatal on the 29th ult.

So passed away one who was loved as a man and honoured as a hero. His funeral was attended by a firing party of the Cheshires, whose buglers sounded the "Last Post" as the body was laid to its last long rest. Many friends attended, amongst them being Messrs. A. W. Daniels, George Kirkby. H. K. Daniels. G. H. Goldfinch, David Daniels, R. Fowler Mackenzie, G. Willis Jones, L. J. Skidmore, and a number of wounded soldiers. Private Hagger leaves a wife and two children who are at present in New Zealand. His only brother, Major C. Hagger. M.C., has been for the last three years with the Salonika force and, fortunately now there is longer cause for anxiety regarding him to our respected fellow-townsmen and his beloved wife, to whom the sympathy of many residents and friends has poured in during the last two weeks to comfort them and sustain them during this hour of sadness and trial.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger requested in his Will dated 3rd April, 1918 that the whole of his property & effects be left this wife - Margery Hagger of "Tainui" Woolcombe Terrace, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

Private Hubert Edward Hagger was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hagger's widow – Mrs M. Hagger, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

Margery Hagger advised Base Records in March, 1923 that her address had changed to 34 Cheltenham Rd, Devonport, Auckland, New Zealand.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Hubert Edward Hagger – service number 2764, of 41st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Kate Hagger; husband of Marjory Hagger, of 3 Woolcombe Terrace, New Zealand. Born in England.

H. E. Hagger is remembered on the Wye Agricultural College Honour Board, located in Wye College, High Street, Wye, England.



Wye Agricultural College Honour Board (Photo from KentFallen- War Memorials Online)

H. E. Hagger is remembered on the Whitstable War Memorial, located at Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, England.

Newspaper item - *Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*, Kent, England – 3 May, 1919:

**WHITSTABLE'S MONUMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL
NAMES OF LOCAL MEN WHO FELL IN THE WAR**

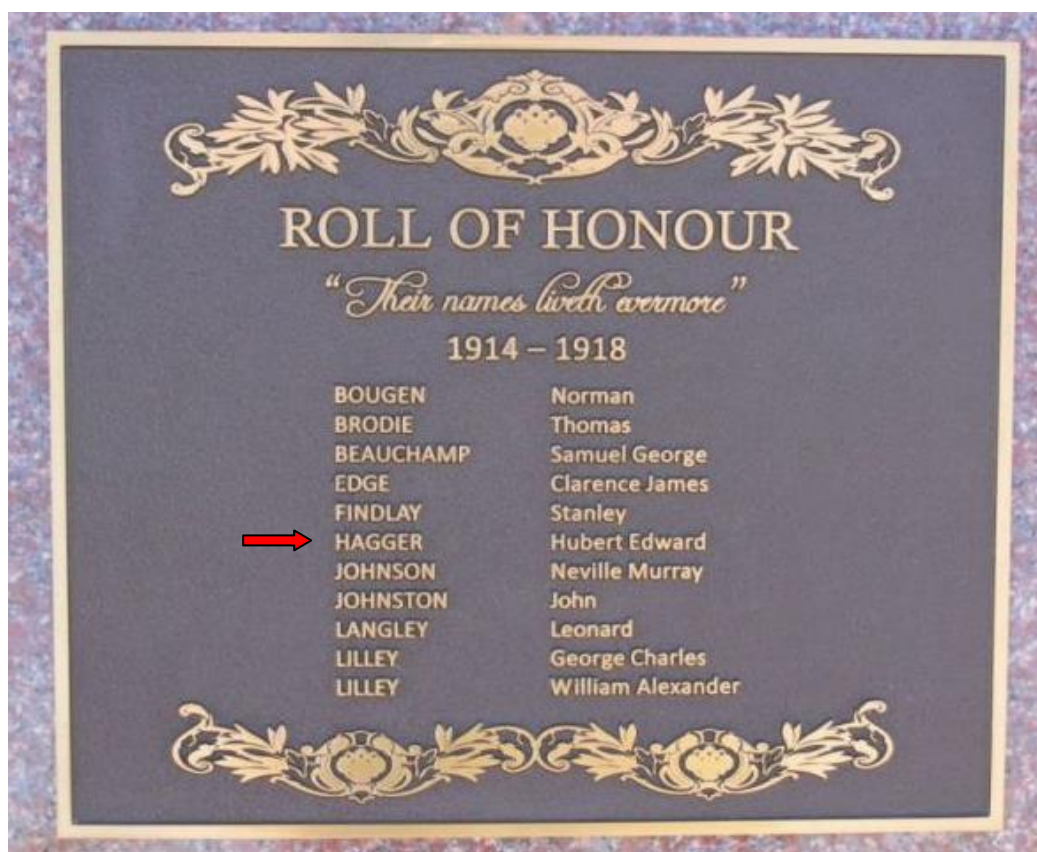
The local War Memorial Committee who are making arrangements for the erection of the monumental cross in the ground adjoining the Council Office are desirous of obtaining the names, rank and unit of all the local men wh fell in the war. The list to date is as follows

H. E. Hagger, Private, A.I.F.

Hubert Edward Hagger is remembered on the Boulia War Memorial, located at Burke Street & Diamantina Developmental Road, Boulia, Queensland.



Boulia War Memorial (Photo from Queensland War Memorials – Evan Blackman, Boulia Shire Council)



Private H. E. Hagger is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 134.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(68 pages of Pte Hubert Edward Hagger's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

FALLEN NEW ZEALANDERS

CASUALTY AND HOSPITAL LISTS

WITH THE AUSTRALIANS

ADMITTED HOSPITAL DANGEROUSLY ILL

Hagger, Hubert, 2764 (Mrs M. Hagger, New Plymouth)

(New Zealand Times, New Zealand – 16 September, 1918)

DEATHS

HAGGER – On Wednesday, October 30th, at Herne Bay Military Hospital, of pneumonia following wounds received in action, Hubert E, Hagger, Australian Imperial Forces, son of George Hagger, Culvers, Borstal Hill, Whitstable.

(Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald, Kent, England – 2 November, 1918)

PERSONAL

....
Mrs Hubert Hagger has received word that her husband, Corproal H. E. Hagger, who was recovering from wounds at Herne Bay Hospital, England, died of influenza on October 31.

....
(*Taranaki Herald*, New Zealand – 12 November, 1918)

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE

HAGGER – On October 31, 1918, at Herne Bay Military Hospital, England, Private Hubert Edward Hagger, Australian Imperial Forces, dearly beloved husband of Margery Hagger, aged 35 years.

(*Taranaki Herald*, New Zealand – 15 November, 1918) & (*Taihape Daily Times*, New Zealand – 18 & 19 November, 1918)

WITH THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Hagger, H., 2764 (Mrs M. Hagger, Tainui, New Plymouth), 31st Oct.

(*Evening Post*, New Zealand – 18 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

LISTS NOS 448-449

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Hubert Edward Hagger, England, 30/10/18 (illness, prev. rep. w'ded)

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 14 December, 1918)

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. 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*)

Private H. E. Hagger does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearly Loved Husband Of Margery Hagger

Great Love Hath No Man

Whitstable Cemetery, Whitstable, Kent, England

Whitstable Cemetery contains 34 identified Commonwealth War Graves – 21 from World War 1 (plus 1 unidentified sailor from the Royal Navy) & 13 from World War 2 (plus 1 unidentified airman of the R.A.F. & 3 unidentified seamen of the Merchant Navy).



Whitstable Cemetery (Photo by julia&keld)



Photo of Private H. E. Hagger's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Whitstable Cemetery, Whitstable, Kent, England.



(Photo by Sheila W. – Find a Grave)