Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

2914   PRIVATE

E. A. HAMER

55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH FEBRUARY, 1917

Amidst The Sound Of Battle

His End Was Peace

Edward Arthur HAMER

Edward Arthur Hamer was born at Grafton, NSW in 1879 to parents Arthur John & Caroline Hamer (nee Parker).

Edward Arthur Hamer attended Christian Brothers School, Lewisham, Sydney, NSW.

Edward Arthur Hamer married Mary Ada Marr in 1905. Their marriage was registered in the district of Petersham, NSW.

Births were registered for the following children with parents Edward A. & Mary A. Hamer:

- William C. A. Hamer – Birth registered in 1906 in the district of Petersham, NSW.
- Richard Hamer – Birth registered in 1907 in the district of Kogarah, NSW.
- Kathleen M. Hamer – Birth registered in 1909 in the district of Kogarah, NSW.
- Keith Hamer – Birth registered in 1912 in the district of Marrickville, NSW.
- Jessie Hamer – Birth registered in 1913 in the district of Marrickville, NSW.

Edward Arthur Hamer was a 33 year old, married, Produce Traveller from Springwood, NSW when he enlisted on 4th September, 1914. He had served 6 months with NSW Lancers & resigned. His next-of-kin was listed as his wife – Mary A. Hamer c/o J. Rafferty, Springwood, NSW.

Private Edward Arthur Hamer was discharged from the Army by the Camp Commandant at Broadmeadows, Melbourne on 8th November, 1914. He had been attached to D.A.C. Depot. The reason stated being that he was "*unlikely to become an efficient soldier*".

Information contained in Edward Hamer's Service Record file stated that he gained employment at Goulburn, NSW after his discharge.

Edward Arthur Hamer was a 36 year old, single, Commercial Traveller from Springwood, NSW when he re- enlisted at Goulburn on 23rd June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) under the name Arthur Edward Haymer. His service number was 2914 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs C. A. Haymer, Springwood, NSW. According to information written in a letter to Base Records, Melbourne in February, 1917, by Mrs Hamer's brother–in-law – Mr A. W. Hinwood, Mrs Hamer was "unaware of the fact that Mr Hamer had joined the forces". At the time of the letter, Mrs Hamer was residing at the farm of her sister & her brother –in-law at Byron Bay, NSW.

Private Haymer embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 25th October, 1916 with the 55th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 1916.

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.

Private Haymer was admitted to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 18th January, 1917 with Bronchitis.

Private Arthur Edward Haymer died at 1 pm on 4th February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, England from Bronchitis.

A death for Arthur E. Haymer, aged 37, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Arthur Edward Haymer was buried on 8th February, 1917 at Barford St. Martin Cemetery, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records were advised in February, 1917 that Private "Arthur Edward Haymer" was in fact Edward Arthur Hamer who had a widow & 5 children, ranging in age from 10 years to 4 years.

In January, 1922, Mary Ada Hamer, of Augusta Street, Kogarah, made a claim any War Medals & Decorations awarded to her late Husband – Private Hamer, 2914, 55th Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Private Haymer was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to the next-of-kin of deceased soldiers – Mrs M. A. Hamer of Augusta Street, Kogarah. The Scroll was despatched as "A. E. Haymer" in December, 1921 & the Plaque was despatched as "Arthur Edward Haymer" in August, 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edward Arthur Hamer – service number 2914 as having served with 55th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Arthur John and Caroline Hamer, of Springwood, Blue Mountains, New South Wales.

E. Hamer is remembered on the Springwood District Honor Roll, located in Springwood Civic Centre Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood, NSW.

Springwood District Honor Roll *(Photo by Peter Levarre-Waters – Register of War Memorials in NSW)*

Private E. A. Hamer is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 160.

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(75 pages of Private Edward Arthur Haymer'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

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Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

HAMER – Private A. E. Hamer, died of illness February 4, 1917, at Military Hospital in France.

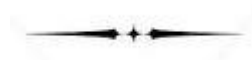(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – Friday 16 February, 1917)

PTE A. E. HAYMER'S DEATH

Pte A. E. Haymer, of 55th Battalion, 7th Reinforcements, died in a military hospital in France on February 4. He was 38 years of age, and a single man. His mother resides at Springwood. The deceased was well known in Goulburn, and was popular when he was in camp here.

(*Goulburn Evening Penny Post*, NSW – Tuesday 3 April, 1917)

Edward Arthur Hamer

Private E. A. Hamer is remembered with a plaque on his parents' headstone located in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW. (Methodist New 2 Zone F/#/404)

Rookwood Necroplis, Sydney, NSW

In Loving Memory of

PRIVATE E. A. HAMER 55TH Battalion

Eldest Son of the above, who died 4TH Feb 1917

In Military Hospital, England, Aged 37.

Amidst The Sound Of Battle, His End Was Peace.

Hamer Headstone in Rookwood Cemetery *(Photo courtesy of Gary Heap)*

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 Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery. 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 E. A. Hamer does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Amidst The Sound Of Battle

His End Was Peace

Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

This cemetery belongs to the Church, and is on the North side of the village. There are 10 Commonwealth War Graves in this Cemetery – 9 from World War 1 (4 Australian Soldiers) & 1 connected to World War 2.

Barford St. Martin Church *(Photo from CWGC)*

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL   D00295

Original Grave Markers – Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Barford St. Martin's.

Left to right, graves marked with crosses: 4050 Private (Pte) Franklin Dodd, 32nd Battalion, died of sickness 31 January 1917; 4484 Corporal Walter Anderson, 8th Field Company Engineers, died of sickness 5 October 1918; 5443 Pte John Smith, 54th Battalion, died Sunday 30 June 1918. Pte Smith was the alias of William Greenway.

Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery *(Photos from CWGC)*

Photo of Private E. A. Hamer's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.

(Headstone photos by Lady Linda – Find a Grave)