

**Melcombe Regis Cemetery,  
Weymouth, Dorset, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3399 PRIVATE**

**W. G. HASKINS**

**53RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**26TH SEPTEMBER, 1917**

## William George HASKINS

William George Haskins was born in London, Middlesex, England in 1880 to parents James & Isabella Haskins (nee Northcote).

The 1881 England Census recorded William Haskins as a 1 year old living with his family at 7 Cemetery Road, Tottenham, Middlesex, England. His parents were listed as James Haskins (House Painter, aged 33, born Tottenham, Middlesex) & Isabella Haskins (aged 31, born Wanstead, Essex). William was the youngest of three children listed on this Census – James Haskins (Scholar, aged 5, born Tottenham, Middlesex), Maude Haskins (aged 3, born Tottenham, Middlesex) then William.

The 1891 England Census recorded William G. Haskins as an 11 year old Scholar living with his family at 7 Pleasant, Tottenham, Middlesex, England. His parents were listed as James J. Haskins (House Decorator, aged 42) & Isabella M. Haskins (aged 40). William was one of five children listed in this Census (listed in order as written) – James A. Haskins (\_\_\_\_, aged 15), Louisa M. Haskins (Scholar, aged 13), Ellen E. Haskins (Scholar, aged 6), Albert E. Haskins (Scholar, aged 4) then William.

William George Haskins married Louisa Charlotte Cooper in the September quarter, 1900 in the district of Edmonton, Middlesex, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded William George Haskins as a 21 year old House Painter living with his wife – Charlotte L. Haskins (aged 20, born Kennington, London) at 5 Burlington Rd, Tottenham, Middlesex, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded William Haskins as a 31 year old Decorator living with his wife & child at 32 Lascotts Rd, Wood Green, Middlesex, England. William & his wife – Charlotte Haskins (aged 30) had been married for 10 years & had 1 child – Edith Haskins (aged 4, born Wood Green, Middlesex, England).

Mr W. G. Haskins (Decorator, aged 32) was a passenger on *Morovian* which had departed from the port of London, England on 19th March, 1912 bound for Brisbane, Queensland, Australia then on to Sydney, Australia.

Mrs Charlotte L. Haskins (Housewife, aged 32) & her daughter – Edith E. Haskins (aged 6) were passengers on the *Gothic* which had departed from the port of London, England on 20th December, 1912 bound for Sydney, Australia. Mrs Haskins had stated her country of intended future residence as Australia.

William George Haskins was a 37 year old, married, Laundryman from George Street, Canterbury, NSW when he enlisted at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW on 10th January, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3399 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Charlotte Louise Haskins, George Street, Canterbury, NSW.

Private William George Haskins was posted to Royal Agricultural Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 15th January, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 53rd Battalion at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 17th January, 1917.

Private William George Haskins embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 24th January, 1917 with the 53rd Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th 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.

Private William George Haskins was marched in to 14th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Australia on 27th March, 1917.

Private William George Haskins was sent sick to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 4th April, 1917 with Dyspepsia.

Private William George Haskins was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex on 13th April, 1917 with Arterio Sclerosis & Vein ophosis.

A Medical Board from 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex found on 24th April, 1917 that Private William George Haskins was permanently unfit for General Service & permanently unfit for Home Service.

Private William George Haskins was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 3rd May, 1917 from Hospital at Harefield.

Private William George Haskins was absent without leave on 7th June, 1917.

Private William George Haskins was admitted to Weymouth Military Hospital, Dorset on 17th August, 1917 according to Hospital Admissions form (no record of this is listed on his Casualty Form – Active Service). The Hospital Admissions form recorded for 24th August, 1917 – *“Exploratory Laparotomy. Pus found & old perforated duodenal ulcer.”*

Private William George Haskins was admitted to Princess Christian Hospital at Weymouth, Dorset on 23rd September, 1917 – seriously ill.

Private William George Haskins died at 1.30 pm on 26th September, 1917 at Burdon Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England (as listed on the “Report of Death of a Soldier” – Army form B. 2090) from Tuberculosis of Peritoneum and Lungs. (Morning State of Sick form & Burial Report both recorded that he died at *“Princess C. Hp. Weymouth.”*)

A death for William G. Haskins, aged 37, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private William George Haskins was buried on 28th September, 1917 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number II.C.3174 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private William George Haskins which was completed by Chaplain T. J. Redhead, Monte Video Campo., Weymouth - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. Military Funeral. Happy and cheerful to the last. Flowers sent by Mrs Spencer Browne, and Mrs Pickles of Weymouth. Had the best attention in a beautiful and loving atmosphere.*

Private William George Haskins was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Haskins' widow – Mrs C. L. Haskins, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque were to be despatched in October, 1922 but as Mrs Haskins could not be located – they were sent to Untraceables).

Base Records wrote to The Official Secretary, Australia House, Strand, London, England on 18th September, 1930 asking if their Pensions Records *“disclose the present address of Mrs Charlotte Louisa Haskins, widow of the late No. 3399 Private W. G. Haskins, 53rd Battalion. Failing this, and in the event of Mrs Haskins (or daughter, Edith Ellen Haskins) continuing to receive war pension under Certificate No. 63857, may the necessary enquiry be made, please, from the Office at which same is payable. This information is required in order to facilitate the disposal of the Memorial Plaque and Scroll, etc., and the favour of your prompt attention and reply will be appreciated.”*

A reply was received from The Official Secretary on 28th October, 1930 to Base Records advising that the present address of Mrs Charlotte Louise Haskins was 63 Chiswick Road, Balham Road, Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

Base Records wrote to Mrs C. L. Haskins, 63 Chiswick Road, Balham Road, Lower Edmonton, London, N.9., widow of the late Private William George Haskins, on 3rd December, 1930 advising that they had despatched under separate cover the Memorial Plaque & Scroll issued by his Majesty's Government on account of the services of her husband the late No. 3399 Private W. G. Haskins, 53rd Battalion. A request was made to acknowledge the receipt & return it to Base Records. Charlotte L. Haskins signed for the Memorial Plaque and Scroll on 12th January, 1931.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private W. G. Haskins – service number 3399, of 53rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private W. G. Haskins is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 157.



*Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

W. G. Haskins is remembered on the St Stephen's Church, Hurlstone Park Great War Roll of Honour, located in the now St Stephanos Greek Orthodox Church, 650 New Canterbury Road, Hurlstone Park, Sydney, NSW.



**St Stephen's Church, Hurlstone Park Great War Roll of Honour** (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW)

(43 pages of Private William George Haskins' 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**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

Australian Casualty List No 343....

New South Wales

DIED OF ILLNESS – W. G. Haskins

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 October, 1917)*

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### **On Active Service**

HASKINS – In loving memory of my dear husband, Pte W. G. Haskins, died while serving his country, September 26, 1917. Sadly missed by his loving wife and daughter, Edie.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 26 September, 1918)*

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### **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 W. G. Haskins does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth became a depot for Australian forces in 1916 and 83 of the 147 First World War burials in Melcombe Regis Cemetery are of Australian servicemen; most of these graves are scattered in the old part. The 36 Second World War burials are in the extension. The cemetery also contains seven war graves of other nationalities and one non-war burial.

*(Information from CWGC)*



### Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

*Identified, front row, left to right: unidentified; Butler; 5917 Private Edgar Allan Thornell, 22nd Battalion (Bn), died 9 August 1918; 1207 Corporal Jesse Adams Davis, 12th Bn, died 15 November 1918.*

*Back row: 5329 Private Frederick Albert Archer, Anzac Provost Company, died 6 November 1918; 5990 Private Albert Robert Blackmore, 12th Bn, died 2 November 1918; 11099 Driver Matthew Charles Percival Nettle, 6th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, died 22 October 1918; 3942 Private Walter Alick Weckman, 51st Bn, died 9 November 1918.*



### Some of the Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

*Identified, left to right: Captain Francis Arthur Deravin, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 8 July 1917 aged 41 years (large headstone); 138 Private Louis Nelson Matthews, 27th Battalion, 4 July 1917; 5082 Private Victor George Smith, 21st Battalion, died 13 November 1918.*



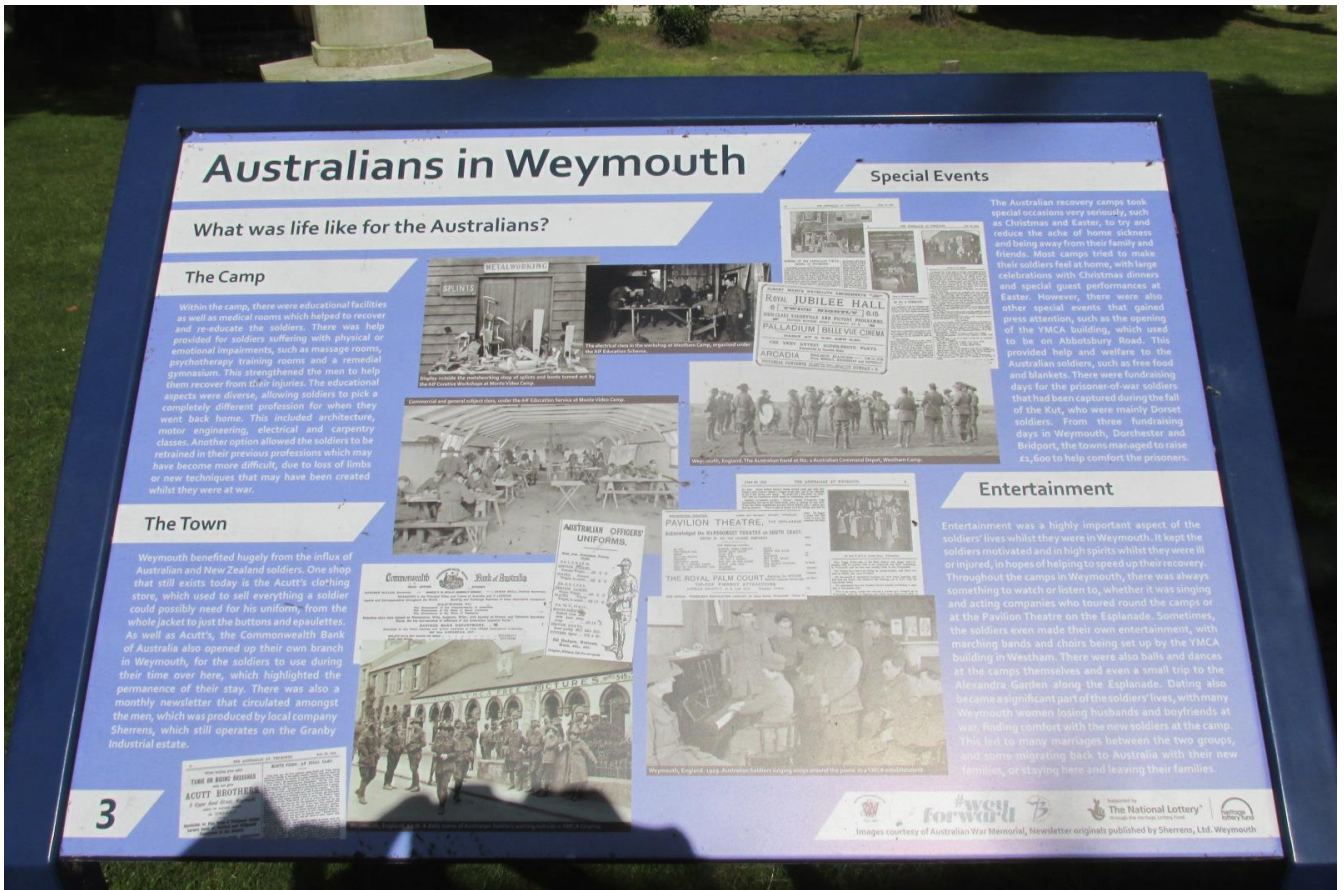
(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)





*(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)*





(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

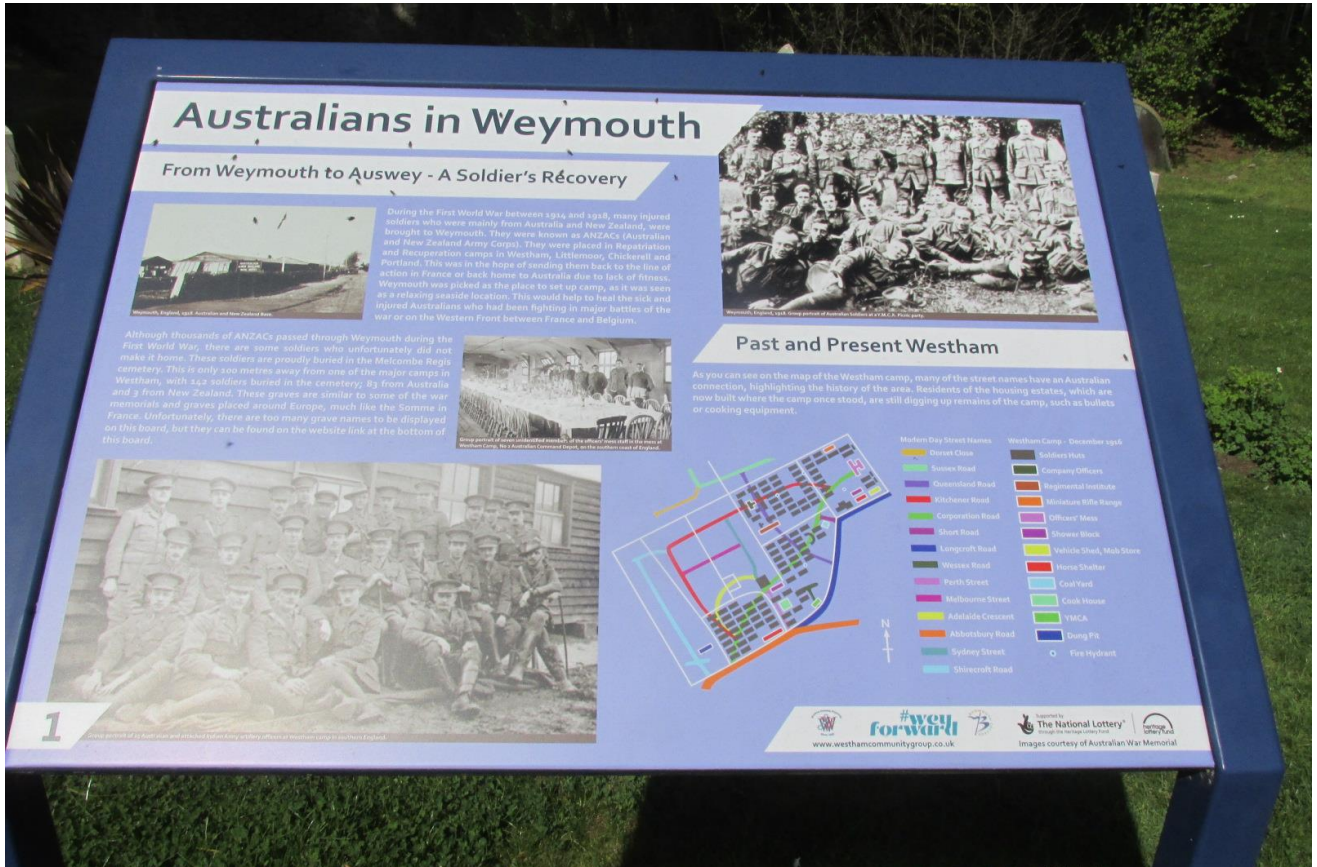
Photo of Private W. G. Haskins' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)*



(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)



(Photo courtesy of Steve Stewart)