

**Ford Park Cemetery,  
Plymouth, Devon  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**7507 PETTY OFFICER**

**R. HAYES**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY**

**H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"**

**10TH MAY, 1917 Age 36**

## Reginald HAYES

Reginald Hayes was born on 5th January, 1883 at Grangetown, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales to parents James and Adelaide Hayes (nee Jones).

The 1891 Wales Census recorded Reginald Hayes as a 9 year old Scholar, living with his family at 32 Pentrebane Street, Grangetown, Cardiff, Wales. His parents were listed as James Hayes (General Labourer, aged 55, born Cardiff, Glamorgan) & Adelaide Hayes (aged 54, born Cardiff, Glamorgan). Reginald was the youngest of four children listed on this Census, all born Cardiff, Glamorgan - John Hayes (General Labourer, aged 20), Ellen Hayes (aged 18), Dorcas Hayes (aged 14) then Reginald.

Reginald Hayes signed on to Royal Navy at age of 15 years. He was posted to HMS *Impregnable* (a Training ship docked at Devonport, England) as Boy II from 27th April, 1898 then transferred to HMS *Ganges* (Training Ship) on 3rd May, 1898. Reginald Hayes was promoted to Boy 1st Class on 3rd February, 1899 while still with HMS *Ganges*. He was transferred to HMS *Impregnable* on 17th March, 1899 till 5th May, 1899 for Diver training. Boy 1st Class Reginald Hayes was transferred to HMS *Minotaur* on 6th May, 1899 then transferred to HMS *Agincourt* on 30th August, 1899. He was transferred to HMS *Defiance* on 19th October, 1899 then transferred to HMS *Ocean* on 20 February, 1900. Boy 1st Class Reginald Hayes was promoted to Ordinary Seaman on 5th January, 1901.

Reginald Hayes signed on with the Royal Navy on 5th January, 1901 at the age of 18, for a period of 12 years. He was 5ft 8in with grey eyes, a fair complexion & had a dagger piercing a heart tattooed on his right forearm. Reginald Hayes was given a service number of 198804 (Devonport).

The 1901 England Census recorded Reginald Hayes as an 18 year old, Ordinary Seaman, listed as Crew of the Battleship H. M. S. *Ocean*, Royal Navy docked at Hong Kong.

Ordinary Seaman Reginald Hayes was promoted to Able Seaman on 25th August, 1902. He was transferred to HMS *Vivid* (?) on 12th May, 1903. Able Seaman Reginald Hayes was transferred to HMS *Cambridge* on 1st November, 1904 then transferred to HMS *Vivid I* on 17th January, 1905. Able Seaman Reginald Hayes was transferred to HMS *Penguin* on 12th February, 1905.

Reginald Hayes married Maud Jeffery in Devonport, Devon, England, Their marriage was registered in the March quarter of 1905.

Able Seaman Reginald Hayes was transferred to HMS *Vivid I* on 3rd April, 1907 then transferred to HMS *Cambridge* on 13th August, 1907 & back to HMS *Vivid I* on 5th November, 1907. Able Seaman Reginald Hayes was transferred to HMS *Hogue* on 12th May, 1908 then back to HMS *Vivid I* on 26th August, 1908. He was transferred to HMS *Skirmisher* on 19th September, 1908.

A birth was registered in the September quarter 1909 in Devonport for Gerald James Hayes.

Able Seaman Reginald Hayes was transferred to HMS *Adventure* on 15th August, 1910 then transferred to HMS *Vivid I* on 25th April, 1911.

The 1911 England Census recorded Reginald Hayes as a 30 year old, married Seaman with Royal Navy, living with his wife – Maud Hayes (aged 28, born Carlisle, Scotland) & their son Gerald James Hayes (aged 1, born Devonport, Devon). The family of three were living in a 2 roomed dwelling at 31 St. Aubyn Street, Devonport.

Able Seaman Reginald Hayes was transferred to HMS *Leviathan* on 1st July, 1911. He was promoted to Leading Seaman while still on HMS *Leviathan* on 1st August, 1911

A birth was registered in the March quarter 1912 in Devonport for John Hayes, mother's maiden name Jeffery.

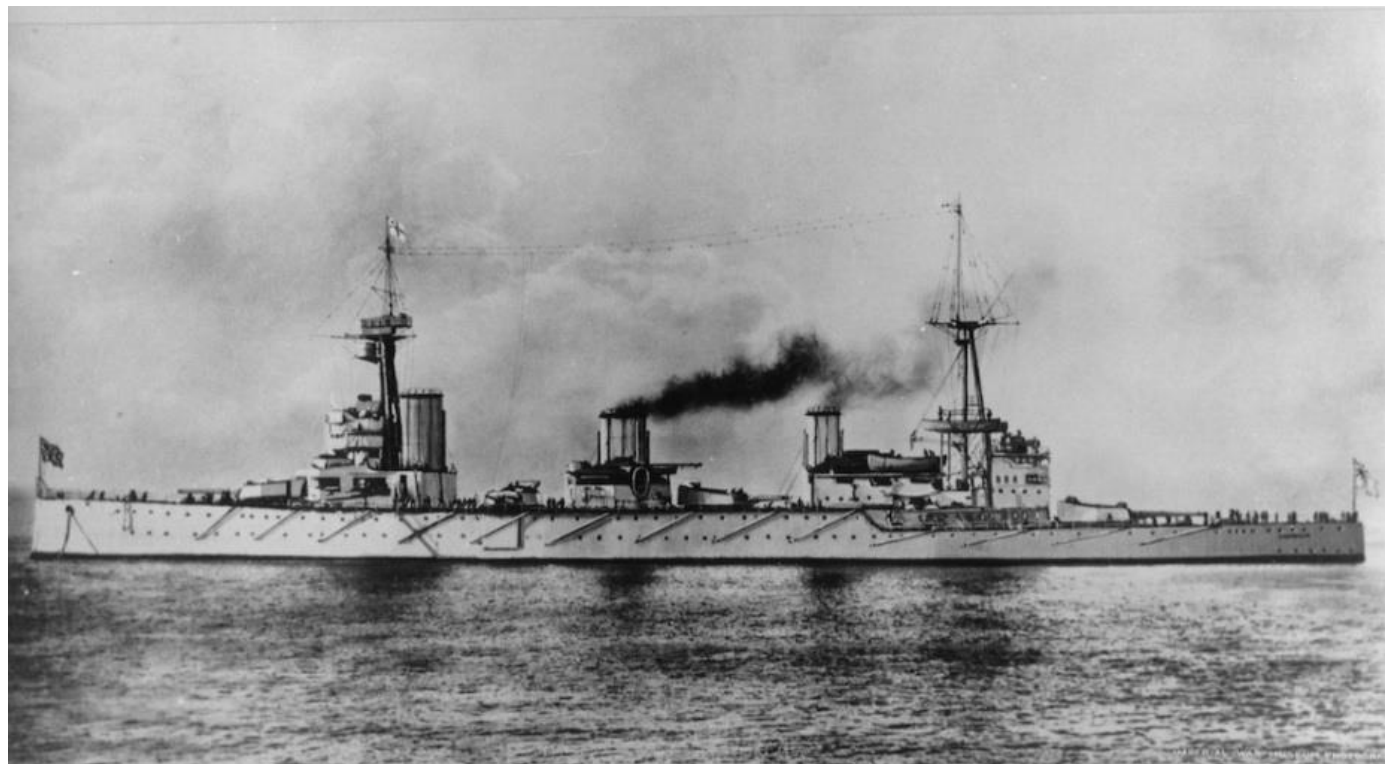
Leading Seaman Reginald Hayes was transferred to HMS *Vivid I* on 12th October, 1912 then transferred to HMS *Caesar* on 9th November, 1912 until 4th January, 1913.

Reginald Hayes joined Royal Australian Navy on 13th January, 1913 with an agreement of 5 years. His service number was 7507.

Reginald Hayes served in HMAS *Vivid* as Leading Seaman from 13th January, 1913 then was transferred to HMAS *Australia* on 21st June, 1913. According to his Royal Navy records he was reported to be still serving in *Australia* on 14th February, 1914. He took part in operations on German New Guinea in September, 1914.

Reginald Hayes was special rated Petty Officer on 8th January, 1915 "for exceptional work during diving operations on Ship on Active Service".

### **HMAS *Australia***



**HMAS *Australia* at Sea in 1913**

In company with the new light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* (I), *Australia*, the Australian Navy's first flagship, sailed from Portsmouth, England on 21st July 1913, and their voyage home was seen as a further opportunity to stimulate public awareness and naval sentiment around the British Empire. The appearance of the Australian warships would, the *Sydney Morning Herald* remarked, provide a practical demonstration of the RAN as a 'thoroughly competent, efficient, and considerable force'.

Arrangements were made at the first opportunity for the flagship to visit many of the principal Australian ports. Within a year she had called at Albany, Port Lincoln, Hobart, Glenelg and Melbourne, and steamed as far north as Townsville in a deliberate attempt to showcase the Navy to the widest national audience. *Australia*'s popularity extended to mass entertainment and in addition to becoming the subject of several popular songs she played the starring role in the feature film *Sea Dogs of Australia*, which opened on 12 August 1914.

On the outbreak of World War I *Australia* (I) operated (with other ships of the Australian Fleet) as a counter to the German East Asiatic Cruiser Squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee. The battle cruiser's presence deterred von Spee from operating in local waters, and as Prime Minister W.M. 'Billy' Hughes later declared, 'but for the "*Australia* (I)"...the great cities of Australia would have been reduced to ruins, oversea trade paralysed, coastwise shipping sunk, and communications with the outside world cut off'. *Australia* (I) meanwhile kept busy, taking part in a series of operations to seize German Pacific colonies and destroy the enemy's radio network. During these operations *Australia* (I) captured the German ship *Sumatra*.

In late December 1914 *Australia* (I) received orders to sail to England via the Pacific and reached Devonport on 28 January 1915. En route she captured and sank von Spee's supply ship *Eleonore Woermann* (5000 tons) off South America. From Devonport *Australia* (I) proceeded to Rosyth in Scotland, where in February 1915 she became flagship of the 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron, flying the flag of Rear Admiral Sir William Pakenham, KCB, MVO. The squadron as initially formed comprised *Australia* (I) and her two sister ships, HMS *New Zealand* and HMS *Indefatigable*. From then until 22 April

1916, *Australia* (I) was based at Rosyth accompanying the Battle Cruiser Fleet on a succession of sweeps, patrols, and convoy escort tasks across the length and breadth of the North Sea. The enemy was rarely if ever seen, and a shot at a suspected submarine on 30 December 1917 marked the only occasion when she subsequently fired in anger.

*(Photo & information on HMAS Australia from Navy.gov.au)*

Petty Officer Reginald Hayes died on 10th May, 1917 from perforated Gastric Ulcer.

A death for Reginald Hayes, aged 37, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of East Stonehouse, Devon, England.

Petty Officer Reginald Hayes was buried in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number General T. 4. 33. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Petty Officer Reginald Hayes – service number 7507, aged 36, of H.M.A.S. “Australia”, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of James and Adelaide Hayes; husband of M. Hayes, of 15 Pitt St., Milson’s Point, New South Wales. Native of Grangetown, England.

R. Hayes is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial, located in St. Leonards Park, corner Walker & Ridge Streets, North Sydney, NSW.



**North Sydney War Memorial** *(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)*





Petty Officer R. Hayes is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1.



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

Petty Officer R. Hayes is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.



**HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria** (Photos courtesy of Karen Standen)





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



## **Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England**

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area.

Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth.

Ford Park Cemetery (formerly known as Pennycomequick or Plymouth Old Cemetery) contains 769 burials of the First World War, more than 200 of them in a naval plot, the rest scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 198 Second World War burials are scattered, 1 of which is an unidentified airman of the Royal Air Force. There are a further 4 Foreign National and 1 non world war service burials here. *(Information from CWGC)*



**Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth** *(Photo from julia&keld)*



**Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth** *(Photo from CWGC)*



Photo of Petty Officer Reginald Hayes' shared Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)*



**REGINALD HAYES**  
**P.O. H.M.S. AUSTRALIA**  
**DIED 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1917**  
**AGED 37 YEARS**

**PATRICK McNAMARA**  
**CHIEF STOKER H.M.S. PYLADES**  
**DIED 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1917**  
**AGED 36 YEARS**

**MORRIS McGRATH**  
**TRIMMER M. M. R. MAVIS**  
**DIED 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 1917**  
**AGED 23 YEARS**



**Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth** (Photo from Plymouth Herald)