

**Ocklynge Cemetery,
Eastbourne, East Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4864 PRIVATE

T. R. H. MILES

46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH MAY, 1917 Age 23

May His Dear Soul

Rest In Peace

Thomas Robert Harold MILES

Thomas Robert Harold Miles was born in 1894 at Yambuk, Victoria to parents John and Bessie Miles (nee Down).

Thomas Robert Harold Miles attended Yambuk State School.

Thomas Robert Harold Miles was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Yambuk, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne on 12th August, 1915 with the 14th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4864 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – J. Miles, c/o Beatrice Bartlett, Yambuk, Victoria.

Pte Miles was attached to 21st Depot Battalion at Warrnambool from 1st September, 1915. He was transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 14th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 13th January, 1916.

Private Thomas Robert Harold Miles embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 14th March, 1916.

Pte Miles was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 15th April, 1916. He was re-allotted from 4th Training Battalion to 12th Training Battalion as Reinforcements for 46th Battalion.

Pte Miles was sent to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital with boils on 6th May, 1916 & discharged to duty on 12th May, 1916.

Pte Miles was transferred to 46th Battalion on 20th May, 1916.

Pte Miles embarked from Alexandria on *Huntsbill* on 7th June, 1916 to join British Expeditionary Force & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 14th June, 1916.

Pte Miles proceeded from Etaples to join his Battalion on 10th September, 1916 & joined 46th Battalion in the field on 11th September, 1916.

Pte Miles was sent to Field Ambulance sick with Bronchitis while in the field on 16th February, 1917. He was transferred to 7th Field Ambulance on 25th February, 1917 & was discharged to duty on 28th February, 1917. He rejoined his Unit on 2nd March, 1917.

Private Thomas Robert Harold Miles was wounded in action in France on 11th April, 1917. He was taken to 13th Australian Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to abdomen. He was transferred to the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 12th April, 1917 with gunshot wounds to chest. Pte Miles was transferred to Ambulance Train on 18th April, 1917 & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne on 19th April, 1917.

Pte Miles was to embark for England on 29th April, 1917 due to gunshot wounds to chest & back.

Pte Miles was admitted to Military Hospital at Eastbourne, East Sussex, England on 30th April, 1917 & was reported seriously ill.

Private Thomas Robert Harold Miles died at 7 pm on 16th May, 1917 at Military Hospital, Eastbourne, East Sussex, England. A Post Mortem was conducted & the cause of death was from wounds received in action – gunshot wounds to chest & back through liver & Exhaustion.

A death for Thomas R. H. Miles, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Eastbourne, East Sussex, England.

Private Thomas Robert Harold Miles was buried on 21st May, 1917 in Ocklyne Cemetery, Eastbourne, East Sussex, England – Plot number Y. 1491 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Miles - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass fittings & lined. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party and Military Band were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack. No relatives were present but Mrs D. Stogdale of Malven Road East, Victoria, and Sister Cowley attended the funeral.*

Pte Thomas Robert Harold Miles requested in his Will, dated 11th March, 1917 that in the event of his death - £20 to Florence May Allitt of Tyrendarra, Victoria & the remainder of his money was to Beatrice Annie Bartlett of Yambuk, Victoria.) (From a letter sent to Base Records by B. Bartlett regarding his Will, B. Bartlett identified that No. 4864, Pte T. R. H. Miles was her brother.)

A War Pension was granted to John Miles of Lexton, father of late Pte Thomas R. Miles, 4864, 46th Battalion, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 19th July, 1917.

Pte Thomas Robert Harold Miles was entitled to British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Miles's father – Mr J. Miles, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Robert Harold Miles – service number 4864, aged 23, of 46th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Bessie Miles, of Lexton, Avoca, Victoria, Australia. Born at Yambuk, Victoria.

T. R. H. Miles is remembered on the Yambuk District Soldiers Honour Roll located in Yambuk Hall, Princes Highway, Yambuk, Victoria.



Yambuk District Soldiers Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

T. R. H. Miles and his brother R. L. Miles are both remembered on the Yambuk Roll of Honour located in the Yambuk Hall, Princes Highway, Yambuk, Victoria.



Yambuk Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

The Yambuk & District Roll of Honour, located in Yambuk Hall, Princes Highway, Yambuk, lists a “J. R. H. Miles” – this may be an error & actually related to T. R. H. Miles.



Yambuk & District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

Private T. R. H. Miles is also remembered on the Tyrendarra Honour Board located in the Tyrendarra Soldiers War Memorial Hall, 7131 Princes Highway, Tyrendarra, Victoria.

Tyrendarra Honor Board

(From Our Correspondent)

The fine honor board which was unveiled in the Tyrendarra hall, by Mr Rodgers. M.P., on the 6th inst, is a possession the district can be proud of. It is altogether a local product, being cut from a blackwood tree grown on Mt. Clay. Mr H. Saunders, of Tyrendarra, was entrusted with the work, and right well has he carried it out, both the design and the work being entirely his own. The board is surmounted with a kangaroo, emu and crossed boomerangs, the latter bearing the motto "Lest we forget." The names of those who were accepted for active service are arranged on panels down both sides of the board in the order in which they enlisted. In the centre is a cross surrounded by the names of those who paid the biggest price:---Staff Sergeant Major R. Jerrett, L/Cpl. L. G. Stanford, Privates T R. H. Miles and Wm. Stanford. Under this is a large panel inscribed:--"Erected to commemorate Tyrendarra enlistments in A.I F., great war 1914-18." All lettering on the board is carved out and each soldier's name let in on a separate panel. These are, omitting those already mentioned, as follows:--Cpls. A. J. Stanford. W.A. Lambert. P. J. King, Privates E. J. Millard, R. L. Miles. W. J. Troeth, E. A. Down, J. A. Down, Gunners F. R: King. E. A. King, Privates F. W. Wright. B. J. King, L. Holmes, T. H. Lazarus, Gnr. Walter Stanford, Pte. T. J. King and Sapper W. H. G. Brownlaw. In unveiling, Mr Rodgers formerly handed over the board to the hall committee, in whose keeping this and the memorial photos can be safely entrusted, commemorating as they do, little Tyrendarra's participation in the great war of 1914-18. Corporal P. J. King is the holder of the D.C.M.

(Portland Guardian, Victoria – 22 September, 1919)



Tyrendarra Honour Board (Photo from Monument Australia – Barry Dunne)



Tyrendarra Soldiers War Memorial Hall (Photos from Monument Australia – Barry Dunne)

Private T. R. H. Miles is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 142.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. R. H. Miles is also remembered on the Eastbourne Central Military Hospital War Memorial which was located in the Chapel of St Mary's Hospital (Central Military Hospital), Eastbourne until it was demolished in 1994 at which time it was relocated to the Redoubt Military Museum, Eastbourne. The names are listed by rank, surname, initial, Regiment and date of death. The memorial is in date sequence with Officers listed first.



Eastbourne Central Military Hospital War Memorial (Photo by John Websper, 2014)

(60 pages of Private Thomas Robert Harold Miles' 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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA13881

Private Thomas Robert Harold Miles

[Connected to Thomas Robert Harold Miles:](#)

Younger brother – Pte Roy Lawson Miles, 2709, 8th Battalion. Enlisted 14th June, 1915, aged 18. Embarked for Australia from Suez on 11th June, 1916. Discharged medically unfit 6th August, 1916. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Newspaper Notices

IN MEMORIAM

MILES – In fond and loving memory of our dear friend. Private T. R. H. Miles, who died of wounds, somewhere in France.

Friends may think we have forgotten,
When they sometimes see us smile;
But they little know the sorrow
That smile hides all the while.

- Inserted by his loving friends, G. Rogers and K. Browne

(Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 26 May, 1917)

HEROES AT THE FRONT

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Pte T. R. H. Miles, Yambuk

(Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 5 June, 1917)

Tyrendarra Soldiers' Memorial

The Unveiling Ceremony of enlarged photographs of Fallen Soldiers was held in the Tyrendarra Hall on Sunday afternoon, 27th July. A large attendance came to do honors to the memory of "The Blokes that ain't returnin," and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr Stillwell. The chairman, Mr B. Saunders, introduced the Rev. Stillwell and apologised for the absence of Father Cain, who sent deep regrets at not being able to attend and the Rev. Walters, and the Rev. Pye, whose duties demanded their presence elsewhere, The Rev Stillwell in his address said it was both a sad and glad occasion on which they had come together. It was a sad one for the relatives and friends of the fallen, but we should also be glad that there were such men as those who had gone forth, seeing only duty before them, and giving their young lives to protect us all. The war had ended in the peace we had just celebrated, but the dead would indeed have died in vain if the world were not to be the better after that before the upheaval. But they would not die in vain, it was our duty to see that conditions of all men were better, not striving after so much wealth, but justice to all. It seemed a universal law that no one ever gained without some one paying, Right through history and in our own lives we could see this, These men were to pay the sacrifice and we were to gain. It was a grand thing that in Tyrendarra they were commemorating the memory of their fallen in the way they were doing. The speaker then unveiled the enlarged photos of Pte T. R. H. Miles (died of wounds Eastbourne), Staff Sgt-Major R. Jerrett, (died of wounds Alexandria), L/Cpl, L G, Stanford (killed at Strazelle), Pte. Wm. Stanford (killed at Grevilliers), Pvt. T. A. O'Connor (killed at Passchendaele) and Pvt. C. W. Roberts (killed in France).

The latter two were from Narrawong and Codrington respectively, but were almost locals and were honored as such. Mr Saunders thanked Mr Stillwell for coming out and unveiling the photos, and in his reply the latter said he thanked the people for asking him to perform such an honored task. He also said that Father Cain had requested him to express regrets at his (Father Cain's) unavoidable absence. The proceedings closed with the National Anthem. A short and appropriate service was afterwards held in the Church, and was very fully attended as a mark of respect to those "who had paid the biggest price."

(Portland Guardian, Victoria – 30 July, 1919)

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)

Pte T. R. H. Miles does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

May His Dear Soul Rest In Peace

Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex

Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex contains 175 War Graves. There are 129 War Graves from World War 1 & 44 War Graves from World War 2. There are also 1 Belgian & 1 Brazilian Foreign National burials from World War 1. A Cross of Sacrifice stands near the Chapel, facing the main entrance.

During World War 1, Eastbourne contained a very large Military Convalescent Hospital, originally called Eastbourne Military Hospital, which opened in April, 1915. From January, 1917 to October, 1919 it became No. 14 Canadian General Hospital.



Cross of Sacrifice at Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex *(Photos from CWGC)*

Photo of Pte T. R. H. Miles's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Roberto Lagnado)



The four Australian Soldiers together

(L to R): **Pte T. R. H. Miles, 46th Battalion (died 16 May, 1917)**; Pte H. C. Gee, 33rd Battalion (died 21 June, 1917); Pte J. S. Williams, 29th Battalion (died 25 January, 1918); Pte C. E. Emblen, 32nd Battalion (died 2 October, 1916).