

# **Kington Magna, Dorset**

## **War Memorial**



*Lest We Forget*

### **World War 1**



**3347 PRIVATE**

**W. AYLING**

**51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**14TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 33**

*Until The Day Breaks  
& The Shadows Flee Away*

## William AYLING

William Ayling was born at Buckhorn Weston, near Gillingham, Dorset, England in 1883 to parents Thomas and Henrietta Ayling (nee Hine). He was baptised in the Parish Church of Buckhorn Weston, Dorset, England on 30th December, 1883.

The 1891 England Census recorded William Ayling as a 7 year old Scholar, living with his family at Green Lane, in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Thomas Ayling (Potter (Earth), aged 39, born Portsmouth, Hants) & Henrietta Ayling (aged 38, born Buckhorn Weston, Dorset). William was the eldest of 3 children listed on this Census – William then Ruth Ayling (Scholar, aged 5, born Buckhorn Weston, Dorset) & Lewis Ayling (Scholar, aged 3, born Buckhorn Weston, Dorset). Also listed was Ruth Hine – mother-in-law of William Ayling (aged 72, born Chiselbrough, Somerset).

The 1901 England Census recorded Willie Ayling as a 17 year old Gardener, living with his family near School at Kington Magna, Dorset in a 3 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Thomas Ayling (Potter - Clay, aged 48) & Henrietta Ayling (aged 47). Willie was the eldest of 3 children listed on this Census – Willie then Lewis Ayling (aged 13) & Fred Ayling (aged 10, born Kington Magna, Dorset).

The 1911 England Census recorded Willie Ayling as a 27 year old Gardener living on his own in a 2 roomed dwelling at Uplands, Milford on Sea, Hampshire, England.

[The 1911 England Census recorded William's family living at Bridge Street, Buckhorn Weston, Wincanton, Dorset in a 4 roomed Dwelling. His mother was listed as a Widow – Henrietta Ayling (aged 59). She listed that she had 4 children, all still living. Two of William's brothers were still living at home – Lewis Ayling (Mason's Labourer, aged 23) & Fred Ayling (Clay Miner, aged 19). Also listed was Henrietta's nephew – Victor Sidney Saunders (Bricklayer's Apprentice, aged 18).]

According to information supplied by his widow for the Roll of Honour - William Ayling came to Australia when he was 20 years old. A "William Ayling", Gardener, aged 27 was a passenger on the *Armada* which had departed from the port of London & arrived at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia on 10th July, 1911.

William Ayling married Lettie Hill in Perth, Western Australia in 1914.

William Ayling was a 32 year old, married, Gardener from Garrett Road, Bayswater, Western Australia when he enlisted on 31st January, 1916 with the 51st Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3347 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Letty Ayling, of Garrett Road, Bayswater, Western Australia. William Ayling stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 3 years with 4th Hampshire Volunteer Regiment.

Private William Ayling was posted to 48th Depot on 31st January, 1916. He was transferred to 22nd Depot on 1st February, 1916 & transferred again to 76th Depot on 12th July, 1916. Pte Ayling was posted to 23rd Reinforcements of 16th Battalion on 28th July, 1916 then transferred to 22nd Reinforcements of 16th Battalion on 4th September, 1916.

Private William Ayling was admitted to No. 8 Australian General Hospital at Fremantle, Western Australia on 8th November, 1916 with an injury to his back & returned to duty on 18th November, 1916. He was posted to Details Camp for Convalescence on 18th November, 1916 to 10th January, 1917.

Pte Ayling was posted to 9th Reinforcements of 51st Infantry Battalion on 10th January, 1917.

Private William Ayling embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on 29th January, 1917 & 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 Ayling was marched in to 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire, on 28th March, 1917.

Private William Ayling proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 25th June, 1917 from 13th Training Battalion at Codford.

Private William Ayling was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 26th June, 1917.

Private William Ayling proceeded from 4th A.D.B.D. on 13th July, 1917 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 51st Battalion from 9th Reinforcements on 15th July, 1917 in the field.

Private William Ayling was sent sick to Hospital on 8th August, 1917. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance with Diarrhoea & was discharged to duty on 14th August, 1917, rejoining his Unit the same day.

Private William Ayling was killed in action in Belgium on 14th October, 1917.

### **51st Battalion**

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the A.I.F.

Later in 1917, the focus of the A.I.F's operations moved to the Ypres sector in Belgium. There the battalion fought in the battle of Messines between 7 and 12 June and the battle of Polygon Wood between 26 and 27 September. Another winter of trench routine followed.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

#### **War Diary 51st Battalion:**

*Front Line – October, 1917:*

*13/14 – D & A Cpys relieve B & C Coys respectively. Quiet Night.*

*14 – Much quitter day. Orders for relief by 52 Bn Received.*

*14/15 – Relieving Coys of 52nd Bn arrived at Bn HQ just after 6 pm.*

*Relief completed by 10.30 pm – only 2 casualties.....*

*(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private William Ayling was originally buried in smaller or isolated cemetery at Map Reference D23 A 4.6. His body, along with others, was exhumed from the original burial location and reburied in Passchendaele New British Cemetery, Belgium – Plot number XIV. A. 1. The concentration of cemeteries allowed otherwise unmaintainable graves to be moved into established war grave cemeteries where the Commission could ensure proper commemoration. Private William Ayling's grave is marked with a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was sent to Mrs L. Ayling, of Garrett Street, Bayswater, Western Australia dated 13th December, 1920 advising that her husband- the late Private W. Ayling was buried in the Passchendaele New British Cemetery.

Mrs Lettie Ayling signed for the receipt of 3 copies of the photograph of her late husband – Pte W. Ayling on 23rd March, 1921.

A letter was sent to Mrs L. Ayling, of Garrett Road, Bayswater, Western Australia dated 3rd April, 1925 advising that her husband's final resting place was in the Passchendaele New British Cemetery & officially recorded as Plot 14, Row A, Grave 1.

Pte William Ayling was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Ayling's widow – Mrs L. Ayling, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Ayling – service number 3347, aged 33, of 51st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Henrietta Ayling; husband of L. Ayling, of Garrett Rd., Bayswater, Western Australia. Born in England.

Private W. Ayling is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 152.



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

W. Ayling is remembered on the Bayswater War Memorial, located at Halliday Park, Coode & Burnside Streets, Bayswater, Western Australia.



**Bayswater War Memorial** (Photo by Derek Graham)

W. Ayling is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

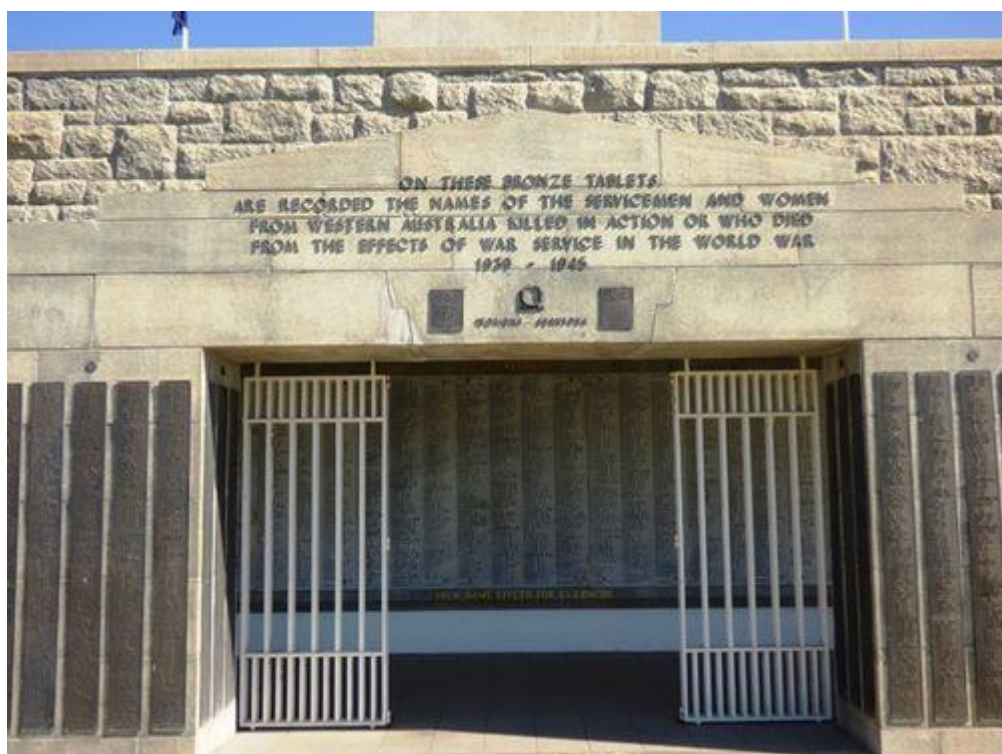
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)**

**& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

*(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)*



W. Ayling is remembered on the Kington Magna War Memorial which is located in the grounds of Church of All Saints, Kington Magna, Dorset, England.



**Kington Magna War Memorial Cross** (Photos by Michael Day)



W. Ayling is remembered on the Kington Magna War Memorial Plaque located inside Church of All Saints, Kington Magna, Dorset, England.



**Kington Magna War Memorial Plaque** (Photo by Michael Day)

(61 pages of Pte Private William Ayling'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**

### **KILLED IN ACTION**

AYLING – Killed in action October 14, 1917, somewhere in France, Private W. Ayling, dearly beloved husband of Lettie Ayling, Garrett-road, Bayswater, aged 34 years.

- Inserted by his loving wife.

AYLING – In sad & loving memory of our dear brother-in-law and uncle, Private W. Ayling, killed in action somewhere in France October 14, 1917.

- Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law and niece, Mr and Mrs W. Eddins and daughter, Garrett-road, Bayswater.

AYLING – A loving tribute to the memory of our friends, Private W. Ayling, killed in action somewhere in France October, 14 1917.

- Inserted by his sincere friends, Mr and Mrs Dartnall, Lawrence-street, Bayswater.

*(Western Mail, Perth Western Australia – 4 January, 1918)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **Anzac Heroes**

AYLING – Sacred to the memory of my beloved husband, Private William Ayling, who was killed in action in France on October, 14 1917.

No one know the silent heartache,  
Only those can tell  
Who have lost their best and dearest  
Without a last farewell.

Inserted by his sorrowing wife, Lettie Ayling, Garrett-road, Bayswater.

AYLING – A tribute to the memory of Private William Ayling, killed in action in France October 14, 1917.

Across the sea the message came,  
In action he was killed,  
As noble a heart as ever beat  
In freedom's cause lies stilled.

Inserted by his sincere friends, Mr and Mrs Dartnall, Bayswater.

*(The West Australian, Perth Western Australia – 14 October, 1918)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **Anzac Heroes**

AYLING – In loving memory of my dear husband, Private William Ayling, killed in action October 14, 1917.

Sadly missed.

Inserted by his loving wife, Garrett-road, Bayswater.



AYLING – A tribute to the memory of Private William Ayling, killed in action in France on October 14, 1917.

Ever remembered

Inserted by his sincere friends, Mr and Mrs Dartnall, Bayswater.

*(The West Australian, Perth Western Australia – 14 October, 1919)*

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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)*

Pte W. Ayling does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Until The Day Breaks & The Shadows Flee Away*

#### **Passchendaele New British Cemetery, Belgium**

Passchendaele (Passendale) New British Cemetery lies 10.5 Kms north-east of Ieper town centre on the S'Graventafelstraat, a road leading from St Jan to Passendale.

The village of Passchendaele (now Passendale) and surrounding area were associated with every phase of the First World War. In the middle of October 1914, Passchendaele was briefly under Allied occupation but by 20 October it was in German hands, where it remained for the next three years. On 6 November 1917, after the severest fighting in most unfavourable weather, the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade took, and passed, the village; this fight was part of the Second Battle of Passchendaele, the last of the Battles of Ypres, 1917. In the middle of April 1918, in the Battles of the Lys, the Allied line was withdrawn far back on the road to Ypres, but on 29 September, in the course of the Allied offensive in Flanders, Belgian forces recaptured the village.

The New British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck. Almost all of the burials are from the autumn of 1917.

The cemetery now contains 2,101 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 1,600 of the graves are unidentified but there are special memorials to seven casualties believed to be buried among them.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Passchendaele New British Cemetery, Belgium**



Photo of Pte W. Ayling's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Passchendaele New British Cemetery, Belgium.



*(Photo by Marnik Vanderper)*

