

ERIC FRANCIS SEAFORTH HAYTER

Born 1892

He was the only son of Colonel F.J Hayter of the Royal Australian Military College and Mrs Helen F. Hayter of Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia .

He was grandson of Frederick Hayter (1830 – 1863) and Frances Elizabeth Hayter (1832 – 1917) who are buried in St Margaret's Churchyard, along with his aunt Ethel Maude.

He was educated in Melbourne as an electrical engineer. After working on the Victoria State Railways he came to England

Second Lieutenant, HAYTER, ERIC FRANCIS SEAFORTH. 87th Battery, Royal Field Artillery. In 1916 he obtained a commission with the Royal Field Artillery.

Died 21/03/1918, Aged 25. LAGNICOURT HEDGE CEMETERY near Bapaume [I. A. 14A] (France).

War Service

By 1916 the 87th was using the new Howitzers which larger the Rifles but smaller than the large Artillery Guns.

In early 1917 he was invalided home with fever and the effects of gas and spent some time in hospital.

In 1918 he returned to his unit. On 21.March the Germans launched the Kaiserslacht offensive, the final desperate assault to break the Allies before the newly arrived Americans were battle ready. This was the biggest bombardment of the War.

His obituary contains this quote from his Commanding Officer :-

“He was with the forward section of the guns, and the attack developed so quickly that none of them came back. It was only known that they fought their guns up till the last minute”

Memorials

He is commemorated on his grandparent's tombstone (No 216) in St Margaret's Churchyard and also in St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham.

