

**Bournemouth East Cemetery,
Bournemouth, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5817 PRIVATE

R. W. ARNEY

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD MARCH, 1919 Age 23

Richard William ARNEY

Richard William Arney was born at Hughenden, Queensland on 24th November, 1895 to parents Richard William and Jean Arney (nee Morrison).

Richard William Arney attended State School at Richmond, Queensland.

Richard William Arney was a 20 year old, single, Labourer from Richmond, North Queensland when he enlisted at Townsville, Queensland on 1st November, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5817 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother - Mrs J. Arney, Richmond, North Queensland.

Private Richard William Arney was posted to 10th Depot Battalion on 1st November, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 35th S Battalion on 21st January, 1916 then transferred to 41st S Battalion on 21st February, 1916. Private Arney was transferred to 18th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion on 29th April, 1916.

Private Richard William Arney embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 4th May, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 15th June, 1916.

Private Richard William Arney embarked on *Megantic* from Alexandria on 6th August, 1916 for Overseas (England).

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 Richard William Arney was written up for an Offence – Overstaying leave from Reveille on 29th August, 1916 until reporting at 8 pm on 31st August, 1916. He was confined to camp for 10 days & forfeited 2 days pay.

Private Richard William Arney was sent sick to Bulford Hospital on 5th September, 1916 from 4th Training Battalion, Codford, Wiltshire. He was admitted to Military Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 12th September, 1916 with Gonorrhoea (V.D.) & discharged to duty on 5th December, 1916.

Private Richard William Arney was marched in to 4th Training Battalion, No. 1 & 2 Camp, Codford, Wiltshire on 5th December, 1916 from Group Clearing Hospital, Codford.

Private Richard William Arney was written up for an Offence at Codford – Absent without leave from reveille on 24th December, 1916 until reporting to Police in London at 6 pm on 13th January, 1917. He was awarded 21 days Detention & was in custody awaiting trial for 1 day. He forfeited a total on 43 days' pay.

Private Richard William Arney proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 16th January, 1917 on *Princess Victoria* from 4th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 4 D.B.D. (Divisional Base Depot) on 19th January, 1917. Private Arney was taken on strength of 15th Battalion on 23rd January, 1917.

Private Richard William Arney was reported Missing in Action in France on 11th April, 1917.

Private Richard William Arney was reported as a Prisoner of War – interred at Cassel as certified by a wire from Copenhagen received 23rd May, 1917.

According to a German form - Private Richard Arney was sent to Limburg Camp on 29th June, 1917. He had been captured at Reincourt.

15th Battalion

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF was expanded and was reorganised. The 15th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 47th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

Along with most of the 4th Brigade, the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line. *(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

War Diary – 15th Battalion

Narrative of action of 15th Battalion in the attack by 4th Brigade on HINDENBURG LINE South of REINCOURT on morning of 11th April, 1917.

At 10.30 pm on night 10/11th April, 15th Battalion moved from Bivouac ground north of FAVUELL and at 4 am on morning of 11th April were deployed ready for action in position on railway line running through C.5.

...At 4.47 a.m. I received message that 14th and 16th Battalions had advanced to the attack and at 4.49 am 15th Battalion moved to the attack in Artillery Formation from the railway line.

There was not sufficient Artillery Fire to drown noise of Tanks moving up and they must have been plainly heard by enemy.

The Tanks that were co-operating in the attack on our front failed to reach objective excepting one (1) Tank which reached first wire.

The first news of the progress of this Battalion was received from Wounded men who stated that when they arrived at first objective hand to hand fighting was going on between 14th Battalion and enemy. Our men pushed through to second objective and about 900 yards of second objective was captured by this Brigade which was much mixed up through difficulty in crossing enemy wire. The wire in front of first objective was almost intact on our front and it is estimated we had nearly 100 casualties on this wire from enemy enfilade M.G. fire. The wire in front of second objective was intact excepting enemy sally-ports which were swept by Machine Guns; we lost heavily on this wire also. Enemy resisted stoutly in second objective and this line he held in strength. About 200 enemy were killed, only 38 prisoners reached our jumping off line about 20 being killed and wound by enemy's own Machine Guns.

No Runners had returned from Front Line and judging by the number of enemy Machine Guns playing in enfilade fire across No Mans Land it was impossible to get back from captured position. At 5.15 am I sent Lieut. J. M. Rae to endeavour to get forward to Front Line on the left flank; he was wounded by M.G. fire and reported that enemy Machine Guns dominated the ground and he thought it was not possible to establish communication. An Officer from the 17th Lancers reported to me about this time and enquired as to possibility of Cavalry getting through. I informed him that the wire was practically intact and horses could not get through, he then went forward to reconnoitre wire himself but was wounded. I then send 2/Lieut. F. E. Barnes to try and get through on the centre or fight flanks, I have been informed he was wounded getting through but reached the capture trench, however he did not return.

Tow (2) Carrying Parties who tried to get ammunition and Bombs through have not been heard of since; not one man returned. Runners were sent from Front Line on Three different occasions but were killed by M.G. Fire. Arrangements were made then for sufficient Carrying Parties to be organised and then sent forward under cover of darkness.

At 9.50 am I received a phone message transmitting a pigeon message from Capt. Dunworth timed 7.10 am requesting Bombs S.A.A. and Rifle Grenades. It was hoped that our Line would hold until dark as No Man's Land was impassable in daylight, as it was absolutely commanded by enemy M. Guns.

At 11.15 am troops on our left were seen to be retiring and at 11.20 am our men commenced to fall back but very few reached the Railway Line. The defence of the railway line was immediately organised and four Vickers Guns placed in position in our sector. One Company 52nd Battalion held Sunken Road 200 yards north of railway line.

The Battalion was relieved at 6.30 pm and moved back to FAVREUIL. Only four Officers who were in the Assault were brought in, they were wounded before reaching first wire. None of the Officers who reached objective returned and of the troops who took part in the assault only 52 have returned.

Enemy had tunnel communications about 10 feet under-ground between first and second lines and open communication trenches back to REINCOURT.

His fire trenches were about 10 feet wide and 8 feet deep with three fire steps and contained dug-outs.

Only two Lewis Guns were got back to our lines.

Our stretcher Bearers did wonderful work getting wounded in under enemy fire, towards afternoon enemy allowed Stretcher Bearers to get the wounded without interference but in the morning he fired on them.

Captured Trench was enfiladed by M.G. Fire and severe Bombing attacks were made by enemy from both flanks.

Definite information as to how many of our men were made prisoners cannot be obtained but the men say a good number were taken.

Total Casualties of this Battalion were 19 Officers and 364 Other Ranks.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Richard William Arney was repatriated & arrived in England on 31st December, 1918.

Private Richard William Arney was granted leave on 3rd February, 1919 & was to report to Administrative Headquarters on expiration of his leave.

Private Richard William Arney was written up for an Offence at London – Absent without leave from 10 am on 3rd February, 1919 to 10 pm on 19th February, 1919. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 34 days' pay.

Private Richard William Arney was sent to No. 2 Command Depot on 24th February, 1919.

Private Richard William Arney was admitted to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England on 24th February, 1919. He was reported as dangerously ill on 27th February, 1919.

Private Richard William Arney died at 9.20 am on 3rd March, 1919 at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England from Influenza.

A death for Richard W. Arney, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Dartford, Kent, England.

Private Richard William Arney was buried on 10th March, 1919 in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England – Plot number U.I.150 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Richard William Arney - *Coffin was Oak. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Mr & Mrs White, Mr & Mrs Arney, and "Mum" & Dad. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev Stewart, officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London, who were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives and Friends present at the Funeral:- Mr & Mrs White, Mr & Mrs Smith, Mrs & Miss Arney, Miss Barrow.

Private Richard William Arney was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Arney's father – Mr R. W, Arney, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Richard William Arney – service number 5817, aged 23, of 15th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Richard William and Jean Arney.

Private R. W. Arney is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 74.



R. Arney is remembered on the Richmond War Memorial, located in Jack Brown Lions Park, Flinders Highway, Richmond, Queensland.



Richmond War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



R.W. Arney is remembered on the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial located at Ballarat, Victoria.



Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial (Photos from Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial website)



(47 pages of Private Richard William Arney'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Private Richard William Arney



Newspaper Notices

NORTHERN VOLUNTEERS

The following left by the Bingera last night for Enoggera:-

Richmond - Richard William Arney

(*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 2 November, 1915)

Roll of Honour

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LISTS

The following is a continuation of the 299th and 300th Australian casualty lists, which appeared in our first edition:-

MISSING

Pte R. W. Arney, Richmond

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 21 May, 1917)

THE EUROPEAN WAR

Mr W. M. Morrison, of the Electric Light Works, has received news that his nephew, Private R. W. Arney, is a prisoner of War at Cassel, Germany. He was first reported missing since 11th April. Private Arney, who is 21 years of age, is a native of Hughenden, but enlisted from Richmond, where his parents reside, his father being the well known saddler of that town.

(*The Northern Miner*, Queensland – 11 June, 1917)

THE WAR

Mrs D. Morrison, "West Calder", Nelson Street, South Townville, has received a card from her nephew, R. W. Arney, who is a prisoner of war at Cassel, Germany, stating that he is in good health and well looked after for food from the Australian Red Cross.

(*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 25 April, 1918)

Richmond Notes

Private Dick Arney, son of Mr R. W. Arney, Richmond, is at last on English soil, having landed there on the 3rd inst., after being a prisoner of war in Germany for the past two years.

(*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 27 January, 1919)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

CASUALTY LIST No. 462

Private R. W. Arney, Richmond, died cause not stated

(The Northern Miner, Queensland – 2 April, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

ARNEY – In loving memory of my dear brother, Richard (Dick), who died in England, 3rd of March, 1919, of pneumonic influenza, after one year and eight months a prisoner of war in Germany.

We pictured his safe returning,
 And longed to clasp his hand;
But God has postponed our meeting,
 'Twill be in a better land.

(Inserted by his loving sister, Gladys)

(Cairns Post, Queensland – 3 March, 1920)

SALE OF LEASES

ARNEY – In loving memory of Private R. W. Arney, 15th Battalion, who died of influenza on the 3rd March, 1919 at the Third Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England.

He sleeps not in his native land
 But under foreign skies,
Far from those who loved him dearly
 In a soldier's grave he lies.

(Inserted by his loving parents, brother and sisters.)

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 3 March, 1920)

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)

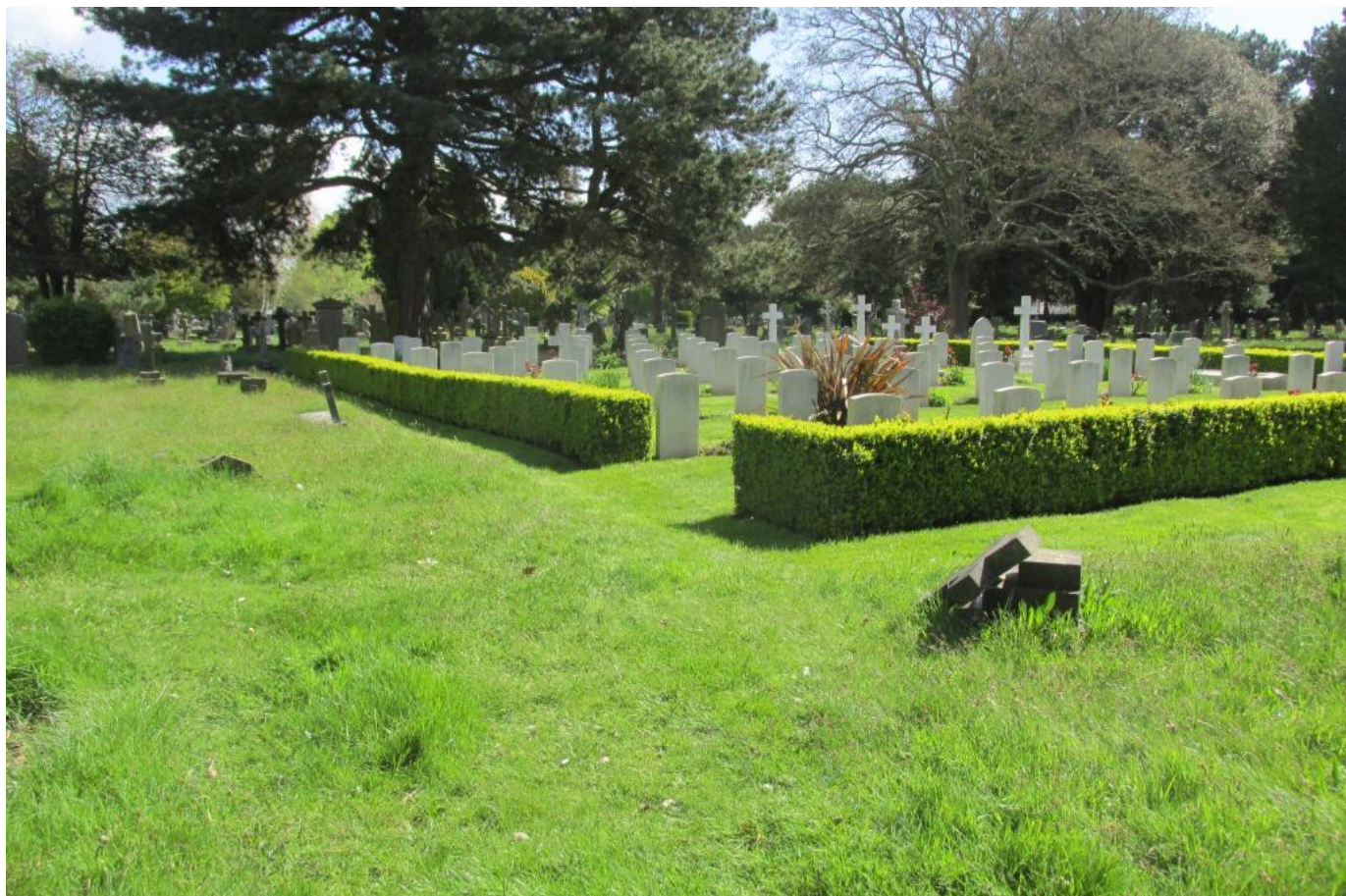
Private R. W. Arney does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England

Some of the 120 First World War burials in this cemetery are those of soldiers who died in Bournemouth's auxiliary and private hospitals. 75 of these graves are in a special plot on the main path and include a Special Memorial to 2 soldiers drowned off Bournemouth in January 1915, whose bodies were not recovered. The plot also contains 7 of the 68 Second World War burials, the rest being scattered throughout the cemetery. One of the First World War burials is unidentified. There are 4 Foreign National war burials here.

The war plot is enclosed by a hedge, and the War Cross is on the West side of it.

(Information from CWGC)



Bournemouth East Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



Bournemouth East Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)

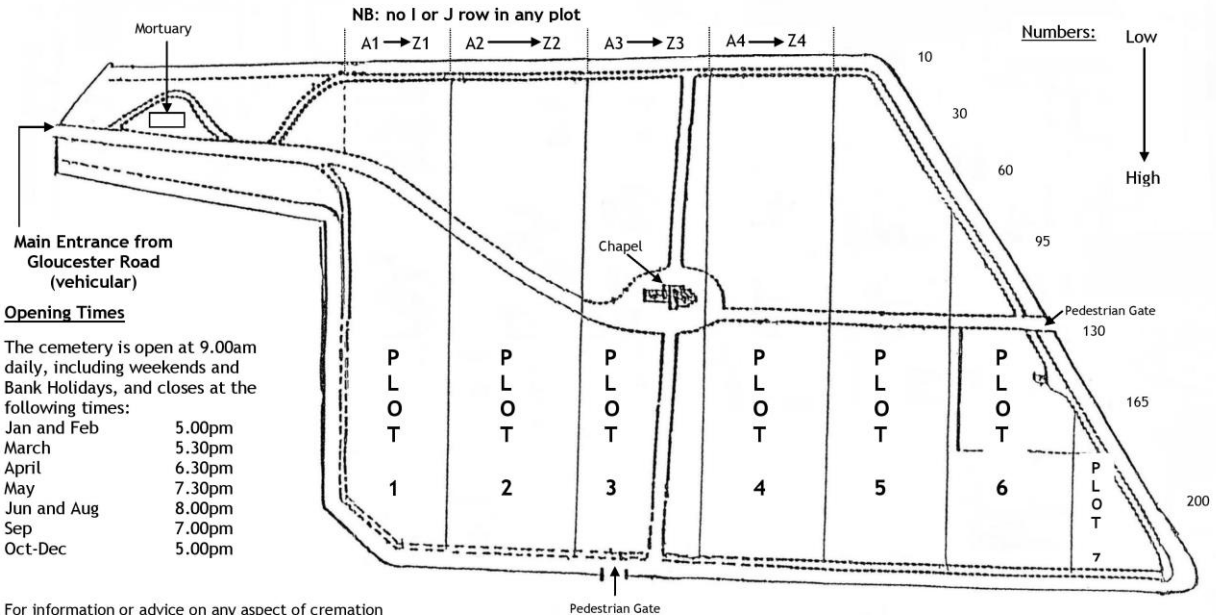


Photo of Private R. W. Arney's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England



(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

East Cemetery, Gloucester Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6JB



Opening Times

The cemetery is open at 9.00am daily, including weekends and Bank Holidays, and closes at the following times:

Jan and Feb	5.00pm
March	5.30pm
April	6.30pm
May	7.30pm
Jun and Aug	8.00pm
Sep	7.00pm
Oct-Dec	5.00pm

For information or advice on any aspect of cremation or burial please contact:

Bournemouth Bereavement Services
 Bournemouth Crematorium
 Strouden Avenue
 Bournemouth
 BH8 9HX

Tel: 01202 526238
 Email: crematorium@bournemouth.gov.uk

