

**Tomnahurich Cemetery,
Inverness, Scotland,
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1944 DRIVER

A. H. E. COURTNEY

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

6TH DECEMBER, 1918 Age 27

Our Allan

So Dearly Loved

And Deeply Mourned

Thy Will Be Done

Allan Henry Ellis COURTNEY

Henry Allan Ellis Courtney was born at Mitta Mitta, near Eskdale, Victoria on 20th August, 1891 to parents John Henry & Mary Courtney (nee Ellis).

Allan Henry Ellis Courtney attended Eskdale School, Victoria.

The Australian Electoral Rolls for 1914, 1915 & 1917 for the division of Indi, subdivision of Mitta Mitta recorded Henry Allan Ellis Courtney as a Miner from Eskdale.

Allan Henry Ellis Courtney was a 24 year old, single, Farmer from Marysville, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 21st February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his father – John Henry Courtney, of Golden Bower Mine, Marysville, Victoria.

Private Allan Henry Ellis Courtney was posted to Camp with "A" Company, 37th Battalion from 26th February, 1916 to 31st May, 1916. He was transferred to 4 Depot Battalion from 31st May, 1916.

A proceeding was held on 2nd June, 1916 at Seymour for the purpose of inquiring into the absence without leave of Private Allan Henry Ellis Courtney. It was stated that Private Courtney was transferred to 37th Depot Battalion (Reinforcements) from 37th Battalion on 1st June, 1916 & had not yet reported. The Court declared that Private Allan Henry Ellis Courtney had deserted the A.I.F. on 15th May, 1916 and was in possession of a Kit valued at £3. 8. 5. and he was declared a deserter.

Private Allan Henry Ellis Courtney was transferred to 3 Depot Regiment from 13th July, 1916 to 2nd October, 1916. He was transferred to 12/13 Light Horse Reinforcements on 2nd October, 1916.

Private Allan Henry Ellis Courtney, Service number 1944, embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 20th October, 1916 with the 4th Light Horse Brigade, 13th Light Horse Regiment, 12th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

Private Courtney was marched into 13th Light Horse at Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire from Australia on 10th January, 1917.

Private Courtney was sent sick to Delhi Hospital with Appendicitis from 13th Light Horse Regiment at Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 18th July, 1917. He was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital with Appendicitis.

Private Courtney was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 4th September, 1917 & medically classified as B1 A4 – Fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit. He was marched to Candahar Barracks at Tidworth on 18th September, 1917.

Private Courtney was transferred to Artillery Details from 13th Light Horse Regiment & mustered as Gunner on 14th November 1917.

Gunner Courtney proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery), Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 16th January, 1918. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 17th January, 1918.

Gunner Courtney was taken on strength with 2nd Field Artillery Brigade & posted to 5th Battery in Belgium on 23rd January, 1918.

Gunner Courtney was promoted to the rank of Driver on 1st February, 1918.

Driver Courtney proceeded on 14 days leave to UK on 20th January, 1918.

Driver Courtney was admitted to Inverness Military Hospital, Scotland while on leave on 24th January, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Driver Courtney was reported to be dangerously & seriously ill with Pneumonia in Inverness Military Hospital on 30th November, 1918.

Driver Allan Henry Ellis Courtney died at 10 am on 6th December, 1918 at Inverness Military Hospital, Scotland from Pneumonia.

Driver Allan Henry Ellis Courtney was buried on 10th December, 1918 in Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness, Scotland – Plot number H10. 4. 103 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Driver Courtney - *Coffin was good with brass mounts. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Band, Pallbearers and Bugler being in attendance, supplied by the Cameron Highlanders Depot. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by beautiful flowers sent from the Hospital. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. J. Neave officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Mr J. H. Courtney, father of the late Driver Allan Henry Ellis Courtney, wrote to Base Records in March, 1919, stating that his brother – Driver G. H. Ellis informed him that as the parents that *"we will be allowed to have the body of late Driver Allan Henry Ellis Courtney raised & taken from Inverness, Scotland to England at our expense. I wish to know if you will give me advice as to how to go about the matter."* Mr J. H. Courtney went on to say that his brother did all in his power to have his son's body transferred to England before the funeral so that his son could rest beside relatives in England. Apparently the Authorities had promised this would happen & his relatives waited all day until midnight to receive the body at Southport but next morning received a wire stating that they could not do so on account of the expense. It was then too late for Mr J. H. Courtney's relatives to do any more in the matter.

Driver Allan Henry Ellis Courtney was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Courtney's father – Mr J. H. Courtney (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Allan Henry Ellis Courtney – service number 1944, aged 27, of 2nd Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of John Henry and Mary Courtney, of Tallangatta, Victoria, Australia. Born at Mitta Mitta, Victoria.

Driver A. H. E. Courtney is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 11.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Courtney is remembered on the Mitta Valley War Memorial located on Omeo Highway, Eskdale, Victoria.



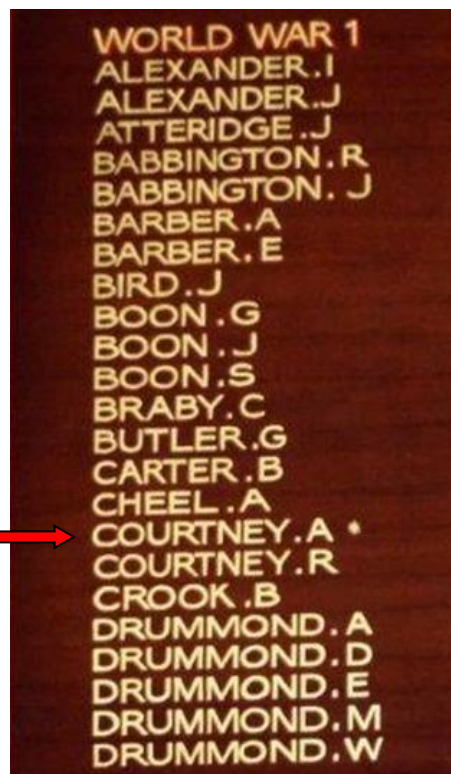
Mitta Valley War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Glen Yeomans)



A. Courtney is remembered on the Eskdale & District Honour Roll, located in Eskdale Public Hall, Omeo Highway, Eskdale, Victoria.



Eskdale & District Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



(100 pages of Driver Allan Henry Ellis Courtney'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

DIED ON SERVICE

COURTNEY – On the 6th December, at Inverness Military Hospital, Scotland, of pneumonia, Driver Allan Henry Ellis, dearly loved eldest grandson of Mrs S. Ellis, “Millbrook” Tallandoon, loved nephew of Mr and Mrs Frank Treyvuad, East Malvern.

Deeply mourned.

COURTNEY – At Inverness Military Hospital, Scotland, of pneumonia, Driver Allan Henry Ellis, much loved brother of D. and M. McCann, and loving uncle of Little Lynton, Drummond State School.

Sadly missed.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 December, 1918)

WAR CASUALTIES

LIST No. 453

DIED OTHER CAUSES

COURTNEY, A. H. E., Tallangatta, 6/12/18.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COURTNEY – In proud and loving memory of our dear cousin, Gunner Alan Courtney, who died at Inverness Military Hospital, Scotland, 6th December, 1918

Behind the dim unknown standeth God.

Ever remembered.

(Inserted by Elsie, Rita and Muriel Atkins, Canterbury).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 December, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COURTNEY – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Dvr. A. H. E. (Allan), died of illness in Scotland 6th December, 1918.

Sadly missed. Always remembered

Beautiful memories left behind,

Of a loving son and brother, so true and kind.

(Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brothers, Tallangatta.)

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 December, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COURTNEY – In sad and loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Allan, who died in Scotland, December 6, 1918.

Too dearly loved ever to be forgotten.

(Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters and brothers)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 December, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COURTNEY – In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Driver A. H. E. (Allan), died in Scotland, December 6, 1918.

So dearly loved, still deeply mourned.

Thy will be done.

(Inserted by his loved ones, Camberwell and Tallangatta).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 December, 1925)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

Mrs M. Courtney wrote to Dept. of Defence in June, 1920, stating that her son was the only Australian Soldier buried in Tomawick Cemetery, Inverness & as other parents & friends of other soldiers buried in the Cemetery had erected headstones that she would like to erect a headstone at her own expense for her son's grave. Mrs Courtney's letter was sent to the Australian Graves Services in London & the War Graves Commission pamphlet was sent to her explaining the ideas of the Commission. The Australian Graves Services sent a reply to Base Records, Melbourne in November, 1920 advising that "*no objection would be raised to any memorial being erected on any grave provided it is not in a Naval or Military Cemetery or in a Naval or Military plot in a civil churchyard or cemetery.*" They advised that "*Mrs Courtney can make arrangements for this headstone to be erected.*" The information was conveyed to Mrs Courtney in January, 1921

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)

Driver A. H. E. Courtney does have a personal inscription on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone.

Our Allan So Dearly Loved And Deeply Mourned. Thy Will Be Done

Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness, Scotland

Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness, Scotland contains 162 War Graves. There are 89 War Graves from World War 1, with only 1 Australian from World War 1 & 1 Australian from World War 2 buried in the cemetery.



Cross of Sacrifice, Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness, Scotland *(Photo from CWGC)*



Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness, Scotland (Photos from CWGC)





(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)

Photo of Driver A. H. E. Courtney's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



(Photo from Find a Grave -slglazebrook)