

**Wareham Cemetery,
Wareham, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2454 CORPORAL

R. E. COVENTRY

46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST DECEMBER, 1916

Robert Ewen COVENTRY

Robert Ewen Coventry was born at South Yarra, Victoria on 10th July, 1884 to parents Thomas & Helen Coventry (nee Paterson).

Thomas Coventry, father of Robert Ewen Coventry, died on 22nd November, 1892 at the Alfred Hospital, Prahran, Victoria.

Robert Ewen Coventry attended Punt Road State School, South Yarra, Victoria.

Robert Ewen Coventry married Edith May Atkinson on 1st April, 1907 in Victoria.

A birth was registered in 1908 in Victoria for Irene Ethel Coventry, daughter of Robert Ewen Coventry & Edith May Coventry.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Fawkner, subdivision of Prahran, Victoria recorded Robert Ewen Coventry, Clerk & his wife - Edith May Coventry, Home duties, both living at 59 Grey Street, Prahran.

A birth was registered in 1911 in Victoria for Alan Roy Coventry, son of Robert Ewen Coventry & Edith May Coventry.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Malvern East, Victoria recorded Robert Ewen Coventry, Motorman & his wife - Edith May Coventry, Home duties, both living at Jordan Street, Malvern East.

A birth was registered in 1913 in Victoria for Nancy May Coventry, daughter of Robert Ewen Coventry & Edith May Coventry.

The 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Balaclava, subdivision of Armadale, Victoria recorded Robert Ewen Coventry, Electric Motorman & his wife - Edith May Coventry, Home duties, both living at 22 Fulton Street, Armadale.

Robert Ewen Coventry was a 30 year old, married, Clerk from Prahran, Victoria when he enlisted on 2nd March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2454 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. M. Coventry, of 1 Bella Street, Prahran, Melbourne, Victoria.

Robert Ewen Coventry was posted to Depot Battalion on 2nd March, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion on 16th June, 1915 then transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 14th Battalion on 20th July, 1915.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Persia* on 10th August, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 14th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry proceeded to join his Unit with draft from Zeitoun on 9th October, 1915. He joined his Unit at Mudros on 23rd October, 1915.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was sent sick to Hospital at the Dardanelles. He was admitted to New Zealand Field Ambulance at Anzac on 21st November, 1915 then transferred to 16th Casualty Clearing Station at Mudros the same day. Private Coventry was discharged from Casualty Clearing Station on 28th November, 1915 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital at Dardanelles on 29th November, 1915.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry disembarked at Alexandria on 1st January, 1916 from Troopship *Cardiganshire*.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance at Ismalia on 7th January, 1916 then transferred the same day to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station with Influenza. He was discharged to his Unit on 10th January, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 15th January, 1916 at Moascar.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was transferred from 14th Battalion to 46th Battalion on 3rd March, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir. He was taken on strength of 46th Battalion on 3rd March, 1916.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 2nd June, 1916 on *Kingfauns Castle* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 9th June, 1916.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was written up for a crime on 22nd July, 1916 – Irregular conduct & unshaven on parade on 20th July, 1916. He was awarded a forfeiture of 1 days' pay.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was wounded in action on 10th August, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to back & face then transferred to 44th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Coventry was transferred to Ambulance Train on 10th August, 1916 & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux on 10th August, 1916. Private Coventry embarked for England from Boulogne, France on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 18th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to his back.

46th Battalion

As part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division, the 46th Battalion arrived in France on 8 June 1916, destined for the Western Front. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided carrying parties for supplies and ammunition during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 46th endured two stints in the heavily contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was admitted to War Hospital at Bradford on 19th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to back – slight. He was discharged from Hospital on 8th September, 1916 to Perham Downs.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was granted furlough on 19th September, 1916 while at No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He reported back at No. 1 Command Depot on 5th October, 1916 & was medically classified as B1 A (temporarily unfit for service but fit for training).

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was transferred to D. Camp at No. 3 Command Depot, Bovington Camp, Wool, Dorset on 13th October, 1916. He was marched in to Bovington Camp on 13th October, 1916.

Private Robert Ewen Coventry was transferred from No. 3 Command Depot, Bovington Camp, Wool, Dorset to No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham, Dorset on 3rd November, 1916.

Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry died at 1.55 pm on 21st December, 1916 at Military Hospital, Wareham, Dorset, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Robert E. Coventry, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Wareham, Dorset, England.

Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry was buried on 23rd December, 1916 in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England – Plot number B. C. 15 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Edith May Coventry, widow of the late Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 4th March, 1917. War Pensions were also granted to the three children of the late Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry & his wife Edith May Coventry – Irene Ethel Coventry - £1 per fortnight; Alan Roy Coventry – 15/- per fortnight & Nancy May Coventry – 10/- per fortnight – all from 4th March, 1917.

Mrs E. M. Coventry, widow of the late Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry, advised Base Records on 8th May, 1917 that her address was changed from 43 Murray Street, Prahran to 107 Henry Street, Windsor.

Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Coventry's widow – Mrs E. M. Coventry, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry – service number 2454, of 46th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Helen Coventry; husband of Edith May Coventry, of 12 Victory Square, Armadale, Victoria, Australia. Born at Victoria.

Corporal R. E. Coventry is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 141.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(77 pages of Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

214th AND 215th LISTS ISSUED

WOUNDED

VICTORIA

R. E. COVENTRY, Prahran

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 September, 1916)

CASUALTIES ABROAD

News has been received by Mrs Coventry, of 43 Murray street, Prahran, that her husband, Corporal R. E. Coventry, has died at Wareham Military Hospital, London, of meningitis. Corporal Coventry served in Gallipoli and was wounded at Pozieres last July. He is the second son of Mrs Coventry, of Little Park street, South Yarra.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 January, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

COVENTRY – Died in Wareham Camp Military Hospital, on the 21st December, 1916, Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry, A.I.F., dearly beloved husband of Edith M. Coventry, and loving father of Irene, Alan, Nancy, of 43 Murray street, Prahran.

“The waves divide, fond memory clings.”

(Inserted by his loving wife)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 January, 1917) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 January, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

262nd LIST

Died of Illness

Cpl. R. E. COVENTRY, Prahran.

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 12 January, 1917)

The A.N.A.

The Malvern branch of the A.N.A. has had to report, during the last three weeks, the loss of three of its members on active service. They are - Corporal R. E. Coventry, Private G. P. White, and Private A. W. Jordan. The two former died of wounds and the latter was killed.

(*Malvern Courier and Caulfield Mirror*, Victoria – 19 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of my dear husband, Corp. Robert Ewen Coventry, who died on the 21st December, 1916, at the Wareham General Military Hospital, England.

Duty nobly done.

Though my sad heart aches with longing

To hear your voice again,

Tho' there' miles and miles between us,

In my thought you still remain.

-Inserted by his loving wife, Edith and children, Nancy, Alan and Irene Coventry.

COVENTRY – In loving memory of our dear son-in-law and brother-in-law, Corp. R. E. Coventry, who died on the 21st December, 1916, of meningitis, in the General Wareham Hospital, England.

The supreme sacrifice.

Sweet is the memory that never will fade,

Dear is the grave where dear Ewen is laid;

Only those that have lost are able to tell

The pain in the heart at not saying farewell.

-Inserted by his sorrowing sister-in-law and brother-in-law, E. and B. Lee, and mother-in-law and father-in-law, E. and J. Atkinson.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 December, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of my dear husband, Corp. Robert Ewen Coventry, who passed away on the 21st December, 1916, at Wareham Military Hospital, England.

One by one our loved ones are taken,
And our sad hearts oft ask why;
But we have God's great assurance,
We shall meet them by and bye,
We cannot run to meet you, daddy,
Or climb upon your knee;
But let this little token tell,
We still remember thee.

-Inserted by his loving wife and children, Irene, Alan and Nancy.

COVENTRY – In loving memory of Corp. Robert Ewen Coventry, who died of meningitis on the 21st December, 1916, at the Wareham Military Hospital, England.

Sleep on, dear Ewen, in the foreign grave,
Your life for your country you most nobly gave;
We loved you well, but God loved you best,
And took you home to eternal rest.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother-in-law, E. and J. Atkinson, also sister and brother-in-law, E. and B. Lee and Sergt. H. Atkinson and the late W. R. Atkinson.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of my dear son, Robert Ewen, A.I.F., who died at Wareham Hospital, England, December 21, 1916; also his father, who died December 22, 1892.

Till we meet again.

-(Mother)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 December, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of my dear husband and father, Corp. Robert Ewen Coventry, who died on the 21st December, 1916, at Wareham Military Hospital, England.

Nothing but memory as we journey on,
Longing for a smile and a face that is gone.
No one knows the depth of our regret,
But we remember when others forget.

-Inserted by his loving wife and family; mother, Mrs Coventry; also his sister-in-law, Mrs B. Lee; and mother-in-law, Mrs J. Atkinson, and H. Atkinson.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 December, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – On the 21st December, 1916, died at Wareham Military Hospital, England, Robert Ewen, beloved second son of Helen Coventry, and loving brother of George and Alan, of 14 Little Park street, South Yarra.

He died for our freedom.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 December, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

COVENTRY – In sad and loving remembrance of my dear husband, Robert Ewen, who died on the 21st December, 1916, Wareham Military Hospital, England. At rest.

-Inserted by his loving wife and children, also mother-in-law and sister-in-law, E. Lee and E. Atkinson, and Sergeant Atkinson.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 December, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of my dear son Robert Ewen Coventry, 14th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Wareham Military Hospital, England, on December 21, 1916. Also of his dear father, who died on 22nd December, 1892.

Ever fondly remembered.

-(Inserted by his mother and brothers George and Alan.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 December, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of my dear son Robert Ewen Coventry, 14th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Wareham Military Hospital, England, on December 21, 1916. Also of his dear father, who died on 22nd December, 1892.

Ever fondly remembered.

-(Inserted by mother and brothers.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 December, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY (an Anzac) – In loving memory of my dear son, Robert Ewen Coventry, of 14th Battalion, A.I.F., who died on 21st December, 1916, at Marcham Military Hospital, England, after being wounded; also his father, who died 23rd December, 1892. -(Inserted by mother and brothers.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 December, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of my dear son, Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry, late of 14th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Wareham Military Hospital, England, on December 21, 1916; also of his dear father, who died December, 22, 1892.

An Anzac

Ever fondly remembered.

-(Inserted by mother and brothers.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 December, 1925)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY (an Anzac) – In loving memory of my dear son, Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry, 14th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Marcham Military Hospital, England, on December 21, 1916; also of his dear father, who died 22nd December, 1892.

An Anzac

Ever fondly remembered.

-(Inserted by mother and brothers.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 December, 1926)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY (an Anzac) – In loving memory of Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry, 14th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Wareham Military Hospital on December 21, 1916, the dearly loved son of Helen Coventry; also of his dear father, who died on December 22, 1892. (Inserted by his mother and brothers.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 December, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry, 14th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Wareham Military Hospital on December 21, 1916, the dearly loved son of Helen Coventry; also of his dear father, who died on December 22, 1892. (Inserted by his mother and brothers.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 December, 1928)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COVENTRY – In loving memory of my dear son, Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry, 14th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Wareham Military Hospital, England, on December 21, 1916; also of his dear father, who died on 22nd December, 1892.

An Anzac

Ever fondly remembered.

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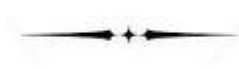
-(Inserted by mother and brothers, George and Alan.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 December, 1929)

**Notices were also placed in 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939,



Corporal Robert Ewen Coventry (*Photo from Discovering Anzacs - Lynn Budden*)



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)

Corporal R. E. Coventry does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset contains 71 Commonwealth War Graves. Wareham Military Hospital, with 185 beds, was at Worgret Camp during the First World War and the regimental depot of the Royal Armoured Corps was at nearby Bovington during the Second World War. Wareham Cemetery contains 49 First World War burials and 15 from the Second World War, 5 being unidentified. The cemetery also contains 12 German burials, 1 being an unidentified airman. *(Information from CWGC)*



Wareham Cemetery, Wareham *(Photos courtesy of Tracy Dunne)*



Photo of Corporal R. E. Coventry's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)



(Photo from ["Following the Twenty-Second"](#))