

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**5447 PRIVATE**

**E. M. RYAN**

**27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**13TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 30**

*Have Mercy Upon Him O Lord*

*And Let Perpetual Light*

*Shine Upon Him*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte E. M. Ryan is located in Grave Plot # 121  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Edward Michael RYAN

Edward Michael Ryan was born at Millicent, South Australia in 1885 to parents Thomas & Norah Ryan (nee Barry). He was a 30 year old, single, Farmer from Millicent, South Australia when he enlisted on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 with the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5447 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Norah Ryan of Millicent, South Australia.

Pte Edward Michael Ryan embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Ballarat (A70)* on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.

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.

Pte Edward Michael Ryan was marched in to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.

Pte Edward Michael Ryan was admitted to hospital on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 with Mumps.

Private Edward Michael Ryan died at 11.30 a.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital from Acute Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Edward M. Ryan, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Edward Michael Ryan was buried on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 121 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private E. M. Ryan is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 111.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

Pte E. M. Ryan is also remembered on the South Australian National War Memorial, located on corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. (Panel 5, column 2)



**Adelaide War Memorial** (Photo by Bilby)

Pte Edward Michael Ryan was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Ryan's mother – Mrs N. Ryan (sent July, 1921 & July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edward Michael Ryan – service number 5447 as being 30 years old & served with 27th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Norah Ryan of Millicent, South Australia.

A War Pension was granted to Norah Ryan, widowed mother of late Pte Edward Michael Ryan, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

(41 pages of Pte Edward Michael Ryan'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 Reports

### THE AUSTRALIANS - BIOGRAPHICAL

LATE PTE. E. M. RYAN.

MILLICENT, November 22.- On Saturday Father Gatzemeyer, of Millicent, received a telegram from the military authorities asking him to notify the relatives that Pte. E M. Ryan had died in England of bronchial pneumonia. The news was conveyed to the deceased's soldier's mother, Mrs Ryan, of The Snuggery. The late Pte. Ryan enlisted early this year, and had seen no active service. He was born in the Millicent district. Mrs. Ryan has another son with the colours, Pte. T. Ryan.

*(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – Friday 24 November, 1916)*

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### THE ROLL OF HONOUR

244<sup>th</sup> CASUALTY LIST

Died of Sickness

5447 Pte E. M. Ryan, Millicent (died Nov. 13)

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – Friday 24 November, 1916)*

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### BIOGRAPHICAL PARTICULARS

THE LATE PRIVATE E. M. RYAN

Mrs Ryan of “The Snuggery” near Millicent has been notified of the death of her son, Private E. M. Ryan, in England. The cause of death was bronchial pneumonia. Private Ryan enlisted last March. He spent practically all his life in the Millicent district, where he was well liked. Mrs Ryan has another son on active service, Private T. Ryan.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – Saturday 2 December, 1916)*

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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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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 E. M. Ryan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Have Mercy Upon Him O Lord And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him*

Photo of Pte E. M. Ryan's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)