

George was born at Kingsland, Auckland, NZ in July 1894, the son of Richard Millikin Courtney and Elizabeth Ann Courtney, nee Tapan.

On 11th August 1914, George enlisted in the AN&MEF, giving his occupation as clerk and his mother, at 19 Victoria Parade, Manly as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 4th August 1915 he joined the AIF as part of the 6th Reinforcement for the 20th Battalion, regimental number 2616, and sailed from Sydney aboard the EURIPIDES on 2nd November 1915. On arrival in Egypt he was allocated to and joined the 56th battalion. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 29th Feb and promoted corporal on 26th May 1916. On 28th October he was promoted sergeant and made acting CEM.

On 25th November 1916 he was appointed 2nd Lt and was wounded shortly afterwards on 6th Dec with a gunshot wound to the left hand which resulted in him being absent from his battalion until 27th Dec.

On 6th March 1917 he was promoted to Lt and transferred to the 14th Training Battalion where he underwent training and qualified as an Instructor in Bombing at the Clapham Bombing School. On completion he returned to France on 3rd October and rejoined his unit.

He was Mentioned in Despatches and returned to Australia aboard the BELTANA departing Devonport on 2nd June 1919 and arriving in Melbourne on 19th July from where he trained to Sydney and was discharged on 12th September.

On 4th December 1928 he married Eileen May Hough at Manly and died on 6th Sept 1975 at the RSL Veterans Retirement Home in Collaroy.