



## GILES

# George William

Service No: 4507

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: George William Giles

Service number: 4507

Date of enlistment: 22/11/1915

Age at Enlistment: 24 years 11 months

Civil Occupation: Clerk

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 6 ½ inches

Weight: 136 pounds

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: fresh

Eye Colour: brown

Hair Colour: light brown

Father: Walter Giles

Mother: Emma Amelia Longbottom

Siblings: Annie Elizabeth Giles (1879), Walter George Giles (1882-1883), Ernest Charles Giles (1884), John Stephen Giles (1886), Hilda May Giles (1888), Ethel Emma Giles (1893), Amy Louisa Giles (1895)

Married: Madeline (Madge) Medcraft

## Family History

Isaac Giles, born 1823 in England, arrived in Fremantle aboard the *Merope* in 1849. He married Elizabeth Ann Cheveril in 1855 and the couple had a large family.

By 1859, they were living in York, where Isaac was a licenced butcher and, from 1859 to 1861, he was the licensee of the Nineteen Mile Inn, on the York Road. Isaac died in 1878, and Elizabeth married David Hay, at Beverley, in 1885.

Walter Giles, born in 1857, was the second child of Isaac and Elizabeth. He married Emma Amelia Longbottom at Beverley in 1878, and the couple went on to have eight children. At some point, Walter worked as a teamster at the Beverley property known as "Yangedine" but, in November 1895, he was employed by the Western Australian Government Railways as a repairer at York.

Walter remained at York until 1907, when he transferred to Hicks Siding. He remained with W.A.G.R. until his retirement, shortly before his death.

## Life Story

George William Giles, born at York in 1890, was the sixth child of Walter Giles and Emma Amelia. Before the War, George worked for Sampson & Co, in Midland Junction, as a baker and carter for about three years. He then leased the business for another two years before joining the A.I.F.

George enlisted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1915 and joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. He embarked from Fremantle, aboard the HMAT A28 *Miltiades*, on the 12<sup>th</sup> December and arrived in Egypt on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1916. On the 19<sup>th</sup> April, George transferred to the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion and, on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, he finally arrived in France.

George was admitted to the No. 18 General Hospital in France on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, suffering from a venereal disease. After thirty-two days of treatment in various facilities, he was detached to duty to the 1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC Corps from Etaples on the 28<sup>th</sup> September.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1916, George was classified "P.B." which meant he could not be sent to the Front but was fit for other duties. He was transferred to permanent piquet (picket) duty in late November, following another admission to hospital in early November for defective vision. Piquet duty mostly entailed guarding and policing military facilities and hospitals.

His ill-health continued, and he was admitted to hospital on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1917, only to be diagnosed with acute rheumatism. George was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Southern General Hospital, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary Hospital, before being discharged to base duties in Weymouth.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> August, George was returned to Australia and discharged on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 1917. His records note he had nephritis and defective vision.

In 1918, George married Madeline (Madge) Medcraft in Cottesloe, and the couple went on to have two children, Eric and Mavis.

After the War, George worked in Perth as a Tram Conductor and Motor man for W.A. Tramways. Although he continued to suffer from poor health, he was still working for W.A. Tramways in 1931.

George died in Subiaco in 1944.

## Acknowledgements

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## References

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