

STEWART FAMILY



Leslie, Malcolm and Arnold Stewart

Courtesy Australia's Fighting Sons of the Empire

FAMILY HISTORY

Andrew Stewart, occupation joiner, was born in Kincardineshire, Scotland, in 1839. He married Eliza Fullarton Herd Hird/Haird/Heard around 1861 in Scotland, and the couple had two children in Scotland, James and Eliza (who died in the year of her birth), before travelling to Australia. Andrew John was born in 1864. His South Australian birth registration includes the notation "on ship." Eight more children were born in the years after the Stewart family arrived in Australia. All but the last had their births registered in Adelaide. Eliza died in Katanning in 1895 after the stillbirth of her last child.

It is not known exactly when the family arrived in York, but Andrew was listed as a carpenter in the 1894 York Post Office Directory, while his son, Andrew John, was listed as a mason. In 1886, the firm Thorn, Bower and Stewart won a contract to build the water tank at the York Government Boys' School.

Throughout the next ten years, Thorn, Bower and Stewart won major tenders for government and private construction throughout the Wheatbelt, such as the Katanning Flour Mill, Railway buildings and pumping stations. Andrew John appears to have been a partner in this business and it is more than likely that his brother, Alfred, worked as a carpenter within the company at this time.

In 1904, a listing for Stewart & Co, A.J. Builders, appeared in the Post Office Directory. At some point, Stewart went into partnership with David Deans which lasted until 1908. The 1904 Post Office Directory included the first listing of Stewart & Co, A.J. Builders. This company continued to be listed in the Post Office Directories until 1911.

Alfred died on December 23rd 1906 after a painful illness, less than four weeks after the sudden death of Andrew John's wife, Angelina, and their stillborn daughter, while Andrew was in Greenhills supervising the construction of the hotel there.

In 1907, some years after the death of his wife, Andrew Senior remarried in Katanning to Emily Freeman. He died in 1918 in York. Emily followed in 1928.



STEWART

Arnold St Clair

Service No:3227

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Arnold St Clair Stewart

Service Number: 3227

Date of Enlistment: 26/7/1915

Age at Enlistment: 23 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Agent

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914/15 Star, British War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 Ft 7 inches

Weight: 150 lbs

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Andrew John Stewart

Mother: Angelina Jane Stewart (nee White)

Siblings: Percy Andrew Victor (born 1887) Edwin Charles (born 1889), Malcolm George (born 1893), Holly Sylvia (born 1897) and Jack Herd (born 1899)

LIFE STORY

Andrew John's son, Arnold St Clair, was always known as Barney. He was the third son of Andrew and Angelina Stewart. Like other family members, Barney was educated at the York State School. He and his brothers were very talented at school. They entered the Horticultural and Industrial Exhibitions held at the Mechanics Institute in 1904 and 1905 and won the Musical and Elocutionary Section in 1905. In 1906, Barney performed at a fundraising concert for the Greenhills Anglican Church at the Hall in Greenhills with his brother, Edwin.

The Stewart family were closely involved with the Anglican Church in York. Barney passed an examination in religious knowledge for the Diocese of Perth held in December 1905. Like other male members of his family, he also played football in York.

Barney enlisted on the 26th July 1915 at Blackboy Hill, listing his occupation as Agent but also stating he had a two-year apprenticeship as a bricklayer with Stewart & Deans. Barney also listed his father as Next of Kin, noting his address as "Braeside," Talbot Brook.

Barney had been a member of the York Rifle Club for six months and had previously been rejected for service on account of constitutional weakness, but he stated that was now overcome. Three of Barney's brothers, Edwin, Malcolm and Leslie, also served in World War One.

It is unclear when Barney left Australia. On the 22nd January 1916, he was admitted to the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital in Heliopolis, dangerously ill with enteric fever. Barney spent three months convalescing in hospital before re-joining his unit at Gallipoli, but he was back in hospital by the 19th May.

In mid-1916, his unit moved to the Western Front. On the 15th April 1917, Barney was Killed in Action near Bullecourt, France.



STEWART

Leslie Norman

Service No: 2130



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Leslie Norman Stewart

Service Number: 2130

Date of Enlistment: 30/3/1916

Age at Enlistment: 20 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914/15 Star, British War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 Ft 6 inches

Weight: 136 lbs

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Andrew John Stewart

Mother: Angelina Jane Stewart (nee White)

Siblings: Percy Andrew Victor (born 1887) Edwin Charles (born 1889), Arnold St. Clair (born 1891), Malcolm George (born 1893), Holly Sylvia (born 1897) and Jack Herd (born 1899)



Life Story

Leslie Norman Stewart was born in York in 1895. Along with his brothers, sister and cousins, he attended the York State School and was awarded a book prize and a medal for attendance in 1906.

His family was closely involved with the Anglican Church in York, and Leslie won two prizes for clay modelling at events organised by the Church: the Horticultural and Industrial Exhibition at the Mechanics Institute in 1905 and the Grand Spring Fete held in 1907. He also travelled with 140 boys to the Eastern States in 1909 as part of a large touring group from the Young Australia League.

Leslie initially tried to enlist in September 1914 (Service Number 393) but was rejected as being medically unfit. He tried again in March 1916 and, this time, was accepted.

Leslie attended N.C.O. (Non-Commissioned Officer) School in Belmont before being appointed Acting Corporal in May 1916. He embarked aboard HMT *Miltiades* on the 9th August and sailed for Plymouth, England.

After attending training, Leslie proceeded overseas to France on the 4th February 1917, reverting to Private before joining the 51st Battalion in the Field on the 10th February.

By the 19th April, Leslie was suffering from influenza. He was admitted to hospital and did not re-join his unit until the 22nd August.

On the 24th April 1918, Leslie was Wounded in Action and admitted to hospital suffering a gunshot wound to his left arm. He was transferred back to England and admitted to the Central Military Hospital at Chatham.

Upon his return to health in June, Leslie reported to the Command Depot at Sutton Veny before being sent to Codford Camp, where he joined the 3rd Training Brigade on the 16th August 1918.

On the 12th December 1918, Leslie was classified a 1st Class Signaller at Hurdcott. He transferred to the Number 15 Concentration Camp at Codford on the 15th January before returning to Australia on the 28th February 1919.

Leslie returned to York and attended a Welcome Home social at the York Town Hall in June 1919. He resumed farming and, in 1920, purchased his father's property "Braeside," in the Talbot Brook area, through the Soldier Settlement Scheme.

Leslie was enrolled at "Braeside" on the 1925 electoral roll and remained in the York area until 1933. That year, however, he married Florence Jeanetta/Janetta White (nee Glasson), the widow of Frederick Robert White, in the Ashburton District.

Leslie had been working as a linesman in the north of the State and a news report, in 1934, told of his survival during a cyclone while working alone over twenty miles out of Onslow.

By 1937, the couple were living at La Grange, in the Kimberley region, where Leslie continued to work for the Post Master General's Department.

In 1938, the couple were living in Victoria Park, where they remained until at least 1949.

Leslie served in the Citizens' Military Forces during World War Two.

Leslie and Florence later moved to South Perth, where Leslie died in 1966. Florence died in 1976.



STEWART

Malcolm George

Service No:1265

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Malcolm Stewart

Service Number: 1265

Date of Enlistment: 9/9/1914

Age at Enlistment: 20 years 11 months

Civil Occupation: School Teacher

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914/15 Star, British War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 Ft 4 inches

Weight: 132 lbs

Chest Measurement: 33 ½ inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Andrew John Stewart

Mother: Angelina Jane Stewart (nee White)

Siblings: Percy Andrew Victor (born 1887) Edwin Charles (born 1889)
Arnold St. Clair (born 1891) Leslie Norman (born 1895) Holly Sylvia (born 1897) and Jack Herd (born 1899)

Life Story

Malcolm Stewart was born in 1893 and attended the York State School along with his siblings.

In 1900, he was awarded a book prize for attending school 428 times out of 428 times; Malcolm would have also received a silver medal from the Board of Education, but he had been unpunctual on just one occasion.

In 1906, Malcolm, along with other family members, took part in examinations of religious knowledge conducted by the Diocese of Perth. Malcolm obtained the Bishop's Certificate in the Intermediate Division early in the year and won a prize in another examination later that year.

In 1908, a short story written by Malcolm was published in the Western Mail Newspaper.

By 1911, Malcolm was working for the Education Department as a monitor at the Thomas Street School. He entered Claremont Teachers' College around 1912 and, during his time there, was awarded a Proficiency Certificate and a Bronze Medallion from the Royal Life Saving Society. Malcolm also played on the Training College soccer team in the 1st division of the soccer league.

By 1914, Malcolm was teaching at the Midland Junction School and, in 1915, he was granted leave from the Department to join the A.I.F.

Malcolm enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps at Blackboy Hill on the 9th September 1914 and was attached to the No.2 Australian Stationary Hospital.

On the 14th February 1915, he left Fremantle on the HMAT *Kyaria* bound for Gallipoli, where he joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on the 22nd April, just prior to the landing at Anzac Cove.

By the 2nd July, Malcolm was in hospital on Lemnos Island, suffering from diarrhoea.

At the end of August, he was admitted to the No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Cairo.

On the 4th December, Malcolm was sent to England and admitted to the War Hospital at Epsom, diagnosed with enteric (fever). It was not until the 11th July 1916 that he was finally transferred to Perham Downs Camp on Salisbury Plain to prepare for his return to France.

Malcolm proceeded to France on the 13th July 1916 and arrived at the 2nd Australian Division Base Depot at Etaples on the 17th July.

On the 23rd July, he was Taken on Strength with the 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen. He transferred to the 12th Field Ambulance on the front line on the 4th June 1917.

On the 19th October, Malcolm died of gunshot wounds to the legs and abdomen. He was twenty-four years of age.

Malcolm was buried in the Menin Gate South Military Cemetery at Ypres (Plot 3, Row J, Grave 9). The headstone has no personal details or message from the family.



STEWART

Edwin Charles

Service No: 3918

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Edwin Charles Stewart

Service Number: 3918

Date of Enlistment: 24/7/1917

Age at Enlistment: 28 years 3 months

Civil Occupation: School Master

Medals: None

Height: 5 Ft 5 inches

Weight: 140 lbs

Chest Measurement: 32 inches

Complexion: Medium

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Andrew John Stewart

Mother: Angelina Jane Stewart (nee White)

Siblings: Percy Andrew Victor (born 1887) Arnold St. Clair (born 1891)

Malcolm George (born 1893) Leslie Norman (born 1895) Holly Sylvia (born 1897) and Jack Herd (born 1899)

Life Story

Edwin Charles Stewart was born in York in 1889. He attended York School where, like his brothers, he won prizes for his achievement. Edwin performed with his brother, Arnold, at the annual school concert and a fundraising concert for the Greenhills Anglican Church in 1906. He also sang at a Grand Carnival conducted by the Anglican Ladies Guild, held at the Rectory grounds in York that same year, and passed examinations in religious knowledge held for the Diocese of Perth.

Edwin joined the Education Department in 1904 as a monitor at York School. He then attended Claremont Teachers' College in 1907/08 where he gained a Manual Training Certificate.

After an initial appointment to Torbay State School, Edwin was appointed to Northam School in 1909. He was actively involved in the community and was elected to the Vestry of St. John's Parish, where he taught manual arts classes to boys who attended the St. John's Church of England Boys' Club in Northam. Edwin was also on the committee of the Eastern Districts Floral, Art, Music & Industrial Society.

Appointed to the Claremont Practising School attached to the Claremont Teachers' College, Edwin passed his Bronze Medallion with the Royal Life-saving Society and received the Award of Merit as an Instructor in 1913.

He became the Secretary of the State Schools' Association in 1914 and continued to be associated with the Teachers' Union, where he served on committees and sub-committees.

In 1914, Edwin transferred to Geraldton as the Head Teacher of the Geraldton Continuation Classes. During his time in Geraldton, the number of students enrolled in those classes increased from 900 to over 3000 as he worked closely with employers, students and parents to offer more classes in skills that were considered needed within the local community.

Edwin continued to contribute to the community in Geraldton; he was on the committee for the Geraldton Aquatic Sports and a committee member of the Geraldton Mechanics' Institute.

At some point in 1916, Edwin found time to marry Olive Pearl Box in Perth.

In 1917, Edwin was given leave without pay to enable him to enlist in the A.I.F. He enlisted at Geraldton in July 1917, then travelled to Blackboy Hill for training.

During a medical examination, a doctor noticed a varicole (varicocele) and, when Edwin refused to have an operation to correct the problem, he was discharged as medically unfit for service.

Edwin returned to the Education Department. Between 1918 and 1923 he held several different positions; officer in charge of Claremont Technical Classes, Head Teacher at Jolimont State School; Head Teacher at Claremont Practising School and Head Teacher at Jolimont State School.

In 1924, Edwin was appointed Headmaster at Katanning State School, where he remained until the end of 1928. Edwin then transferred to Norwood State School in Mt Lawley, before he was transferred back to Geraldton to be Headmaster of the High School in 1931.

In 1937, Edwin was appointed Headmaster of Fremantle Boys' High School. He remained in this position until his retirement on 1952.

Available records show Edwin and Olive had two daughters, Joan Margaret (born 1916) and Shirley Rae (born 1923).

Edwin died in Nedlands in 1955.



STEWART

Alex

Service No: 356



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Alex Stewart

Service Number: 356

Date of Enlistment: 17/8/1914

Age at Enlistment: 21 years 1 month

Civil Occupation: Butcher

Medals: 1914/15 Star, British War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 Ft 7 inches

Weight: 144 ½ lbs

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Fair

Father: Alfred Stewart

Mother: Rebecca Hustler

Siblings: Ethel b.1889, Margaret Eliza b.1891, Cecil George b. 1895, Annie Sophia Collier b.1895, Elma/Alma b.1899, Maurice Vernon b.1901

Married: 1. Julia May Mosley, 2. Berlinda May Diver

Children: Edna May, Alfred Cecil, Unknown child

Life Story

Alfred Stewart was the brother of Andrew John Stewart. Born in South Australia, he married Rebecca Hustler in York in 1888 and they went on to have seven children.

Alex Stewart (Alick on his birth registration) their second son, was born in York in 1893.

A cousin of Arnold, Leslie and Malcolm Stewart, Alex attended York State School and, by 1914, was working as a butcher for the Swan Meat Company in Guildford.

On the 17th August 1914, Alex enlisted at Midland and was Taken on Strength with the 11th Battalion, 3rd Brigade Infantry. He also married Julia May Mosley in October of that year.

Alex left Australia on the 26th October 1914 to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

On the 2nd June 1915, he was admitted to hospital in the Dardenelles suffering from dysentery. A medical report, completed prior to Alex' s discharge from the army, noted that he had been buried in a trench on the same date.

Transferred to the 1st Australian General Hospital in Heliopolis, Alex was discharged on the 28th June and transferred to Helouan Hospital. Around this time, Alex's mother sent a telegram to the Department of Defence, having heard a rumour that he had been killed in action. The rumour was untrue.

In November 1915, Alex spent another month in hospital being treated for venereal disease, a common affliction for soldiers serving overseas, before returning to duty.

On the 5th July 1916, he was Taken on Strength as a storeman with the Australian Depot Stores at Ghezireh.

Two months' later, Alex boarded ship in Alexandria, bound for England, where he marched into the 3rd Training Battalion at Perham Down on the 9th October 1916.

On the 30th October, Alex transferred to the Australian Post Office Corps.

He was promoted to Extra Regimental Corporal on the 1st June 1918 before being returned to Australia for submarine guard duty on the 15th September 1918.

Alex attended a reception for Returned Soldiers at the York Town Hall before he was finally discharged from the army on the 11th January 1919, by which time he was living in the Fremantle area.

In early February, the Department of Repatriation approved a loan of thirty-five pounds to purchase household furniture for a property at fifty-five Holdsworth Street, Fremantle. Another loan application, to buy a half-share in J.G. Riley's butcher shop in South Fremantle, was rejected as the Department considered his War service did not prevent him from pursuing his pre-War occupation. A third loan, to purchase butchering tools to pursue his occupation, was approved by the Department.

By 1922, Alex and his family were living in Lord Street with his occupation listed as butcher. The couple had two children by this time: Edna May, born in 1915, and Alfred Cecil, born in 1919.

In 1929, Julia sued for divorce. By this time, Alex was living in James Street, Perth, and Julia was living in Dudley Street, Midland Junction. The newspapers reported that the couple had three children.

In 1933, Alex remarried, to Berlinda May Diver, and the couple moved to Claremont.

He died on the 17th October 1937 in Perth Hospital from ruptured rectum and acute dilatation of stomach. His death was referred to the Department of Repatriation, but it was concluded that the death was not related to his War service.



STEWART

Cecil George

Service No: 936

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Cecil George Stewart/Stuart

Service Number: 936

Date of Enlistment: 18/8/14

Age at Enlistment: 19 years 10 months

Civil Occupation: Butcher

Medals: 1914/15 Star, British War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 Ft 7 ½ inches

Weight: 142 lbs

Chest Measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Fair

Father: Alfred Stewart

Mother: Rebecca Hustler

Siblings: Ethel b.1889, Margaret Eliza b.1891, Alex b. 1893, Annie Sophia Collier b.1895, Elma/Alma b.1899, Maurice Vernon b.1901

Married: 1. Jean Beattie Harlock, 2. Muriel Annie Sophia Sleeth

Children: Neil Charles Stewart

Life Story

Cecil George Stewart was born in York in 1895. He probably attended York State School with his brother, Alex, and cousins Arnold, Leslie and Malcolm Stewart.

At some point Cecil made his way to the Eastern States and was working as a butcher by the time he enlisted at Broadmeadows, in Victoria, on the 18th August 1914. Interestingly, his name is spelt Stuart on his enlistment papers.

Cecil joined the 8th Battalion and soon found himself at Gallipoli. On the 8th May 1915, he suffered a gunshot wound to the heel and was admitted to hospital in Malta.

Cecil re-joined his unit on the 3rd June but returned to hospital at the end of July diagnosed with diarrhoea and then dysentery. He was transferred to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis and then to the 3rd Australian General Hospital on the 20th August.

On the 8th December, Cecil was transferred to the Australian Base Depot at Zeitoun. A month later, he was admitted to the 17th General Hospital suffering from venereal disease but was discharged to duty on the 26th January 1916.

On the 17th February, Cecil reported briefly to the No. 2 Training Battalion in Zeitoun, before he transferred to the Australian Base Depot Post Office in Alexandria on the 12th March 1916.

Cecil remained with the Post Office until he embarked overseas with the Army Pay Corps on the 17th June. On arrival in France, he was immediately admitted to the 2nd Australian General Hospital at Marseilles with enteritis.

On the 10th July, Cecil was transferred to the 2nd Command Depot at Rouen. From there, he was returned to London and transferred to the Base Post office on the 3rd August.

Cecil received a Court Martial on the 15th May 1917, because he failed to notify authorities he had seen another soldier, Private C.J. Doddy (Service No: 336), whom he knew to be a deserter. Cecil was found guilty and sentenced to four days in detention. He also had to forfeit fifty-nine days' pay.

Cecil was in trouble again the following month, when he spent four days in custody and had to forfeit two days' pay for being Absent Without Leave.

On the 20th June, Cecil was sent overseas to France to re-join the 8th Battalion in the Field. He was appointed Lance Corporal in August then promoted to Corporal on the 15th October 1917.

Nine days' later, Cecil was Wounded in Action while fighting in Belgium. He received a severe gunshot wound to the right chest and fractured ribs. Cecil was transferred to England and admitted to the 5th General Hospital at Portsmouth before being sent to the 1st Australian General Hospital. He was finally discharged at the end of December and returned to Western Australia, where he was discharged from the Army on the 23rd April 1918.

Cecil made his way back to Victoria, where he married Jean Beattie Harlock in 1919. The couple set up home in Box Hill, where Cecil worked as a butcher as late as 1924.

At some point, the couple split and divorced and, by 1930, Cecil was living with Muriel Annie Sophia Sleeth in North Ryde, Sydney.

In 1931, Muriel's name first appeared on the Narrabeen electoral roll with the surname Stewart for the first time, but the couple were not married, as Muriel had married Victor Robert Collier in 1925 and he was not granted a divorce until 1949. As Muriel's whereabouts at that time were unknown, the divorce was uncontested. Cecil and Muriel lived together in N.S.W. until her death in 1972. Cecil died in 1975.

Family records note that a child, Neil Charles Stewart, was born to Muriel and Cecil around 1925.

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