

**Dungiven Parish Churchyard,
Dungiven, Londonderry, Northern Ireland
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

W. M. MORRISON

19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 30

William Morrison STEWART

William Morrison Stewart was born at Gelvin, Limavady, Londonderry, Northern Ireland on 23rd December, 1886 to parents George & Margaret Alice Stewart (nee Morrison).

The 1901 Irish Census listed William M. Stewart as a 14 year old, at School living with his family at Ballyness, Gelvin, Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The head of the household was listed as George Stewart Senior (Retired Farmer, aged 88). William's parents' were listed as George Stewart (Farmer, aged 46) & Margaret A. Stewart (aged 40). William was the eldest of 8 children listed on this Census – William then George A. Stewart (At School, aged 12), Isaac Stewart (At School, aged 11), Lillian Stewart (At School, aged 9), Hugh Stewart (At School, aged 8), Margaret Alice Stewart (At School, aged 6), Robert M. Stewart (aged 4) & Kathleen E. Stewart (aged 1). Also listed were 3 servants – Daniel McClosky (Farm servant, aged 50) & James McClosky (Farm Servant, aged 18) & Saria Feeny (Domestic servant, aged 16).

The 1911 England Census recorded William Morrison Stewart as a 24 year old, Draper's Assistant. He was one of over three hundred people listed as Draper's Assistants, Draper's Clerks, Draper's Porters working for Marshall & Snelgrove Ltd of 16 Marylebone Lane, London. The Postal address was listed as 334/348 Oxford Street. William Stewart stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been apprenticed with Marshall & Snelgrove (a department store on the north side of Oxford Street, London) for 4 years.

A "William Stewart", Clerk, aged 26, from Ireland was a passenger on *Afric*. He had boarded at the port of Liverpool & arrived at Sydney on 1st October, 1912. William Stewart was intending to stay at the Y.M.C.A. Sydney.

William Stewart was a 28 year old, single, Draper from Ballyness, Dungwell, Londonderry, Northern Ireland when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 15th February, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion "B" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 654 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. Stewart, Ballyness, Dungwell, Londonderry, N. Ireland. (Dungwell should be Dungiven).

Private William Stewart embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 25th June, 1915.

William Morrison Stewart proceeded to join the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 16th August, 1915.

Private William Morrison Stewart was promoted to Lance Corporal on 29th October, 1915 while posted at the Gallipoli Peninsula vice Blumer promoted.

Lance Corporal William Morrison Stewart disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 7th January, 1916.

Lance Corporal William Morrison Stewart was promoted to Sergeant on 24th January, 1916 while posted at Canal Zone.

Sergeant William Morrison Stewart was sent to School of Instruction on 5th February, 1916 & returned to duty on 28th February, 1916.

Sergeant William Morrison Stewart proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 18th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th March, 1916.

Sergeant William Morrison Stewart was promoted to Second Lieutenant on 19th August, 1916.

Second Lieutenant William Morrison Stewart was sent to Grenade School on 10th October, 1916 & returned to his Unit on 16th October, 1916.

19th Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. The 19th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 21 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Pope's Hill.

After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 19th Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the A.I.F.

(Battalion Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Second Lieutenant William Morrison Stewart was killed in action on 14th November, 1916 in France.

Private A. G. Sayle, No. 4766, 18th Battalion (late 19th Battalion) signed a statement regarding 2/Lt. W. M. Stewart's death which read: "*This Officer was killed by a piece of shell. He was hit on the head and died instantly and his body laid in the trench all day. We were ordered to move further along the trench and I did not see his body again and could not say whether he was buried. At FLERS about 7 am on 14th November, 1916.*"

War Diary – 19th Battalion

France near Flers 14th November, 1916

6.45am – Attack by Composite 5th Brigade 19th Battn, 25th & 26th Battalions 7th Brigade and by British 149th Brigade on GIRD TRENCHES N. of Eaucourt, L'Abbeys and Flers.

19th Battn. went into action 451 all ranks.

19th Battn & part of 5th Northumberland Fusiliers took & consolidated part of Enemy's first line. Attacks of 25th & 26th Battalion on the Right & of British on left of 5.N.F. failed.

19th Battalion Casualties 12 Officers 369 O.R.

(War Diary Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Second Lieutenant William Morrison Stewart is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Second Lieutenant William Morrison Stewart is named on his parents' private headstone, along with his younger brother – Private George A. Stewart, in Dungiven Parish Churchyard, Dungiven, Londonderry, N. Ireland.

Newspaper Article – Belfast News-Letter, Belfast, Antrim, Northern Ireland – 28 November, 1916 :

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

LIEUTENANT W. M. STEWART, Australian Imperial Force, killed in action, was the eldest son of Mr George Stewart, Ballyness, Dungiven, County Derry. He enlisted in the ranks in Sydney, and served as a non-commissioned officer on the Gallipoli Peninsula, subsequently proceeding to France, where he was promoted to a commission. A brother of deceased, who was serving with the Canadians, was killed in action in June, 1916, and two other brothers have been wounded.

From the New South Wales, Australia Will Books:

"82902 Stewart, William Morrison late of Neutral Bay Draper (and of the AIF Forces)

This is the last Will and Testament of me William Morrison Stewart of "Kurraba House" Kurraba Road Neutral Bay near Sydney in the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia Draper I hereby revoke all former testamentary dispositions made by me and declare this is to be my last will. I appoint James Harrison of "Kurraba House" Kurraba Road Neutral Bay aforesaid Warehouseman and Rowland Harry Shorter of 14 Moore Street Sydney aforesaid Solicitor Executors of this my Will. I devise and bequeath all my real and personal property whatsoever and

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wheresoever and of what quality nature of kind soever unto my father George Stewart of "Ballyness" Dungiven County Londonderry Ireland Farmer absolutely I declare that any Executor of this my Will being a Solicitor may be employed to prove my Will and act general thereunder and shall be entitled to charge and be paid all professional and other charges for any business or act done in connection with my estate including any act which an Executor not being a Solicitor could have done personally. In witness whereof (W. M. Stewart) I have hereunto set my hand at Sydney this twelfth day of March one thousand nine hundred and fifteen. Wm. M. Stewart

Signed by the said William Morrison Stewart as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us both present at the same time who at his request in his sight and presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses. W. Yebb Clerk to Rowland H. Shorter Solicitor Sydney James F. Waker Clerk to R. H. Shorter Solicitor Sydney.

23rd November 1917 On this date Probate of the Will of the said deceased was granted to James Harrison of Kurraba Road, Neutral Bay, Warehouseman and Rowland Henry Shorter of 14 Moore Street Solicitor the Executors named in the said Will Testator died in France 14th November 1916. Estate sworn at £308-10-7 (R. H. Shorter)

A War Pension was claimed by George Stewart, father of the late 2nd Lieut. William M. Stewart but was later withdrawn.

A parcel containing the personal effects of the late 2/Lieut. W. M. Stewart was sent on 3rd March, 1917 to his father - Mr George Stewart, Ballyness, Dungiven, Londonderry, N. Ireland. The parcel contained: Leather Vest, Shirt, Pyjama Pants, 6 Prs Socks, Correspondence, Military Books, Novel, Note Book, Maps.

Second Lieutenant William Morrison Stewart was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Second Lieutenant Stewart's father – Mr George Stewart, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant William Morrison Stewart, aged 30, of 19th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Margaret A. Stewart, of Ballyness, Dungiven, Londonderry, Ireland. His brother George Alexander Stewart also fell.

Second Lieutenant W. M. Stewart is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 90.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. M. Stewart is remembered on the Limavady War Memorial located at the junction of Catherine Street and Roe Mill Road, Limavady, Northern Ireland.



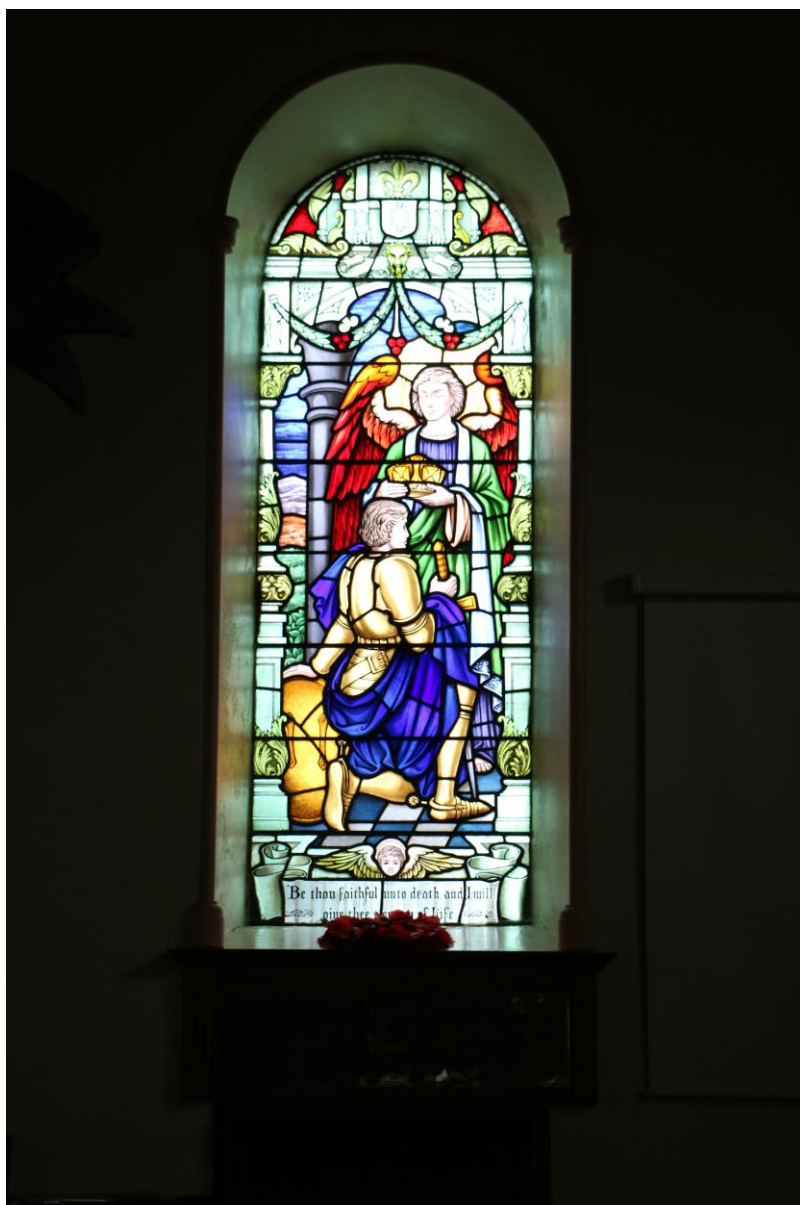
Limavady War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online – Ray Spence)



William M. Stewart & his brother George A. Stewart (who is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium) are both remembered on a Plaque for those who gave their lives in the Great War. The Plaque is located in Dungiven Presbyterian Church below a Memorial Window dedicated to those who lost their lives



Dungiven Presbyterian Church (Photo by Kenneth Allen) & **Memorial Window** (Photo courtesy of Clive Glass)





Plaque below Memorial Window in Dungiven Presbyterian Church (Photo courtesy of Clive Glass)

(37 pages of Second Lieutenant William Morrison Stewart'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

NEW SOUTH WALES

KILLED IN ACTION

2nd Lieut. W. M. Stewart, Ireland

(*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 December, 1916)

Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France

Villers-Bretonneux Memorial stands within Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery.

Villers-Bretonneux became famous in 1918, when the German advance on Amiens ended in the capture of the village by their tanks and infantry on 23 April. On the following day, the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, with units of the 8th and 18th Divisions, recaptured the whole of the village and on 8 August 1918, the 2nd and 5th Australian Divisions advanced from its eastern outskirts in the Battle of Amiens.

The memorial is the Australian National Memorial erected to commemorate all Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during the First World War, to their dead, and especially to name those of the dead whose graves are not known.

The Australian servicemen named in this register died in the battlefields of the Somme, Arras, the German advance of 1918 and the Advance to Victory. The memorial stands within Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, which was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from other burial grounds in the area and from the battlefields. The names are engraved on the memorial in order of battalion, then alphabetically under rank.

Both the cemetery and memorial were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The memorial was unveiled by King George VI on 22 July 1938.

DISCOVERY OF REMAINS AND ADDITIONAL COMMEMORATIONS

Of the 10,982 names displayed at the unveiling of the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial the burial places of many have since been identified and this continues to this day; 6 of these being among the significant discovery of 250 burials which culminated in the first new Commission cemetery in 50 years being dedicated in July 2010 as Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Cemetery.

All these discoveries are now commemorated by individual headstones in the cemeteries where their remains lie and their details recorded in the relevant cemetery registers; their names will be removed from this memorial in due course.

Time has also revealed more names not previously notified which have now been added to this memorial and register.

There are now 10,738 Australian servicemen officially commemorated by this memorial and named within the register. (*Information & photo from CWGC*)



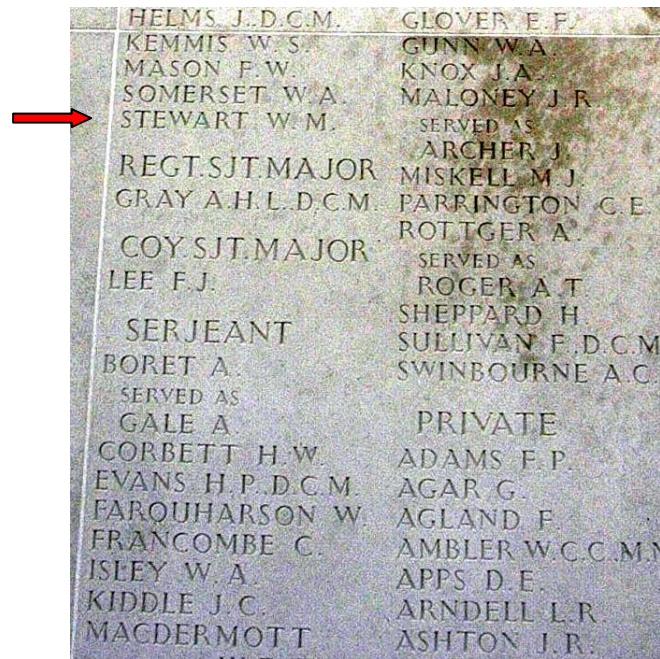
Villers-Bretonneux Memorial (*Photo by Marc Roussel*)



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial with the names of the fallen engraved on walls surrounding the centre Tower
(Photo by Carcharoth)



On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.



Villers-Bretonnuex Memorial showing Second Lieutenant W. M. Stewart's name

(Photo by AuntieJ. Find a Grave)



The Cross of Sacrifice within the Villers-Bretonnuex Military Cemetery with the Villers-Bretonnuex Memorial in the background *(Photo by Mike Fitzsimon)*

Photo of Lieutenant William M. Stewart's name on the family headstone in Dungiven Parish Churchyard, Dungiven, Londonderry, Northern Ireland.



(Photo courtesy of Morrison Stewart)

Erected In Memory Of

GEORGE STEWART, Of Ballyness Dungiven

Died 4th December 1933, Aged 81 Years

His Wife MARGARET ALICE STEWART

Died 13th November 1958, Aged 97 Years

And Their Two Sons

PRIVATE GEORGE A. STEWART

Killed in Action Ypres Belgium,

3rd June 1916, Aged 28 Years

LIEUT. WILLIAM M. STEWART

Killed in Action Somme France

14th November 1916, Aged 30 Years



Dungiven Parish Churchyard *(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)*