

**Sighthill Cemetery,  
Glasgow, Scotland  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3767 PRIVATE**

**W. STEWART**

**2ND AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS**

**1ST OCTOBER, 1918 Age 28**

*Only Those Who Have Lost  
Know The Bitterness Of War*

## William STEWART

William Stewart was born at Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland in 1890 to parents Samuel & Agnes Stewart (nee McIlhagga).

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded William Stewart as a 5 month old, living with his family at 65 East John Street, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Samuel Stewart (Baker, aged 31, born Greenock, Renfrewshire) & Agnes Stewart (aged 31, born Greenock, Renfrewshire). Also listed was William's sister – Agnes Stewart (aged 2, born Glasgow, Lanarkshire).

William Stewart attended Annfield Public School, Glasgow, Scotland.

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded William Stewart as a 10 year old Scholar, living with his family at 6 Annfield Street, Glasgow, Lanarkshire. His parents were listed as Samuel Stewart (Baker, aged 41) & Agnes Stewart (aged 41). William was one of four children listed on this Census – Elizabeth Stewart (Spicer, aged 18, born Greenock, Renfrewshire), Agnes Stewart (Scholar, aged 12) then William & Samuel Stewart (aged 2 months, born Glasgow, Lanarkshire).

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour - William Stewart came to Australia when he was 20 years old.

William Stewart was aged 23 years & 10 months, single & a Labourer from Mary Street, Grenville, South Australia when he enlisted at Morphettville, South Australia on 29th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 745 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr S. Stewart, of Forest Street, Mile End, Glasgow, Scotland. William Stewart had a tattoo on both arms listed as distinctive marks.

Private William Stewart was posted to "D" Company, 10th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. on 29th August, 1914. He was transferred to Transport Headquarters – Details on 1st September, 1914.

Private William Stewart embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Saldanah* (A12) on 21st October, 1914 with 10th Infantry Battalion – Headquarters.

Private William Stewart was admitted to No. 1 General Hospital, Heliopolis on 17th April, 1915 with Chronic Rheumatism. A Medical Report was completed on Private William Stewart on 24th June, 1915 while at No. 1 Australian General Hospital. He was listed as suffering from Rheumatism which had first occurred in Scotland in 1911. He stated he had an attack in Scotland in 1911 & was ill for 4 months. He was "*fairly free from pain until March 7 – 1915 when he was admitted to Hospital in Lemnos & was suffering from pain in knees, ankles & shoulders. Was sent back & admitted to 1st AGH in April where he has remained ever since.*" The Medical Board decided that the condition was not permanent & the probable minimum duration would be 2 months. Pte Stewart embarked on *Marquette* from Port Said for England on 26th June, 1915.

Private William Stewart was admitted to Devonport Hospital on 7th July, 1915 with Rheumatic Endocarditis.

A Medical Report was completed on Private William Stewart on 9th August, 1915 at Harefield Hospital, England. Pte Stewart was listed as suffering from Endocarditis & Heart Failure which had first occurred at the end of March, 1915 at Lemnos. The Medical Board recommended that Private William Stewart be discharged as unfit for War Service and for service at home.

A Medical Report was completed on Private William Stewart on 30th August, 1915 at Australian & New Zealand Depot, Weymouth, Dorset, England. He was listed as suffering from Rheumatic Fever & Carditis which had first commenced in March, 1915 at Lemnos Island. The Medical Board recommended that Private William Stewart be discharged to Australia as unfit for Active Service.

Private William Stewart embarked for Australia from Plymouth, England on *Suvic* on 8th October, 1915 & arrived in Australia on 19th November, 1915.

A Medical Report was completed on Private William Stewart on 20th November, 1915 at No. 7 Australian General Hospital. Pte Stewart was listed as Driver, No. 745 with 10th Battalion & his previous occupation was listed as Baker.

Pte Stewart was listed as suffering from Endocarditis which had commenced in March, 1915 at Lemnos Island. He had been "*well until January, 1915 when pains came in joints occasionally, got worse until entered Lemnos Hospital. Has been in Hospital in Egypt & England. Cannot go any distance without getting out of breath.*" The Medical Board's opinion was the case of the disability was from Rheumatism as a result of ordinary military service & that he be discharged as permanently unfit. Pte Stewart was discharged from No. 7 Australian General Hospital on 3rd March, 1916.

Private William Stewart was medically discharged on 16th June, 1916.

A Pension had been granted to Driver William Stewart, 754, Hdqtrs, 10th Battalion of Mary Street, Glanville of £3/2/- fortnightly from 17th June, 1916. This was cancelled from 1st February, 1917 as "*claimant now being capable of earning a livelihood.*"

William Stewart was a 26 year old, single, Baker from Adelaide, South Australia when he re-enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 6th January, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3767 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Agnes Stewart, of Forest Street, Mile End, Glasgow, Scotland. William Stewart stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 1 year & 2941 days with 10th Battalion, A.I.F. & had been discharged as medically unfit. (His father recorded on information for the Roll of Honour that his son had served with Glasgow Territorial Battalion (R.F.A.)) No distinctive marks were listed.

Private William Stewart was posted to "B" Company, at Mitcham for recruit training on 6th January, 1917. He was transferred to Dental Unit on 15th January, 1917 then transferred to "C" Company on 23rd February, 1917. Pte Stewart was transferred to Tunnellers Reinforcements on 1st April, 1917 then transferred to Miners Reinforcements at Seymour on 27th April, 1917 as Sapper. Sapper Stewart was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 2nd Pioneers on 7th May, 1917 & his rank reverted to Private.

Private William Stewart embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 11th May, 1917 with the 2nd Pioneer Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th July, 1917.

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.

Private William Stewart was marched in to Pioneers Training Battalion at Fovant, England from Australia on 19th July, 1917.

Private William Stewart proceeded overseas to France from Pioneers Training Battalion at Sutton Veny on 27th December, 1917 via Southampton.

Private William Stewart was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 28th December, 1917. He proceeded to join his Unit from A.I.B.D. on 30th December, 1917 & was taken on strength with 2nd Pioneer Battalion in Belgium on 1st January, 1918.

## **2nd Pioneer Battalion**

The 2nd Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 2nd Division. Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

*(Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)*

Private William Stewart was sent sick to Hospital on 12th June, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) then transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Stewart was transferred to Ambulance Train on 14th June, 1918 & admitted to 54th General Hospital, France on

15th June, 1918 – P.U.O. Pte Stewart was diagnosed with Trench Fever & embarked for England on 4th July, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

Private William Stewart was admitted to (St. John's) Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England on 4th July, 1918 –cause of illness N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Pte Stewart was discharged from Hospital on 7th August, 1918.

Private William Stewart was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset from Hospital on 7th August, 1918.

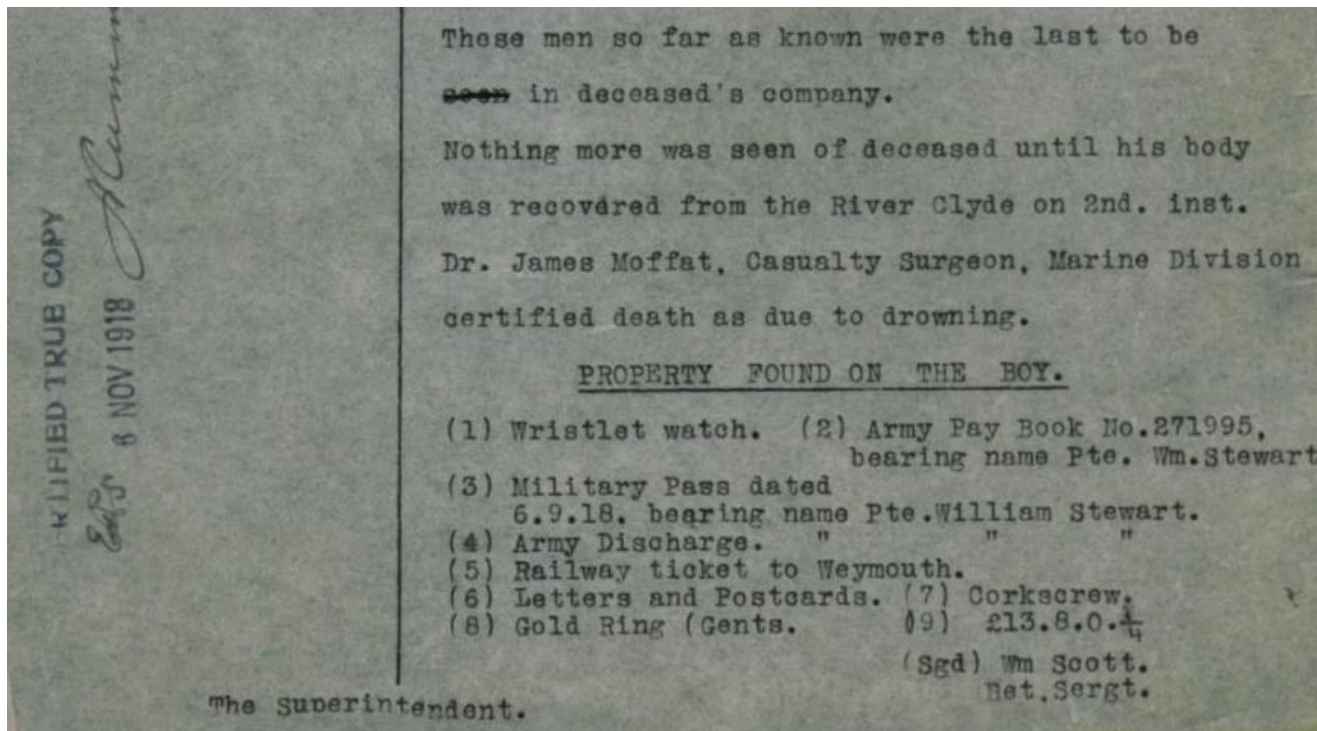
Private William Stewart was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 27th August, 1918 from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth.

Private William Stewart was reported as A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from Hurdcott on 20th September, 1918.

Private William Stewart's body was found in River Clyde near Springfield Quay, Glasgow Harbour, Scotland on 2nd October, 1918. It was presumed he died due to drowning on 1st October, 1918.

Glasgow Police Report – Marine Division 2nd October, 1918:

<u>SUBJECT.</u>	<u>CITY OF GLASGOW POLICE.</u>
Private No. 3767. WILLIAM STEWART. 2nd. Pioneers. Australian Imperial Force.	Marine Division.
(Deceased)	2nd. October 1918.
Confirmation of telegram.	Anent the person named on the margin whose body was recovered from the River Clyde, near to Springfield Quay, Glasgow Harbour at 5 a.m. on Wednesday 2nd. Oct. 1918 by Constable John Reilly of this Division. I have to report that on 8th. Sept. 1918 Deceased arrived at 4 Forrest St. Mile End, Glasgow from Weymouth to spend his sick furlough with his parents, who reside there. He was then in the best of spirits.
Forward to The Commander A.I.F. 88. Warwick Square S.W.1.	About 8.30 p.m. on 16th. Sept. 1918 Deceased and two friends named James Adamson and Robert Morrison residing at 4 Forrest St. and 74, Steven St. Glasgow respectively were taking a stroll along the Irongate, when Deceased met an Australian
(Sgd) J. Davidson. Supt.	soldier (name unknown) who stopped and spoke to deceased.
City of London Police. 2nd. Oct. 1918. Marine Division.	Adamson and Morrison carried on as far as Jamaica Street, and on returning to the Irongate deceased and the Australian soldier was nowhere to be seen.



Private William Stewart was buried in Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland on 7th October, 1918 – Plot number 1/J. 69 (in the Family Grave Section). Private William Stewart has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte William Stewart - *Coffin was polished Elm. The deceased soldier was interred privately by relatives resident at Forest Street, Mile End, Glasgow. A representative of the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London attended.* Names of relatives & friends present at the Funeral – Mother – Mrs A. Stewart, Father, Brothers & Sisters.

Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow closed for burials in 1954 and at that time the Commonwealth War Grave Commission headstones were removed from the actual graves as they could no longer be properly maintained and re-located in Eastwood Cemetery, Glasgow. The stones were grouped in a small Garden of Remembrance at Eastwood Cemetery.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has recently advised “*It is now possible for us to commemorate him back in his actual place of burial, which is the 'Sighthill' location. A new headstone is in the process of being prepared, and is currently awaiting engraving, as of 16 May, 2017.*” “*The memorial tablet in Glasgow (Eastwood) will be removed once the headstone is back in position on his grave*” at Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.

Mrs J. Lamont, Mary Street, Glanville, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 19th November, 1918 referring to the Casualty List 442 which had the name of “*No. 3767 Private W. Stewart, Glasgow Drowned.*” Mrs Lamont stated that “*as this is the name and number of my brother No. 3767 Private William Stewart, No. 2 Company Pioneers Training Battalion Australian Imperial Force. I think the above notice refers to him. As his mother who is next of kin lives in Glasgow probably particulars have been forwarded to her but if you have any information regarding the above I would respectfully ask if you could possibly let me know what they are ...*” Base Records replied to Mrs Lamont stating that the only information at present to hand concerning him is that he was found drowned in the Clyde Glasgow on 2nd October, 1918. Any further information when received would be transmitted to his mother in Scotland & also to her should she again enquire subsequent to their receipt.

Private William Stewart requested in his Will, dated 1st May, 1917, that in the event of his death all of his Civil and Military Property be given to his mother – Agnes Stewart, Forrest Street, Mile End, Glasgow, Scotland.

Private William Stewart was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Stewart's father - Mr S. Stewart, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

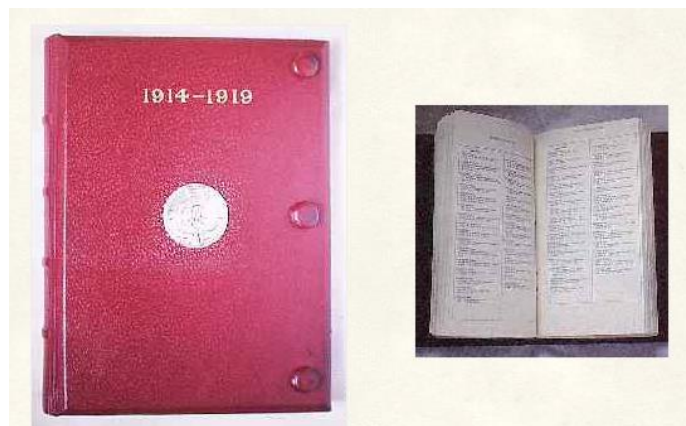
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Stewart – service number 3767, aged 28, of 2nd Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Samuel and Agnes Stewart, of 4 Forrest St., Mile End, Glasgow.

W. Stewart is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



**The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.**

*(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)*



Private W. 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 173.



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

W. Stewart is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)

(113 pages of Private William 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**

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HEROES**

#### **CASUALTY LIST No. 442**

Died other Causes

Pte W. Stewart, Scotland, drowned

*(Port Pirie Recorder, South Australia – 19 November, 1918)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS**

##### **DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY**

Private W. Stewart, brother of Mrs J. Lamont, Mary-street, Glanville, has been drowned in the River Clyde, Glasgow.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 December, 1918) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 December, 1918)*

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### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

STEWART – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private W. Stewart (Scotty), who was accidentally drowned October 2, 1918.

There are griefs that cannot find comfort,  
And wounds that can never be healed;  
There are sorrows so deep in a sister's heart,  
That cannot be half revealed.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Bessie and James Lamont, and nieces, Agnes, Bessie and Maggie.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 October, 1919)*

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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. 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)*

Private W. Stewart does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Only Those Who Have Lost Know The Bitterness Of War*



## Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland

Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow contains 115 Commonwealth War Graves – 96 from World War 1 & 19 from World War 2.

The CWGC headstones from Sighthill & Southern Necropolis cemeteries were removed from the actual graves as they could no longer be properly maintained by the CWGC when the cemeteries closed in March 1954.

A small garden of remembrance was created in Eastwood Cemetery, Glasgow with the removed headstones.



Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow (Photos from CWGC)



## Eastwood Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow (Eastwood) Old and New Cemetery is a large cemetery in the south part of Glasgow the cemetery is actually divided in two separate parts an old section and a new section they are both on Thornliebank Road on opposite sides of the road separated by a distance of 500 meters.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Glasgow was one of the ports of embarkation for the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and several military hospitals opened in the city during the First World War, including the 3rd and 4th Scottish General (1,200 beds each), and the Merryflats War Hospital (500 beds). Battalions of a number of Scottish regiments had their headquarters at Glasgow during both wars, most notably the Highland Light Infantry. The Clydeside shipyards were targeted by German bombers during the Blitz, and Glasgow suffered a particularly ferocious attack on the night of 13/14 March 1941 when many civilians and servicemen were killed.

Glasgow (Eastwood) Old and New Cemetery contains 47 scattered burials of the First World War and 100 from the Second World War. **In addition there is a small garden of remembrance where servicemen from both wars buried in Glasgow's Sighthill and Southern Necropolis Cemeteries are commemorated. The memorial consists of headstones removed from the actual graves, which could no longer be properly maintained when the cemeteries closed in March 1954.**

There are now 153 servicemen and women of the First World War and 121 from the Second World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.



**Cross of Sacrifice, Eastwood Cemetery** (Photos from CWGC)



**In addition there is a small garden of remembrance where servicemen from both wars buried in Glasgow's Sighthill and Southern Necropolis Cemeteries are commemorated. The memorial consists of headstones removed from the actual graves, which could no longer be properly maintained when the cemeteries closed in March 1954.**

**NOTE: The following is an extract of communications from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding Private William Stewart:**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has recently advised *“It is now possible for us to commemorate him back in his actual place of burial, which is the 'Sighthill' location. A new headstone is in the process of being prepared, and is currently awaiting engraving, as of 16 May, 2017.”* *“The memorial tablet in Glasgow (Eastwood) will be removed once the headstone is back in position on his grave”* at Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.

**UPDATE May, 2019:**

*The CWGC Regional Manager, Scotland has advised that the grave for Private William Stewart is now marked with a CWGC headstone in Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.*

Photo of Private W. Stewart's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Garden of Remembrance in Eastwood Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.



Photo of Private W. Stewart's new Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone back in Sighthill Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland. (Photo courtesy of Iain Anderson, Regional Manager, Scotland, CWGC)



(Photo taken May, 2019)