

# WWI Primary Source

Accession Number 1989.1166: This is an excerpt from diaries and memoirs held by the National Army Museum Te Mata Toa and protected by copyright law

Labourer, Wellington, NZ

Sergeant William Bryce Stewart

Service Number: 26/627

4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade

Served: Egypt, France

Died of wounds, 28 May 1916

Buried at Armentieres, France



Look for further information:

Papers Past ([natlib.govt.nz](http://natlib.govt.nz)) | Online Cenotaph - Auckland War Memorial Museum ([aucklandmuseum.com](http://aucklandmuseum.com))  
Archives New Zealand ([archives.govt.nz](http://archives.govt.nz))

Reinforcement: 4th Batt R.B.

# HISTORY-SHEET.

[B.R.—1]

Unit.	Rank	Surname.	Christian Name.	No.
<u>D. Coy 4th Batt 3rd Bn. 4 (R) B.</u>	<u>L. Serg.</u>	<u>Stewart</u>	<u>William Bryce.</u>	<u>26/627.</u>

Occupation: Labourer. Religion: Stk Melbourne  
 Last employer: Woods & Co. Cornsack Albany St. 6 of Christ Last New Zealand address: 12 Grosvenor Street  
Dunedin 26 Newtown Avenue  
Wagon

Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand):  
Mrs J. Stewart. (Wife)  
~~12 Grosvenor Street~~ 26 Newtown Avenue  
~~Dunedin~~ Newtown  
Wagon

Service ...	Country or Troopship.	Date from	Date to	Total.		Initials of Officer making Entry.	Home Service.	
				Years	Days		Years	Days
MEDAL	<u>R. U.</u>	<u>12.18.15</u>	<u>4.2.16</u>					
	<u>Foreign</u>	<u>5.2.16</u>						
	<u>ACTION COMPLETE.</u>							
		<u>8/OCT/1973</u>						

Surname: STEWART Christian names: WILLIAM, BRYCE Rank on discharge: L'Sgt Highest rank held: L'Sgt Reg. No. 26/627  
 Address: Highest rank held in theatre of war: L'Sgt  
 Rank shown on discharge-certificate:

Casualty or reason for discharge: Died of wounds Country resident in: nz  
 Legatee and address: No evidence of a will

Nomjnated next-of-kin, relationship, and address: Mrs J. Stewart. (Wife) ~~67 Webb St. Wgton.~~  
 Legal next-of-kin, relationship, and address: Mrs J. Stewart. (Wife) 26 Newtown Avenue, Newtown  
~~67 Webb St. Wgton.~~

Decorations: Medals for Gallantry:	Authority.	Service Medals.	Date Medals issued.	Service Chevrons.	Wound Stripes.
<u>Egyptian E.F.: 1916</u>		<u>British War Medal ..</u>		<u>Red.</u>	
<u>Balkan: 1916</u>		<u>Victory Medal ..</u>		<u>Blue.</u>	

Certificates of Service issued.	No.	Date.	MENTION IN DESPACHES.		
			London Gazette.	No.	Date.
<u>Western European: 1916</u>					
<u>Asiatic: 1916</u>					

Missing ...  
 Prisoner ...  
 Injuries in or by the Service ...

Discharge ... Provisional: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date.) Intended address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Final: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date.)

Pension ... Medals with 10  
Mrs J. Stewart (Wife)  
~~67 Webb St. Wgton.~~ 26 Newtown Avenue  
Newtown  
Wgton

\* Strike out words not required.

Dear Will,

Here I send you a pocket book and hope you will be please to have it, I hope you will always carry it in your breast pocket, then you will always have it handy, you can use the paper to write with and when it is nearly finished I will send you a refill, this book will be easily taken out and another put in, so dear try and carry it with you and let me know if you get it safe. Your ever loving wife.

Try and keep this pencil it never wants sharpening and writes well.

Love from baby and self xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

-----

May God bless and take care of you till we meet again.

-----

the best we have had for some time, shots going on all around. Have to stand to from 2.15 am to 5.15 am.

May 24th. Had a light day till 8.15 pm and then it was very exciting \_\_\_\_\_ ration fatigue to take \_\_\_\_\_ up to the front trenches, we \_\_\_\_\_ very near caught napping \_\_\_\_\_ with machine gun and snipers. We are at a place called Roupline. \_\_\_\_\_ got finished at 4.30 am \_\_\_\_\_ had to take watches of \_\_\_\_\_ and sleep in between .

May 25th. Slept nearly all day \_\_\_\_\_ doing till 8.30 pm, we are on Garrison duty tonight till 4 am and men have to take 1 hr watches, we have to do 3 hrs, things have been very quiet today.

May 26th. Nothing doing a few shots passing between the Germans and ourselves. We relaid the duck walks along the trenches tonight, we are on tunnellers fatigue myself and 25 men go on at 7pm and finished at 4 am, so you see we have a lot to do. Three of our 3rd Battalion killed, we have had no casualties to date. Tonight 4 of our company boys were wounded, 1 machine gun wounded and 1 "A" Coy killed.

-----  
Entry made by A. A. Marshal, Cpl

May 27th. Out between German trench and our own with wiring party Bill shot through the arm by sniper, at 11.30 pm. Had great difficulty in getting him in without being hit again, fired at all the time.

Arrived safely over our trench with Bill on my back, Bill very weak from loss of blood, put him on stretcher and had difficulty in getting

along trench, arrived at last at dressing station where I saw every thing done.

May 28th. Bill never once murmured, only that he was cold, did not leave him until 3 am when he said he was feeling more comfortable and warmer. Expected to see him again in a few days time when we would be out of the trenches, received great shock on hearing he had died. Broke me up for I have lost my comrade in arms, and my best friend here, our Coy has lost its best leader, and a brave man.

Gods will be done.

---

The hole in the book was caused by the bullet striking through after passing through the arm. He being in a bending position at the time of being hit.