

## Charles William STEWART

---

Although he spent most of his childhood in Wycheproof, Charles Stewart was born in South Yarra on 27 March 1889. He attended Ballarat Grammar and, after leaving school, he worked briefly as a bank clerk before commencing his articles with a Mr Crothers at Wycheproof.

He was practicing as a solicitor at Wycheproof at the time of his enlistment in January 1916.

Stewart left Australia in February 1917 as an acting sergeant with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion. He arrived in France in July 1917, and was accidentally injured in November 1917. He returned to England for officer training in January 1918, where it was noted he "will make an excellent officer". He returned to France in August 1918 and was made a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant.

During one of the last Australian infantry battles at Montbrehain in October 1918 he was injured, but also awarded the military cross for his "*great dash and ability. When opposition was encountered from an enemy machine gun post he attacked this post, and repeated this performance on six separate occasions*".

After recovering from his injuries in England, Stewart returned to Australia in May 1919. He resumed his legal practice in Echuca shortly after his return.

He became an active community member at Echuca, helping to found the Rotary Club and was a member of the Returned Services League, the tennis and golf clubs. For about 20 years he also acted as solicitor for the Borough of Echuca.

During the Second World War, he was active in the Volunteer Defence Corps and the Echuca Patriot Fund. He died in August 1951 at Echuca, survived by his wife and two sons, his sons had joined him in his legal practice, which still exists.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03605