

NOEL St V R STEWART

Noel St Vincent Ramsey Stewart was born on 4th December 1870 in High Leigh, Cheshire. His father Charles was in the Royal Artillery.

In 1871 he was living with his parents and grandparents at West Hale, Rostherne in Cheshire.

By 1881 Noel and his brother Charles, who also served in the First World War, were scholars at Sunningdale School, Windsor in Berkshire.

Captain Stewart fought in the Boer War 1899-1902 as a member of the 18th Hussars. He was awarded the Queens South Africa medal with 6 clasps, one for each of the actions he fought in.

Noel married Mary Eveline Wright in 1903, in Clitheroe, Lancashire.

By 1911 he was living in the hamlet of Shoddiesden, near Kimpton, Andover, Hampshire with his wife and their son Godfrey Richard De Cardonnel Stewart, born in 1910 at The Curragh, County Kildare. They employed a child's nurse. The 1911 Army List recorded Noel as a Captain in the 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Hussars, a position to which he was appointed on 21st June 1901.

The London Gazette of 20th February 1914 records Noel's promotion from Captain to Major in the 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Hussars on 19th February 1914.

During the First World War Noel served as a Major with the 18th Royal Hussars. He was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He was awarded 'Clasp and Roses and Emblems' - "Clasp and Roses" means the soldier received the dated clasp to adorn the ribbon of the 1914 Star, or a silver rosette to go on the ribbon when only ribbons are being worn. "Emblems" denotes that an individual had been "Mentioned in Despatches" (MID) and that at least two "oak leaf" MID emblems had been sent to the recipient.

He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Order, given for meritorious or distinguished service by officers of the armed forces during wartime, typically in actual combat.

He applied for his medals on 8th January 1922 when he was living at Firby Hall, Bedale, Yorkshire – "an ancient building, seated on an eminence, whence it commands some very fine views of the surrounding country. The grounds cover about seven acres, and are well wooded."

Major Stewart is recorded as a sidesman of St Nicholas Church at the PCC annual meeting held on 8th April 1931.

He died on 26th March 1941, aged 70, and is buried in Partney Cemetery.