

= Hugh Stewart (classical scholar) =

Hugh Stewart , CMG , DSO & bar , MC (1 September 1884 ? 21 September 1934) was an academic , military leader and historian whose work had a major impact in both England and New Zealand .

Born in Scotland , Stewart worked in Russia teaching English after completing his education . He then taught classical studies , firstly at the University of Liverpool in England and then at Canterbury College in Christchurch , New Zealand . During the First World War , he volunteered for service abroad with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force . He participated in several engagements at Gallipoli and on the Western Front , and was decorated for bravery and leadership . He ended the war as a lieutenant @-@ colonel and commanding a battalion of the Canterbury Infantry Regiment , having also briefly led the 2nd Infantry Brigade .

After the war , Stewart wrote a history of the New Zealand Division , which was published in 1921 and would be the main reference work for this formation for several decades . He resumed his teaching career at Canterbury College but in 1926 returned to England , as a Professor of Latin at the University of Leeds . In 1929 , he became the principal of University College of Nottingham . He died suddenly in 1934 while in transit to England after a holiday in New Zealand .

= = Early life and teaching career = =

Stewart was born on 1 September 1884 in Premnay , Aberdeenshire , Scotland , to John Stewart , a Presbyterian minister , and Margaret Mackintosh . He was educated at the local public school in Premnay . An excellent student , he earned a scholarship to Fettes College at Edinburgh . In 1903 , he attended the University of Edinburgh and then transferred to Trinity College , Cambridge , from which he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1907 , majoring in Classical Studies . During his tertiary education he also served in the Territorial Force as a lieutenant in the 6th Battalion , King 's Regiment (Liverpool) .

Stewart spent the next two years working in Russia as a tutor , teaching English . He learned the Russian language and wrote a book describing his experiences and the country , Provincial Russia . Returning to England , he took up an appointment as Assistant Lecturer in Classics at the University of Liverpool . In 1912 , he accepted a professorship teaching classics at Canterbury College , in Christchurch , New Zealand . At the college , later to become the University of Canterbury , he acquired a reputation for his energy and wit . In his leisure time , he often went climbing in the Southern Alps .

= = First World War = =

When the First World War broke out in August 1914 , Stewart enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) . He received a commission as a lieutenant and was posted to the Canterbury Battalion , New Zealand Infantry Brigade , which embarked from Wellington in October 1914 for Suez , Egypt . In Egypt , the brigade was combined with an Australian infantry brigade to form the New Zealand and Australian Division , intended for service in the Gallipoli Campaign .

Stewart served at Gallipoli and received a head wound during the fighting at Quinn 's Post in June 1915 but , despite this , remained in the frontlines . He was promoted to captain in August , and to major two months later . He was recommended for the Military Cross for his action at Quinn 's Post and this was duly gazetted following the withdrawal of the Allies from Gallipoli . He was also awarded the French Croix de guerre for his " distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign " .

By January 1916 , the manpower of the NZEF had expanded sufficiently that it could field a full infantry division on the Western Front . Accordingly , the New Zealand and Australian Division , which had been evacuated to Egypt from Gallipoli , was disbanded and the New Zealand Division created from the original infantry brigade as well as two new brigades (the 2nd Infantry Brigade and New Zealand Rifle Brigade) , which had recently arrived from New Zealand . Promoted to lieutenant

@-@ colonel on 27 February 1916 , Stewart took command of the newly formed 2nd Battalion , Canterbury Infantry Regiment , which was attached to the 2nd Infantry Brigade . He led the battalion for nearly the duration of its service on the Western Front .

In June 1917 , Stewart was rewarded with the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in recognition of his leadership of his battalion during the Battle of Flers ? Courcellette in September the previous year . He had planned and executed an attack by his battalion on German @-@ held trenches and , once the objective was captured , organised its defence against several counterattacks . He was awarded a bar to his DSO six months later , for his efforts during the Battle of Messines during which he was wounded . His injuries were severe , due to eight separate shrapnel wounds , and he was evacuated to London for treatment . Returning to the field in late 1917 , he was temporary commander of the 2nd Infantry Brigade at various times during 1918 while its regular commander was on leave or employed elsewhere . While on leave , on 21 February 1918 , Stewart married Alexandrina Kathleen Johnston at Uttoxeter , in the county of Staffordshire in England .

Just after the cessation of hostilities he was temporarily promoted to colonel , and was appointed Director of Education for the NZEF . He remained at that post through to February 1919 at which time he was discharged from the NZEF , having reverted to his substantive rank of lieutenant colonel . During the course of the war , Stewart had been mentioned in despatches five times . In May 1919 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George , and his citation noted his leadership of his battalion and temporary command of 2nd Infantry Brigade as well as his educational work for the NZEF .

= = Postwar life = =

Stewart was commissioned by the New Zealand Government to write a history of the New Zealand Division and its service on the Western Front as part of the Official History of New Zealand 's Effort in the Great War . He began work on the first draft in January 1919 , while still in England . He returned to New Zealand in December that year and resumed his prewar teaching position at Canterbury College , while continuing work on his history . The final result , titled The New Zealand Division 1916 ? 1919 : A Popular History Based on Official Records , was published in 1921 and remained the primary reference for New Zealand 's contribution to the campaign on the Western Front for several decades . Prior to its publication , Stewart 's wife died shortly after giving birth to a son .

Although discharged from the NZEF , Stewart was still in the military reserve and commanded a battalion of the Territorial Force (TF) . He was later given command of the TF 's 3rd Infantry Brigade . From 1924 to 1926 , he was president of the New Zealand Returned Servicemen 's Association . His leadership of the association ended when he left New Zealand to become Professor of Latin at the University of Leeds .

On 28 July 1927 , Stewart married Margaret Rosamond Poulton at Kinlet , Shropshire , England . The marriage was brief ; she , along with the couple 's baby son , died during childbirth in August 1928 . In 1929 Stewart was appointed principal of University College of Nottingham , later to become the University of Nottingham . In a history of the University of Canterbury , published in 1973 , the authors wrote that Stewart was the " most able leader and administrator ... the College [of Nottingham] ever had " . The year after his move to Nottingham , Stewart married Margaret Isabel Massey in London . The couple had two children , a daughter and a son .

Stewart travelled to New Zealand on holiday in August 1934 , and resumed many of his past military acquaintances . While returning to England he died unexpectedly aboard the ship Akaroa and was buried at sea . He was survived by his third wife and his three children .

= = Legacy = =

After his death , Stewart was honoured by the renaming of Lenton Hall of Residence at the University of Nottingham to Hugh Stewart Hall . The university also named a scholarship after him . A tablet in his honour was unveiled on 18 January 1935 at the premises of the Christchurch

Returned Soldier 's Association by the former commander of the NZEF , Alexander Godley .