

STONE

Ernest George Alfred

Service No: 2254

Family History

George Alfred Stone, the son of Thomas Stone, arrived in Fremantle aboard the *Otago* on the 4th June 1886. He was twenty-nine. Accompanying him was his wife, Mary Elizabeth (Minnie), the daughter of James Brown, and their three young children; Ernest George Alfred, Agnes Minnie and Florence Edith.

The family hailed from Bromley, in Kent, England, where George was a navy by trade, a labourer who worked on the construction of roads and railways. The first rail lines had opened in the Colony and already extended as far as Beverley. It is likely that George found work with the Department of Works and Railways, which later became Western Australian Government Railways (W.A.G.R.) and helped to expand the Colony's rail network.

Agnes Minnie Stone died in 1895, at the age of thirteen. Her sister, Florence Edith, married Ernest Alfred Fowler at Leederville in 1908.

George Alfred Stone died 1913, and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, died in 1935.

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Ernest George (Alfred) Stone

Service number: 2254

Date of enlistment: 24/3/16

Age at Enlistment: 34 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: Locomotive Driver

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 5 ½ inches

Weight: 125 pounds

Chest measurement: 33 inches

Complexion: Ruddy

Eye Colour: Light Blue

Hair Colour: Fair

Father: George Alfred

Mother: Mary Brown

Siblings: Agnes Minnie Stone b. 1881, Florence Edith Stone b. 1884,

Wife: Flora McEwan Hewson

Life Story

Ernest George Alfred was born in Bromley, Kent, on the 7th September 1880.

In 1897, at the age of seventeen, he started work as a cleaner for the locomotive branch of W.A.G.R., working for four shillings per day.

Ernest was dismissed in April 1901 for disorderly conduct but was reinstated a month later. He worked as a cleaner in different towns along the railway before being promoted to fireman in December 1901. Ernest worked as a fireman until the end of 1911, when he was finally promoted to driver.

In 1913, Ernest married Flora McEwan Hewson in York.

On the 24th March 1916, Ernest enlisted and was quickly taken into the 4th Reinforcements of the 51st Battalion. He departed Fremantle aboard HMAT A28 *Miltiades* on the 9th August and arrived at Rolleston Camp in England on the 26th September.

On the 4th December 1916, Ernest proceeded overseas to France and, on the 14th February, he was Taken on Strength with the 51st Battalion in the Field.

On the 12th March 1917, Ernest was transferred to Southbank Military Hospital in England suffering from a septic toe, enlarged lymph nodes and inflamed connective tissue (I.C.T.). I.C.T. was a condition that commonly occurred during the War due to poor weather conditions and frequent marching. He did not re-join his unit in France until the 14th May.

On the 25th September, Ernest was again admitted to hospital, this time with influenza. He returned to his unit on the 13th October.

Ernest remained in the Field until the 30th March 1918, when he was severely wounded in the left thigh and unable to re-join his unit until the 1st August.

In November, Ernest was briefly hospitalised again, diagnosed with influenza. He left hospital after eighteen days and remained with his Battalion until they were marched out of France for their return to England on the 5th April 1919.

Ernest returned to Australia on the *Somali* on the 1st June 1919.

Ernest and Florence had at least one child, a son, also named Ernest George Alfred, who died at Tobruk, in 1941, while serving in the Second World War.

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