

Stanley was born in Camberwell, London on 8th November 1895, the son of Henry John Coles and Rachel Sadler Coles, nee Gray. On 25th September 1913 he left Liverpool aboard the IRISHMAN arriving in Melbourne on 11th November 1913, leaving behind his girlfriend, Jane Watts, who gave birth to a daughter, Doris Maude, in Camberwell on 28th May 1914.

On 11th August 1914 Stanley joined D Company, AN&MEF, stating that he was an Assistant Pastry Cook and had served in the London Irish Rifles, part of the Territorial Army, from Dec 1911 till Sept 1913, when he left for Australia. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service

On 19th March 1915 he joined B Company, 20th Battalion and was promoted Sergeant (Cook) on 26th April before leaving Sydney with the battalion on 26th June, again aboard the BERRIMA. He landed on Gallipoli on 16th August and was evacuated on 2nd June having lost the wedding finger on his right hand. He originally went to the Military Hospital in Malta where he suffered a Malarial attack. On 4th Feb 1916 he was transferred back to Alexandria to rejoin his battalion.



Stanley in the middle.

On 24th June he was again in hospital with an irritable heart, no doubt a result of his malaria, and on 24th June embarked on the PORT SYDNEY for return to Australia for 6 months of change. He was discharged on 30th August 1916.

Jane had come out to Australia with baby Doris and Stanley and Jane were married in 1916, and Stanley, his wife and Doris were all granted war pensions.



Stanley and Jane in the early 1950's.

Jane died in 1951 and Stanley on 12th October 1953