



Lieutenant Colonel R. A. STANLEY DSO, VD

(1883 – 1930)



France 1918.

Colonel Stanley was elected to Life membership of the Club in 1928

Colonel Stanley was President of the Club in 1925-26

Raymond Augustus Stanley was born 14 April 1883 at 'Alveston Lodge' Kelvin Grove, Brisbane. He was the eighth of ten children, four of whom did not survive infancy. His parents were Captain Joseph Bird Stanley (Queensland Volunteer Engineer Corps.) and Rosanna Emily Stanley (nee Knox). His schooling was State School and Technical College in Brisbane and the Sydney University Extension Board. Raymond and Ruby Victoria (nee Orton) married in All Saints Church, Wickham Terrace on 14 September 1911.

He joined the Electrical Section Australian Corps of Engineers in 1903; was commissioned in 1908 and promoted to the rank of Captain in 1913. He was with the No.3 Submarine Mining Company at Fort Lytton, followed by Signals C.A.E. at Enoggera until enlistment in the AIF on 14 December 1914. His pre-embarkation training was at Broadmeadows, Victoria.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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Captain Stanley embarked with the Second Contingent to Egypt as O.C. 2nd Sig Troop, 2nd Australian Light Horse, aboard A30 'Borda' on 22 December 1914, arriving in Egypt on 29 Jan 1915. He landed at Gallipoli from the *Lutzow* on 20 May and remained until the evacuation on 20 Dec 1915.

Appointed Officer Commanding 5 Division Signal Company on 7 March 1916, in Egypt, Captain Stanley embarked on 'Manitou' on 17 June at Alexandria and disembarked Marseilles on 26 June 1916. His unit entrained to Blaringhem, France, and were present at the Battle of Fromelles 19/20 July 1916. He was promoted to Major on 1st April 1917. The Division deployed to Belgium in September 1917 and was engaged in the Battles of the Somme-Ypres and Polygon Wood. The Division was further engaged in France at Villers- Bretonneux on 24 April 1918, and subsequently at Le Hamel, Corbie, Amiens and Peronne.

Major Stanley was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on 3 June 1918. The citation reads *"For meritorious service and devotion to duty Maj Stanley has been in Command of the 5th Australian Divisional Signal Co. since 14th March 1916. During the period 22nd September 1917 to 24th February 1918, his work has been of the greatest assistance to the Division. During the operations, East of YPRES, September and October 1917, his organisation and maintaining communications, very often under difficult conditions of weather and shell fire, contributed in a very large measure to the success of the operations of the Division."*

He returned to Australia on the 'Leicestershire' in January 1919.

In 1921 the Signal Engineer units were disbanded. The new units included *Signals* in their names. In the 1st Military District (Queensland), 11th Mixed Brigade Signals Brisbane was formed under Lt Col R.A. Stanley. In 1923 the Australian Corps of Signals formed as Divisional Signals under Lt Col RA Stanley.

Prior to, and post-World War One, Raymond's civilian profession was as an analyst with the Government Chemical Laboratory.

From 1908, as a young Officer, he was an active member and representative of the CAE Rifle Club in competitions conducted by the Queensland Rifle Association. He was Captain of the Queensland Rifle Association in 1921.

1921-23, he was a member of the Memorial Park South Brisbane Committee.

The 'Colonial Auxiliary Forces' medal ("VD") was awarded to him on 3 May 1923 for "Signals Service, Australian Engineers."

He was installed as the Naval and Military Lodge QLD. Master Elect on 3 May 1929. There is no record of the date of Colonel Stanley joining the Club, however he was commissioned and eligible from 1908, and it is likely he was a member before enlisting in the AIF in 1914.

Colonel Stanley was President of the United Service Club in 1925-26 and was Chairman of Committees for 1927 - prior to the Club's new constitution and committee structure being adopted.

The Club Committee nominated him as its representative on The ANZAC Memorial Committee 1927-1930. He was one of the Sub-Committee of four who were appointed to prepare a suitable inscription for the proposed memorial.

He hosted and presented the address at the dinner and ball on the occasion of the visit by the Duke and Duchess of York to the United Service Club in July 1927.

It is on record that his Life Membership was based upon 'long and continuous service to the Club'.

Colonel Stanley died on 30 July 1930 at 47 years. He had spent much time convalescing from lung disorders at *Simla* and *Rosemount* Homes. He was buried at Toowong Cemetery, and was survived by his wife Ruby and daughter Anna, then 12 years of age.



Sources included:

- ✓ Various web pages
- ✓ *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- ✓ Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- ✓ AWM Service Records
- ✓ *"Signals, A History of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, 1788-1947"* by Theo Barker. P.110 - 11.
- ✓ The Anzac Memorial Committee 1921-1930. Chapter 2.
- ✓ Family collection of items.
- ✓ Mrs Christine Purvis. (Granddaughter)