

## **2nd Lieutenant Stanley Moore<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 16/1329**

**New Zealand Field Artillery**

**born: 18 December 1886 – died: 2 July 1916**

Second Lieutenant Stanley Moore was born in Gisborne, New Zealand, on 18 December 1886.<sup>1</sup> In the Māori language, the place is known as *Tūranga-nui-a-Kiwa*, or “the great standing place of Kiwa.” The town of Gisborne and its European settlers date back to 1870.

Stanley was the son of Robert and Mary Ann Moore. His father Robert was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1851 and his mother, the former Mary Ann Moore, in Antrim, Ireland in 1857. They were married on 1 November 1874 in Auckland, New Zealand.<sup>2</sup> Their first three children were born in Auckland when Mary Ann and Robert were living on Chapel Street in Auckland in the early 1880s:<sup>3</sup> Mary Elizabeth (born in 1875 but died in 1878, at the age of 2),<sup>4</sup> Ruth Charlotte (born in 1878)<sup>5</sup> and Robert Alma (born in 1880).<sup>6</sup> Sometime between 1880 and 1883, the Moores probably moved to Roebuck Road in Gisborne,<sup>7</sup> where their last four children were born: David McLean (born in 1883),<sup>8</sup> Stanley, Myrtle Ilene (born in 1891)<sup>9</sup> and Adam James (born in 1898).<sup>10</sup>

Stanley’s father was a blacksmith and the family continued to live on Roebuck Road until at least the outbreak of the Great War.

Stanley’s army career began at an early age. Before the army, he was a blacksmith and he was also a volunteer with the Gisborne Rifles and Cadets. By 14 February 1905, he was already part of the Royal New Zealand Artillery (RNZA). By August of that year, he was a gunner in the Wellington detachment and soon transferred to the Auckland detachment. Stanley’s career included typical conduct issues: in February 1908 he was admonished for using insubordinate language and in September 1909 he was confined to barracks for five days after cases of disrespect and insolence to a NCO. He also suffered a workplace injury. In June 1909, he crushed the forefinger of his left hand while helping to move an office safe.

Stanley left the RNZA, discharged at his own request, for a temporary appointment with the Education Department of the Junior Cadets in September 1910. By February 1912, he was an area sergeant-major in the Defence Department at Napier. Stanley seems to have met some resistance when he attempted to return to the Junior Cadet Department. He stated the following in a letter dated 10 May 1912:

I would like to say that the reason of my application is to get back to Auckland, where I have been stationed so many years. Before reporting to Napier I asked if I could be posted in Auckland, thus saving the Dept the expense of moving my Wife, Family, and Furniture. The reply I got was to obey orders, which, being a soldier I immediately did. I would like it clearly understood that I have no grievance whatever, and that I have enjoyed my short period of duty in Area 26. My application is due to my preference for Auckland.<sup>11</sup>

After war broke out in Europe, Stanley, again a physical instructor with the Education Department, was assigned to the 3rd Maori Contingent. On 4 November 1915, he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. His unit left Narrow Neck (Auckland) for the Suez, where they arrived in March 1916. In mid-April, they left Port Said in Egypt for France aboard the RMS *Kinfauns Castle*. Attached to the New Zealand Trench Mortar Battery, Stanley was in the field in France before the end of April. On the first of June, he was technically transferred to the New Zealand Field Artillery, though he was still seconded with the Trench Mortar Battery.

On 1 July 1916, No. 2 New Zealand Field Ambulance brought Stanley to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in Bailleul, France. He was suffering from dangerous wounds caused by a gunshot to the abdomen. He died there the next day.

Bailleul had become an important hospital centre for not just No. 1 CCCS but also No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations. In July 1916, No. 1 CCCS received 2,810 admissions, of whom 70 died.<sup>12</sup> The station was likely too busy for more detailed entries in the unit's war diaries.

Stanley was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension (Nord) (Section II, Row E, Grave 191).<sup>13</sup> This cemetery contains 4,403 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 17 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War and 154 German burials from both wars.

Stanley had married Norma Moore (born 4 February 1884) in Auckland, New Zealand, on 14 September 1908. They were first cousins. Their son Ivan Stanley Moore was born on 11 August 1909 in Devonport, a harbour-side suburb of Auckland. However, on 20 May 1916, in Whanganui, New Zealand. Stanley had another son, Max Stanley (later he had the surname Elliott), born to Beatrice Annie Birrell of Gisborne.<sup>14</sup> Beatrice was born on 22 October 1882 in Maryhill, Glasgow, Scotland. It is not known if Stanley knew about his second child.

Stanley's effects were sent to his widow Norma who was living at 17 College Road, Auckland after the war.<sup>15</sup>

An article that appeared in the Auckland newspaper in 1917, with information from his commanding officer, indicated that Stanley died on 2 July as a result of

... a wound received several nights previous, when the troops were contacting a raid against the German trenches. "He was a very gallant officer," says the writer, "and all who knew him admired his bravery and many qualities." The writer said he had recommended Lieut. Moore more for a Military Cross, which he richly deserved. In the course of some further particulars the writer says that Lieut. Moore was in charge of the trench mortar battery, and three times the battery assisted in cutting the wire guarding the German trenches, so enabling the New Zealand Infantry to get in without difficulty.<sup>16</sup>

However, the only evidence found of a special recognition of his service was his inclusion in a list from the Commander-in-chief of the British armies in France, General Sir Douglas Haig, of those "who have served under my command whose distinguished and gallant services and devotion to duty I consider deserving of special mention."<sup>17</sup>

In 1919, his wife was living at on College Road with her brother, Clarence James Moore (bootmaker), his wife Ivy May and Norma's father, Matthew James Moore Junior, also a bootmaker.<sup>18</sup> Norma remarried, marrying Hugh Alexander Robertson in 1924.<sup>19</sup> She died in 1968, at the age of 83.<sup>20</sup>

Stanley's brother David died before the war—dying in 1913 in Gisborne. Two other siblings also died in Gisborne—Ruth in 1935 and Robert in 1943. His brother Adam died in 1955 in Christchurch, New Zealand and his sister Myrtle died in Australia (date unknown).<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "NZDF Personnel Files," *Archives New Zealand* (archives.govt.nz/world-war-one: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for Stanley Moore. Unless otherwise stated, all information about Stanley's military career comes from this source.

<sup>2</sup> Personal communication from L. Elliott, January 2018

<sup>3</sup> "New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853-1981," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 January 2018), entry for Robert Moore

<sup>4</sup> "Birth search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 30 January 2018), entry for Mary Elizabeth Moore, Registration number: 1875/13257; "Death search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 30 January 2018), entry for Mary Elizabeth Moore, Registration number: 1878/2308

<sup>5</sup> "Birth search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 30 January 2018), entry for Ruth Charlotte Moore, Registration number: 1878/480

<sup>6</sup> "Birth search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 30 January 2018), entry for Robert Alma Moore, Registration number: 1880/18937

<sup>7</sup> Personal communication from L. Elliott, January 2018

<sup>8</sup> "Birth search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 30 January 2018), entry for David McLean Moore, Registration number: 1883/15786

<sup>9</sup> "Birth search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 30 January 2018), entry for Myrtle Ilene Moore, Registration number: 1891/4185

<sup>10</sup> "Birth search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 30 January 2018), entry for Adam James Moore, Registration number: 1898/1572

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> "War Diaries – 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," Library and Archives Canada ([collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=2005082](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2005082): accessed 23 August 2016)

<sup>13</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 25 August 2016), entry for Moore, S., Service No: 16/1329

<sup>14</sup> Personal communication from L. Elliott, January 2018

<sup>15</sup> "NZDF Personnel Files," *Archives New Zealand* (archives.govt.nz/world-war-one: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for Stanley Moore

<sup>16</sup> "Late Lieutenant S. Moore Recommended for Military Cross," *Auckland Star*, Volume XLVII, Issue 208, 31 August 1916, *Papers Past, National Library of New Zealand* (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 7 November 2017)

<sup>17</sup> "NZDF Personnel Files," *Archives New Zealand* (archives.govt.nz/world-war-one: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for Stanley Moore

<sup>18</sup> "New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853–1981," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 25 August 2016), entry for Norma Moore

<sup>19</sup> "Marriage search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records* (<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 2 March 2018), entry for Norma Moore, Registration number: 1924/2613

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<sup>20</sup> "Death search," *Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records*  
(<https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>: accessed 2 March 2018), entry for Norma Robertson,  
Registration number: 1968/41244

<sup>21</sup> Personal communication from L. Elliott, January 2018