RATSEY, Stephen Gilbert

Stephen Gilbert Ratsey was born in 1892, the son of a sail maker. Ratsey and Lapthorn (est. 1796), are to this day, a famous British sail making company based in Cowes in the Isle of Wight. Thomas and Lucy Ratsey had seven children, Margaret Norris (b.1881), Muriel Prangley (b.1882), Donald White (b.1884), Clayton (b.1886), Franklin (b.1887), Stephen Gilbert (b.1892), and Thomas Christopher (b.1896).

Stephen attended school at Chartehouse, Goldaming, Surrey and later went on to complete a short dairy course at HAC Jan-May 1914.

Stephen enlisted in the Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (Tropical Unit) (1 Battalion) 11 August 1914, and embarked from Sydney, on board HMAT A35 *Berrima* on 19 August 1914. Upon completion of this service, Stephen returned to England where he obtained a commission with the Imperial Army.

Donald (Captain), Clayton (Captain), and Stephen (Lieutenant) all served with the 8th Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment (Isle of Wight Rifles). Franklin (Lieutenant Commander) served with the Royal Navy and Thomas served with the Royal Navy and then the Royal Field Artillery.

Donald (aged 31) and Clayton (aged 29) both died at Suvla Bay Gallipoli 12 August 1915. Stephen died, aged 24 at Gaza 19 April 1917, and is buried in the Gaza War Cemetery.