

STUMP Claude Witherington
1891-1971
MD., Ch.B., DSc(Edin)., FRSE.



Claude Witherington Stump was born on 28th November 1891 at Malvern South Australia. He was the second son of Alfred Augustus Stump, a photographer from Tasmania, and his second wife Rosa Ada Potter from South Australia. Their address was "Stonehenge" Austral Terrace, Malvern. He was educated at Kyre College, Unley South Australia. He travelled to Scotland and enrolled in medicine at Edinburgh University in 1909. Before completing his studies he served from 1912 to 1913 with a British Red Cross Society unit, which was attached to the Serbian Army during the Balkan War. On return to Edinburgh and at the break out of WW1 he served as a LT in the King's Own Scottish Borderers and served in France from 1914-1916 at Loos and the Somme. He returned to Edinburgh and completed his medical degree and graduated MB ChB in 1917. He was a house officer in the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh for a brief period before returning to Adelaide.

He enlisted as a Captain in the AIF on 4th November 1917 and was posted to AAMC Reinforcements at Mitcham Camp Adelaide. He was 26 years of age 5ft 9ins, tall 154 lbs with a chest of 38 ins and 6/6 vision in both eyes. He was proficient in both German and Serbian language. He embarked in 4 MD on the "Borda" on the 5th January 1918 disembarking in Plymouth on 4th March 1918. After periods with training units in Grantham and Parkhouse he embarked for France at Southampton on 1st of June 1918. He was posted to the 2nd AGH until the 4th June when he proceeded to the 3rd Australian Division joining the 11th Fd Amb with a temporary attachment to the 9th Fd Amb. He had leave in the United Kingdom

from 9th -23rd November 1918. On 13th January 1919 he was admitted the 8th General Hospital to with migraine and returned to duty on 2nd February 1919. On 15th April he returned to the United Kingdom in anticipation of return to Australia. From 26th April to 26th July he had leave to attend the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh for medical education purposes and following further short leave periods joined the "Plassy" for return to Australia; classed as fit with no disability. He disembarked in Australia on 23rd October 1919. His appointment to the AIF was terminated on the 22nd November 1919. He was issued the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

From 1920-1922 he had a research fellowship in Anatomy in Edinburgh working also as a house physician and surgeon and lecturer and demonstrator in Anatomy. During this time he gained his MD and FRSE. He married Christina Margaret Calder Urquhart on 30th November 1920. In 1924 he was appointed to a Chair of Anatomy at Chulalongkorn University Thailand. He was subsequently appointed an Associate Professor at Sydney University in 1926. He was responsible for developing his discipline of histology and embryology by gaining two important endowments from George Bosch and the Rockefeller Foundation. This led to the building of the Blackburn Building of the Sydney University's medical school. Stump continued as the Bosch Professor of histology and embryology until he retired in 1956. He was passionate about the independence of the disciplines of histology and embryology and was known to be quite demanding in his relationship with students and colleagues. His address in 1939 was given as Elva Avenue, Killara, New South Wales. His wife Christina died in 1965 and Claude Witherington Stump died on 23rd December 1971 at Mona Vale. He was survived by his daughter and two sons.

Sources:

National Archives of Australia

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8095718>

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Stone J., Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 16, 2002.

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stump-claude-witherington-11797>

Photo: Winter 1916-1917. Royal Infirmary Edinburgh and Mark Stump of Adelaide.