

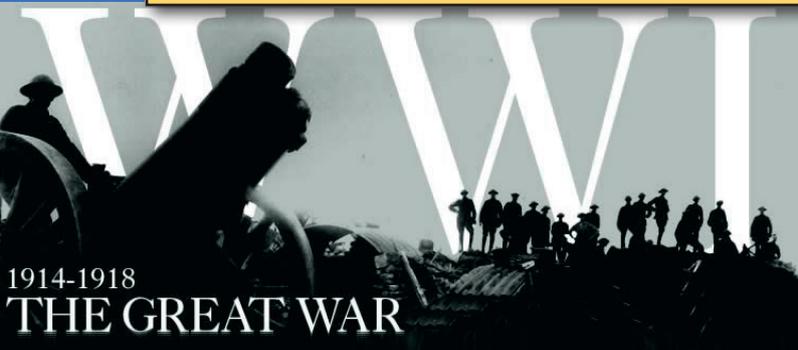
# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



From 1914 - 1918, 465 volunteers from Braidwood and the District joined the Australian Imperial Force in World War I. 88 lost their lives, never to return home. This is their story.



1914-1918  
THE GREAT WAR

100  
YEARS OF  
ANZAC

THE SPIRIT  
LIVES  
2014 - 2018

## Introduction

This year, 2015, marks the centenary of the start of the Gallipoli campaign and Australia's involvement as a nation in the greatest and most terrible conflict ever seen to that time. Australians joined their Armed Forces in large numbers. Their motives were as varied as their upbringings, from a need to save the Empire, of which Australia was an integral part, to the desire to have a great adventure.

Braidwood and district were no exception. Over the four years from 1914 to 1918, from a population of about 5000, 465 men and women from what is now the 2622 postcode area – including Braidwood, Majors Creek, Araluen, Mongarlowe, Nerriga, Ballalaba and Jembaicumbene joined the Navy or Army. Of these 377 returned to Australia. Sadly, 88 lost their lives.

A varying amount of their history is recorded in the Australian War Memorial. Some of their names, but not all, are recorded on local memorials. More is recorded in limited local histories and newspapers, not readily available to the general public; and the people who lived with and knew these distant relatives are also passing on.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch has collected all the information available from the Australian War Memorial and local sources, including the Braidwood Museum. Families, still resident in the district, have added their family knowledge and their precious memorabilia.

This booklet is the available story of **Thomas Fraser Bruce**, one of the 88 Braidwood volunteers who did not return from World War I. It contains his details as recorded in the World War I Roll of Honour, his Enlistment Papers, Field Service records, any Casualty notification, correspondence relating to his death, details of decorations won, any available photos, and, in some instances, family correspondence or recollections.

**Thomas Fraser Bruce** died for his country, for you and for me. Please pause a moment to remember him.

Lest We Forget.

## WORLD WAR I

*World War I lasted four years, from 4 August 1914 until 11 November 1918. It began after the assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne. The axis powers were Germany and Austria. Russia and France were the initial allies. When Germany invaded Belgium, Britain entered the war on the side of Russia and France.*

*The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.*

*Australians generally thought of themselves as an integral part of the British Empire and the Australian Army and Navy were part of the Imperial Forces. In 1914, Australia's Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, immediately promised Australian support for Britain 'to the last man and the last shilling.' The Australian population was less than five million. 324,000 Australians served overseas. 61,720 lost their lives. 155,000 were wounded. 4,044 became prisoners of war (397 died while captive).*

*The first Australian troops were sent to Egypt in 1915. The ANZACS – Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – were engaged in battle on the Gallipoli Peninsula against the Turks to control the Dardanelles' and open the way to Eastern Europe with their fateful landing on 25 April 1915.*

*The ANZACS were evacuated on 19-20 December 1915. The Gallipoli campaign resulted in the deaths of 7,600 Australians and the wounding of 19,000. Despite the defeat, the legend attached to the heroism, comradeship and valour of the soldiers remain a source of Australian pride and national identity.*



# ROLL OF HONOUR

## THOMAS FRASER BRUCE

**Rank:** Second Lieutenant

**Service Number:** 1069

**Unit:** 36th Australian Infantry Battalion

**Service:** Australian Army

**Conflict:** First World War, 1914-1918

**Date of death:** 12 October 1917

**Place of death:** Belgium

**Cause of death:** Killed in action

**Place of association:** Sydney, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Menin Gate Memorial,  
Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

**Source:** AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War,  
Army

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** Thomas Fraser Bruce's  
name is located at **panel 126** in the Commemorative Area  
at the Australian War Memorial



**THOMAS FRASER BRUCE #1069**



**THOMAS FRASER BRUCE #1069**

### **36th Australian Infantry Battalion**

The 36th Battalion was raised at Broadmeadow Camp, in Newcastle, New South Wales in February 1916. The bulk of the battalion's recruits had been enlisted as a result of a recruiting drive conducted amongst the rifle clubs of New South Wales by the Minister for Public Information in the New South Wales government, Ambrose Carmichael. Thus, the battalion became known as "Carmichael's Thousand". Carmichael led by example and enlisted as well, serving in the battalion as a captain.

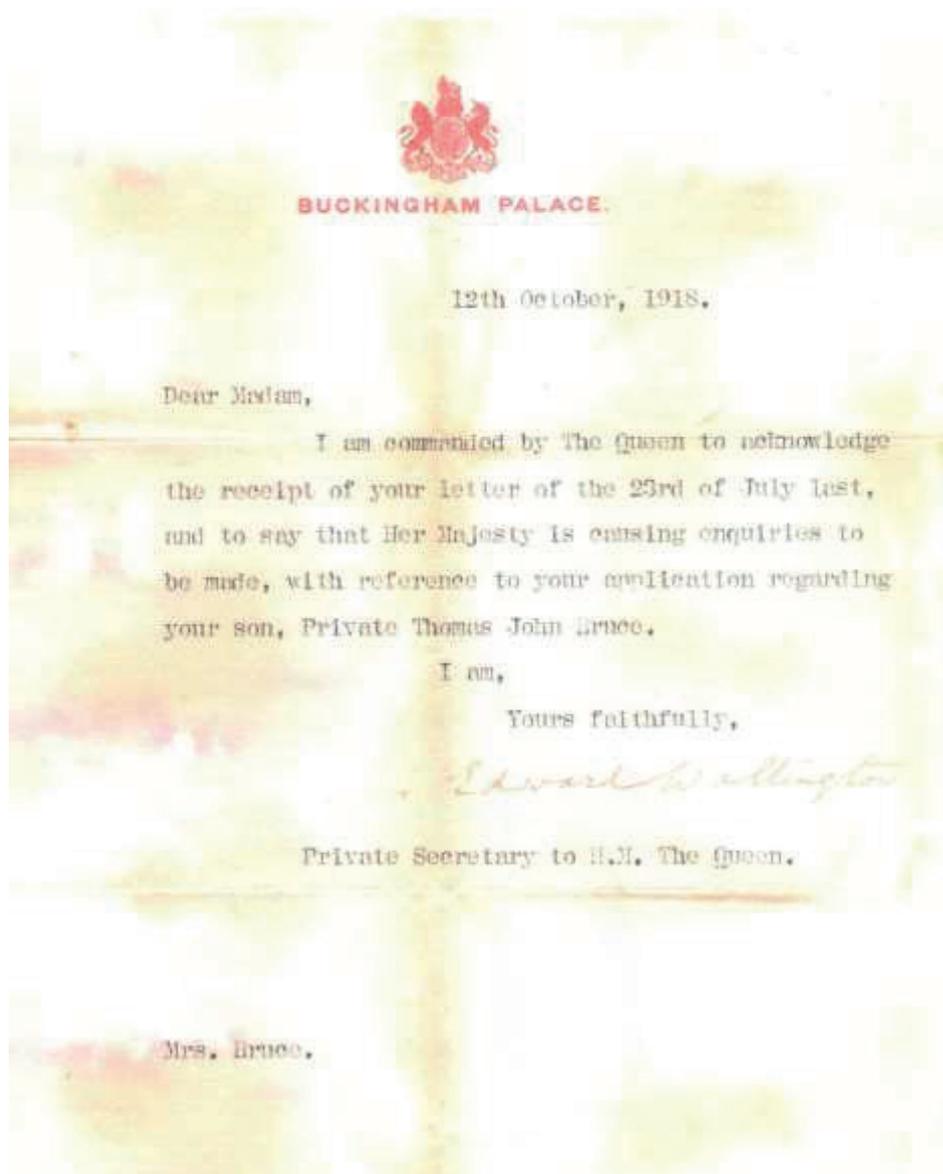
The 36th Battalion became part of the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. It left Sydney, bound for the United Kingdom on 13 May 1916. Arriving there in early July, the battalion spent the next four months in training. It crossed to France in late November, and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 4 December, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17.

## 36th Australian Infantry Battalion

The battalion had to wait until the emphasis of British and Dominion operations switched to the Ypres Sector of Belgium in mid-1917 to take part in its first major battle; this was the battle of Messines, launched on 7 June. With the 9th Brigade held in reserve during the battle for Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October, the 36th's next major battle was around Passchendaele on the 12th. Heavy rain, though, had deluged the battlefield, and thick mud tugged at the advancing troops and fouled their weapons. The 36th secured its objective but with open flanks and ineffective artillery support, was forced to withdraw.

For the next five months the 36th alternated between periods of rest, training, labouring, and service in the line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the battalion was part of the force deployed to defend the approaches to Amiens around Villers-Bretonneux. It took part in a counter-attack at Hangard Wood on 30 March, and helped to defeat a major drive on Villers-Bretonneux on 4 April.

The fighting to defeat the German offensive had exacted a heavy toll upon the 3rd Division, and the 9th Brigade in particular. Reinforcements from Australia were dwindling and thus it was decided to disband one of the 9th Brigade's battalions to reinforce the other two. The 36th was the battalion selected. In what one of the battalion's officers called an "unselfish act" the 36<sup>th</sup> disbanded on 30 April 1918.



OFFICER

1735

LIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 1069.

Name Bruce Thomas Fraser  
Unit D Coy 36th Battalion  
Joined on 3.3. 1916.

### Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? 1735

1. Bruce, Thomas Fraser

In or near what Parish or Town were you born? 1735

2. In the Parish of Braidwood in or near the Town of Braidwood

in the County of Newcastle

3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)

3. Yes

4. What is your age?

4. 31 Years & 10 months

5. What is your trade or calling?

5. Train Conductor

6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?

6. No

7. Are you married?

7. Yes

8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)

8. (wife) May Anna Bruce  
28 Yurong St.  
City de Park Sydney

9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?

9. No

10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy?

10. No

11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge

11. Camp Cook Liverpool 6 months.  
Stone Isolate 3 months.  
discharged to recruit

Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?

12. Yes

13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?

13. No

14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day?

14. Yes

15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever?

15. Yes

I, Thomas Fraser Bruce do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

\* And I further agree to allot not less than ~~two-fifths~~ two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife wife and children

Date 3rd March 1916

Thomas Fraser Bruce  
Signature of person enlisted.

\* This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

Statement of Service of No. 1069

Name

Thomas J Bruce

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
Depot Coy Liverpool		27-7-15	3-3-16	
Coy 36 Batt		3-3-16	15-3-16	
D Coy 36 Batt		15-3-16		<del>26/1109 D/10/11/16</del>
	Promoted Corporal	28.8.16		R.O. 164/2
	Proceeded overseas France	22.11.16		F.R. 143.2/10/11/16
	Pro. Sgt vice Sgt Wilshire Commissioned.	France 13.2.17		Do 1161 28.3.17
	Sgt Wounded in action	Belgium 12.6.17		D.O. 4/2796/25.6
	Ref'd to hospital over Wounded.	21.8.17		D.O. 4/4975/19/17
	Sgt to be 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut (P.R. not in hand) 22/11/17	30.8.17		19-9-17

I have examined the above details and find them correct in every respect.

22 B 52

Transferred to

D

D 41791

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 069

Rank 2/Lieut

Name BRUCE T.F.

Unit 36th Battalion

Casualty Wounded

Killed in Action 12/10/17

C.S.B. 91551, 9253 dated London 28-6-17

C.O. 607 50/963, 1138 dated London 27/10/17

LIOT. 133

355

DATE	PURPORT.	REF. NO.
JUL 1917	A.F. B. 103 Received	A.F. B. 2090A Received
OCT 29 1917	M.O. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION.	
OCT 29 1917	Gov. Gen. ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION.	
24. 11. 17	COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS	
7. 11. 17	Sec. O.O. Royal Frontier, Sydney asking for info	11/20/1909
WAR HISTORY INDEX	CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF Cable No. <u>6 278/106 made 10/21/17</u>	
4 2.18	"WHI" to D.P.M. & M.D. No 24/886	
4 5.18	"WHI" to D.P.M. & M.D. M. 20/282.	
3 5.18	PERSONAL EFFECTS EX- <u>278/106</u>	
19 7/18	Form of <u>Barungo</u> Received <u>278/106</u> E. R. M. No. <u>27/238</u>	
	Effects ex "Barungo" lost at sea M 33/963	
	Effects ex "Barungo" lost at sea M 33/963	
		
		
		
		
13/1/22	Circular E.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet 12/17/19	
	BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt <u>54/266</u>	

## FIELD SERVICE.

REPORT of Death of an Officer to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36 or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT or CORPS ) 36th BATTALION. A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company ) -----

Rank 2nd Lieutenant.

Name BRUCE Thomas Fraser.

DIED { By whom reported Commanding Officer 36th Battalion. A.I.F.  
Date of Death 12th October 1917.  
Place or Hospital In the Field, BELGIUM.  
Cause of Death KILLED IN ACTION  
Place of Burial Particulars not yet to hand.

State whether he leaves a will or not. ) Will not received.

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased Officer of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

Signature of Officer in charge of Section Adjutant-General's Office at the Base.

*Lyas Bennett*  
2nd Lieut.  
Officer i/c Records.

Station and Date ANZAC Section, 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q., B.E.F.  
7th November 1917.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE,

VICTORIA BARRACKS

MELBOURNE, 21st May,

1918.

AVR

Dear Madam,

I have despatched to the Senior Ordnance Officer, Ordnance Store, Circular Quay, N.S.W. this day, for transmission to your address, one package containing the effects of the late 2nd Lieutenant T.F. Bruce, 36th Battn. received ex Transport "Euripides" as per inventory attached.

Should these not come to hand within a reasonable time, after allowing for any delay occasioned by the restricted shipping facilities, it is suggested you communicate with the above-mentioned officer on the subject.

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly let me know whether same come safely to hand by signing and returning the attached printed receipt.

Yours faithfully,

ENCLOSURE  
====

*J. H. [Signature]*  
Major.  
Officer i/c Base Records.

8020

WILL.

- A) In the event of my death I give the whole of my effects to my wife May Maud Bruce of 28 Yurong St., Sydney.
- B) My Life Assurance policy in the A.M.F. Society to my Mother Margaret Bruce of Anderson St., South Kensington Sydney.

27 - 11 - 1916.

Cpl. T.F. Bruce,  
36th Battn. A.I.F.

Witness.  
A.E. Elliott. CQMB.

Certified to be a true copy of the Will extracted from Pay Book of 2/Lieut. BRUCE, Thomas Fraser, 36th Battalion.

Checked.

*K. Thompson*  
CPL.

12.12.17.

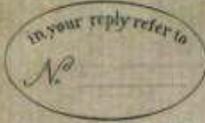
*[Signature]*  
S/SGT.  
Estates Branch.  
Adm. Hdqrs.,  
London.

New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways.

Chief Accountant's Office

A. M. P. Chambers Pitt Street,

Sydney. 5th January, 1917.



M.N.

The Officer-in-Charge,  
Base Records,  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE.

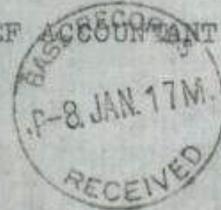
Dear Sir,

No. 1069, Thomas F. Bruce, "B" Company,  
36th Battalion.

The abovenamed who is an employee of this Department and entitled to receive the difference between his military pay and departmental pay is stated to have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant and I shall be glad if you will advise the date of his promotion.

Yours faithfully,

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT.



Correspondence Section  
JAN 9 1917  
RECEIVED.  
LF 11.15-11/1

*Handwritten notes:*  
at [unclear]  
Station [unclear]  
9/1/17 [unclear]  
Mr. Nunn  
att. [unclear]

Mr. Nunn  
Look up BR Cards for any  
Promotion  
20/1/17

KHH.

2nd Lieutenant

----- Thomas Fraser Bruce,  
36th Battalion,  
Australian Imperial Force.

xxxxxx Was killed in action.-----

(No record available), 12th October ----- 17.

Cable No. C.I.B.L.  
1963, from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London,  
27th October 1917, confirmed by Mail, from the Commandant,  
A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 5th November 1917. -----

30th January 18. Major.

National Archives of Australia

NAA: B2455 BRUCE T F

xxxx 4780

S.O. 1. 23 JUN 1928

Dear Madam,

I am forwarding herewith at the request of the Imperial War Graves Commission a printed order form referring to the publication of Part 6 of the Menin Gate Memorial Register and containing a proof slip entry of the particulars of your son, the late 2nd. Lieutenant T.F. BRUCE, 36th Battalion. The Memorial Arch at Menin Gate, Ypres, is inscribed with the names of upwards of 6,000 members of the Australian Imperial Force who fell in Belgium and have no known graves, and a full description of the Monument is contained in an illustrated introductory part accompanying each register. Prompt attention will be given to orders received in this connection, and the Registers will be forwarded post free to applicants on receipt of remittance.

I should also be obliged if you would kindly arrange to bring the enclosed order form to the notice of the late officer's widow, Mrs. E.M. Bruce, as her present address is not recorded in this office.

Yours faithfully,

Enc.

Captain,  
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. E. Bruce,  
"Palmer",  
Anderson Street,  
SOUTH WASHINGTON,  
U.S.A.

National Archives of Australia

NAA: B2455 BRUCE T F

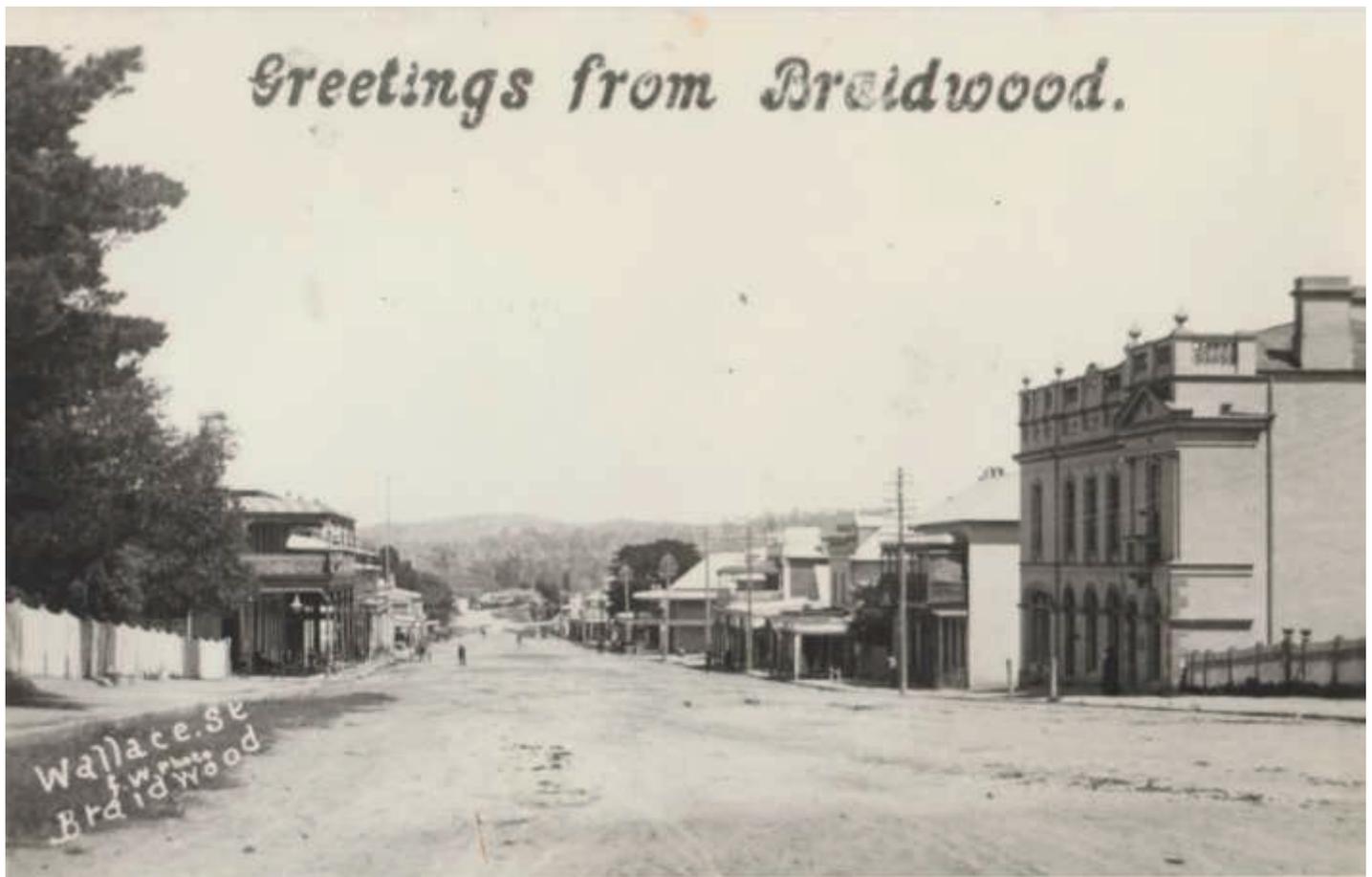
In Memory of  
Second Lieutenant  
**Thomas Fraser Bruce**

36th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 12 October 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



## Acknowledgements

Everybody responded enthusiastically to the idea of capturing the information about Braidwood's 88 World War I veterans who lost their lives. The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch is most grateful for the support they received in carrying out this task and would like to acknowledge those of whom we are aware: Karen, Chris and Renee Nelson, Roslyn Maddrell, Karen Shea, Jill Clarke, Rod McClure, Ben and Meaghan Frohling, Diane McGrath, Us On Mondays Quilting Group, Len Mutton & Co and local shopkeepers for their World War I window displays.

Thank you to the students and teachers of Braidwood Central School and St. Bedes School who have embraced these soldiers and have honoured their memories on Anzac Day 2015.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch raised a good proportion of the funds for the cost of producing these booklets. The efforts of the members of the sub branch involved are very much appreciated. This money was augmented by welcome funding from the Federal Government through the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program and the Braidwood Community Bank.

To all those who helped in any way, many thanks. Your efforts have ensured we remember these Braidwood and District Veterans well.

**Back Cover:** Peace Day, 11th November 1918, Wallace Street, Braidwood.

*"Wild day in Braidwood: When Braidwood woke up on Tuesday morning to find the 'glad tidings of great joy' awaiting it that Germany had signed the armistice and the frightful carnage of the past four years or so had come to an end it simply went mad with delight. No other words could adequately describe the excitement that followed."* "Braidwood Letters from the Front" by Roslyn Maddrell.

# ROLL OF HONOUR

Alley, Clair Underwood  
Archer, Fred  
Backhouse, Victor John  
Barnett, Frederick George  
Barry, Charles Louis  
Beatty, Walter Cusack  
Bell, John Henry Edward  
Black, George Scott  
Bruce, Thomas Fraser  
Byrne, Cecil John  
Callan, William Henry  
Catlin, Robert Henry  
Clarke, Lester Thomas  
Cook, Thomas John  
Crandell, Christopher George  
Cregan, Clarence Theodore Augustus  
Cullen, Henry Thomas  
Davis, John Henry  
Davis, Oscar Raymond Stanley  
Dawson, Edric Athol  
Dayball, Arthur Joseph  
Dempsey, Charles Frederick  
Dempsey, Charles  
Dowell, Frederick Robert  
Feeney, William  
Fisher, Osborne  
Flack, John Foster  
Garnett, Henry James  
Geelan, Robert Michael  
Gosling, Fred  
Gough, James  
Green, Francis Henry  
Healy, Myrtle James  
Howard, John Alexander  
Huggett, William  
Hunt, Frederick William  
Hunt, John  
Hush, Percy Alfred  
Hush, Thomas  
Hush, Austin Septimus  
Innes, Henry George  
Kelly, Herbert Albert  
Kemp, Leslie Smith  
Keyte, Robert  
Knight, Charles Oliver  
Lee, Thomas James  
Lennon, James  
Lupton, Spencer  
Lynch, James Joseph  
Matthews, Francis  
McCool, Francis Leslie Neil  
McDonald, Alexander Joseph  
McLean, Donald  
McRae, Finley Arnold  
Meade, Arthur Stuart  
Merton, Thomas David  
Montgomery, Stanley  
Moore, William  
Newberry, Alwyn (Alwin) Horace James  
O'Brien, Thomas Daniel  
O'Reilly, John  
Pooley, Edward  
Rex, Horace Joseph  
Riley, Frank  
Roberts, Frederick Bede  
Robinson, William James  
Rodgers, Albert  
Seidel, Alfred George  
Seidel, Henry Edward  
Sharpe, George Lyle  
Sharpe, Reginald  
Sherman, Edgar Robert  
Sherman, Percy Frederick  
Simmons, George  
Smith (Greenwood), George  
Spicer, William Henry  
Steele, Alexander Norman  
Stein, Daniel Godfrey  
Stewart, David Walter  
Styles, Reginald Lucian  
Torpy, Patrick Edward  
Torpy, Thomas Patrick  
Walker, William Albert  
Watt, James  
Watt, Oscar Harold McClure  
White, Alister  
Whitelaw, Thomas Philip  
Wilson, Samuel Charles

Lest We Forget