

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

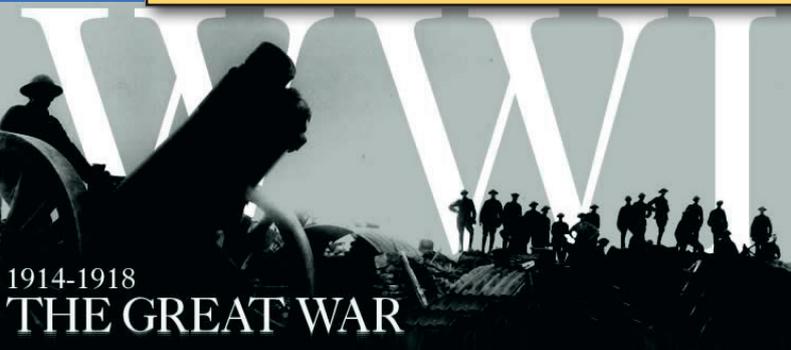
DAVIS, John Henry

Service Number: 2128

Rank: Private

*"Coo-ee-
Wont YOU
come?"*

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 **John Henry Davis**, 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.

John Henry Davis 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

JOHN HENRY DAVIS

Service Number: 2128

Rank: Private

Unit: 15th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 08 August 1915

Place of death: Gallipoli, Ottoman Empire

Cause of death: Killed in action

Place of association: Braidwood, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Lone Pine Memorial,
Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: John Henry Davis' name
is located at **panel 75** in the Commemorative Area at the
Australian War Memorial

15th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The Queensland and Tasmanian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas just before Christmas. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an AIF division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt, it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. *In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw.* At the end of the month, a detachment from A Company reinforced the 14th Battalion's unsuccessful attack on Hill 60. The 15th Battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

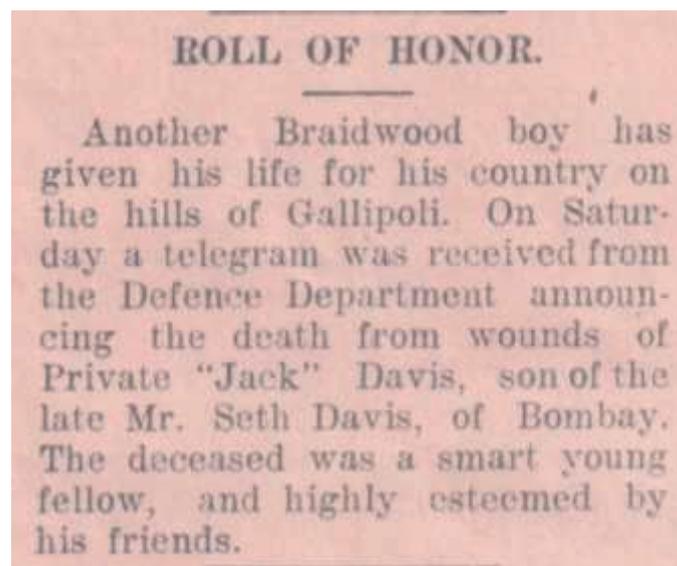
After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF was expanded and was reorganised. The 15th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 47th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its

first major action in France was at Pozieres in August 1916. Along with most of the 4th Brigade, the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line.

In March and April 1918, the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive. In July 1918, as a result of his valorous actions during the fighting near Hamel, Private Henry Dalziel was awarded the battalion's only Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "...the black day of the German Army in this war...".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. In November 1918, members of the AIF began to return to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.



1915: *The Dispatch Braidwood*, reporting the death of John Henry Davis.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01029

1915, Ottoman Empire: Turkey, Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Sari Bair Area, View of Hill 971, from Durrant's Post.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A00850

December 1915: A 6" Howitzer shell bursting in the Turkish trenches. The photograph was taken from the position held by the Australians. To the left is Hill 971



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

G01794

Looking north to Hill 971 from a ridge 100 yards north of Hill 100. The head of Kaiajik Dere is in the foreground showing the extremely rough country the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade had to cross in the attack on Hill 971 on 7 August 1915. John Henry Davis died the following day. One of a series of photographs taken on the Gallipoli Peninsula under the direction of Captain C E W Bean of The Australian Historical Mission, during the months of February and March, 1919.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

G01846

The gap in the hedge through which the 18th Infantry Battalion passed to attack Hill 60 in August 1915. Hill 60 is in the background and Hill 971 is in the far distance. One of a series of photographs taken on the Gallipoli Peninsula under the direction of Captain C E W Bean of the Australian Historical Mission, during the months of February and March, 1919.

D

25224

MISSING 15th B^{ty}

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2138 Name DAVIS JOHN HENRY
15th Bty Unit Unattached Infantry
Joined on 21. 3 - 15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- 1. What is your Name? John Henry Davis
2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of Braemar in the County of N.S.W.
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? Yes
4. What is your age? 28 3/2
5. What is your trade or calling? labourer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? No
7. Are you married? No
8. Who is your next of kin? Sister Mrs W. H. Stacker, 90, Post Office, Jenbaicumbene N.S.W.
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? 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? 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? No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? No
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother) Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? No
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? Yes

I, John Henry Davis 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 of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date 21. 3 - 15

J. H. Davis Signature of person enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Transferred to

W 18544

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. 29756

No. 2128

Rank Private Name Davis J H

Unit 15th Battalion

Casualty 7/8/15 Missing in 76 14884/2092 dated 7/9/15

8/8/15 Reported missing. M.F. C 42085/6016. At 17.5.16. M.F. C 20675

Previously reported missing now reported killed in action 8/8/15



DATE: 2

A.F. B. 103 Received

A.F. B. 2090A Received.

Ref. No.

WAR HISTORY INDEX

- 10/9/16 M.C. 1 advised (Missing)
- 10.9.16 M.C. 2 advised (Missing)
- 4 H H Records have asked to make investigations re above, a pseudo extract from letter sent by Red Cross
- 12.5.16 Records forwarded - are 2128 John Henry Davis + 3179 Roland Herbert Davis both Missing re.
- 11.5.16 DARGING IND. Replied letter from NOK 3/6 asking for Red Bag.
- 29.5.16 Reply sent to NOK 3/6 from DARGING
- 17.5.16 NOK applying for Red Bag of above
- 5.6.16 Reply sent to 17.5.16
- 1.6.16 The Red Cross Brisbane asking if above identical with 2129 Davis repts killed in action
- 9.6.16 Reply sent to letter of 1.6.16
- 1.8.16 N.O.K. asking information re Red
- 2.8.16 Reply sent letter 1/8/16
- 13.6.17 M.C. 1 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION. 8/9/15
- 13.6.17 M.C. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION.
- 16.6.17 COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS
- CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF
- Cable No. M.F. C 2720 Ride of 1328 17/6/17
- 120 11.17 Court of Inquiry proceedings received - B. R. M. 22/1443 K. in A.
- 12.4.18 PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. "Barabai" 8.12.19 let 27.1.19
- 1/10/20. 1914/1916 Star issued B.R.M. 431229. 13/11/14 12753
- To Comd 2nd. M.F. C. M. 51. 672. 12753



"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST." Pamphlet sent to Mr. W. H. Walker on 3.2.21

LIST 50

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DEFENSE DEPT. 29756. Receipt of M.F. C 2128. Reported to 29756. Davis J H 15th Bn

025224

FIELD SERVICE.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier 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 } 15th Battalion A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company } 6th Reinfd.

Regtl. No. 2123 Rank Private.

Name DAVIS J. H.

Died { Date 8th AUGUST 1915. Place Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY. Cause of Death * KILLED in ACTION.

Nature and Date of Report Podge Court of Inquiry in the Field B.E.F. 2/2/17 on 18/4/17.

By whom made C.O. 15th Battalion A.I.F.

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation, or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Burial { Place Unknown Date do. By whom reported do.

State whether he leaves a will or not { (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Unknown (b) in Small Book (if at Base) do (c) as a separate document do

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, 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 soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Signature of Officer in charge of Section Adjutant-General's Office at the Base [Signature] Captain C.C. Australian Records Section 3rd ECHELON G.H.Q. E.E.F.

Station and Date Alexandria 21st JUNE 1917.

96

1st MILITARY DISTRICT,
DISTRICT HEAD-QUARTERS
137 1 58

Jembacumbene
Braidwood

N.S. Wales
May 7th 1916

To
District Commandant
Brisbane



Sir

I write to ask for my brothers kit
Bag. ²¹²⁸ Private J. H. Davis Co. Coy. 15th Batt-
a. I. F. who was officially reported
missing between 7th - 8th August, returned
Soldiers say they saw him killed.
would you please forward me his
kit bag, if in Queensland, it is
not in Sydney I have inquired
hoping you can oblige

Yours Truly

Mrs Nellie Stalker
Jembacumbene
Braidwood
N.S. Wales

2128 J. H. Davis
4/75

Neset of. Kin

bag
1150
Papers
have
reference
of this
P.M.

Jumbai'cumbene
Brande wood
N. S. Wales
Sept 14 1916

THOS COOK & SON
15 SEP 1916

Thos Cook & Sons

Dear Sirs

Can you give me any information re my
brother Kit bag. namely No 2128 Private
J. H. Davis. Co. Company 15th Battalion
6 reinforcements. reported missing. 5 August
1915. I have been notified that Kit
bag would be delivered hereby your
Company. I have been informed so
from Base records Melbourne
hoping you can oblige

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Nellie Stalker

Next of Kin

RECEIVED
22 SEP 1916

B7 file
JMK
2/2

10/26/19

6th October 16.

1633

Dear Madam,

With reference to your communication of the 13th ultimo, on the subject of the report regarding your brother, No. 2128, Private John Henry Davis, 15th Battalion, I am directed to inform you that there is no definite official report of this soldier's death.

Looking however:-

(1) To the statements made by,

(a) Pte. B. Townsend, 2205, 15 A.I.F. C.Co. 1st A.S.H. Ismailia, Egypt.

"Davis was in the same charge in the dark with me. We called him Jack. He was one of the best chaps one could have for a mate. I did not see him killed but 2 mates of mine did. He was shot in the head. He said he had been away from home for a good many years. He told me he meant to see his sister when we got off at Sydney. It was impossible to bring any of those killed in. It was new country. We could only get the wounded back."

(b) Pte. R. Hawkins, 2140, 15 A.I.F., Luna Park Hospital, Heliopolis, Cairo.

"Was a personal friend of witness, and was killed during the charge on Sunday morning the 8th August alongside witness on the extreme left of Anzac."

- (2) To the length of time which has elapsed since this soldier was officially reported "Missing", viz:- 8th August 1915;
- (3) To the fact that Private Davis' name has not appeared in any list of prisoners of war received to date;

the Military Board is regretfully constrained to conclude that this soldier is dead, and that death occurred on or about 8th August 1915.

Yours faithfully,

Major.
Officer i/c Base Records.Mrs. N. Stalker,
Jembaicumbene,
BRAINWOOD. S.A.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps		15th Battalion A.I.F.		Christian Name		J. H.	
Rank	Private	Surname	D. A. V. I. S.	Age on Enlistment	.....	years	.....
Religion	.....	Enlisted (a)	.....	Terms of Service (a)	.....	Service reckons from (a)	.....
Date of promotion to present rank		.....		Date of appointment to lance rank		.....
Extended	.....	Re-engaged	.....	Qualification (b)	.....	
Occupation		.....		Signature of Officer			

Date	From whom received	Report	Place of Country	Date of Casualty	Remarks
8/8/15	S. 213 Bn	Joined Battalion	Gallipoli	2/8/15	
15/8/15	S. 213 Bn	"MISSING"	do.	8/8/15	MFC. 22674/5 20/10/15 D.O. 68/5192 8/11/15
23/6/16	S.P.M. London	Last paid on KAROOLA		July 1915	85/9/5
18/4/17	Podge Court of field B.V.E.F.	Previously reported MISSING Board now finds:-KILLED in ACTION		8/8/15	28/152/2 MFC. 52730 4th Div Inf Dtls D.O. 20/A585 6/7/17

H. C. Neal
Captain
O.C. Australian Records Section
3rd BATTALION B.H.Q. B.N.F.

J.M./V.D.

2586

11th October 1916.

Dear Madam,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th ultimo, addressed to Messrs Thomas Cook & Son, concerning the effects of No. 2128 Private J.H. Davis, who is officially posted missing, and to state that so far no advice of the despatch of any articles or personal effects has been received. It is understood the Authorities in Egypt are now cleaning up the kits which were left behind at the time the troops embarked for Gallipoli, and anything coming to hand for you will be promptly transmitted.

Yours faithfully,

Major.
Officer i/c Base Records.Mrs. H. Stalker,
Jembacumbere,
BRAWOOD, F.S.N.

In Memory of

Private

John Henry Davis

2128, 15th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 08 August 1915

Remembered with Honour

Lone Pine Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

ANZACS

By Edgar Wallace

*The children unborn shall acclaim
The standard the Anzacs unfurled,
When they made Australasia's fame
The wonder and pride of the world.*

Some of you got a V.C.,
Some "the Gallipoli trot,"
Some had a grave by the sea,
And all of you got it damned hot,
And I see you all go limping through town
In the faded old hospital blue,
And driving abroad – lying down,
And Lord ! but I wish I were you!

I envy you beggars I meet,
From the dirty old hats on your head
To the rusty old boots on your feet -
I envy you living or dead.
A knighthood is fine in its way,
A peerage gives splendour and fame,
But I'd rather have tacked any day
That word to the end of my name.

I'd count it the greatest reward
That ever a man could attain;
I'd sooner be "Anzac" than "Lord,"
I'd rather be "Anzac" than "thane."
Here's a bar to the medal you'll wear,
There's a word that will glitter and glow,
And an honour a king cannot share
When you're back in the cities you know.

*The children unborn shall acclaim
The standard the Anzacs unfurled,
When they made Australasia's fame
The wonder and pride of the world.*

*From The Anzac Book, Written and Illustrated
in Gallipoli by The Men of Anzac 1916
For the benefit of Patriotic Funds connected
with the A. & N. Z. A. C.
Published by Cassell and Compnay Ltd,
.London.*



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