

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

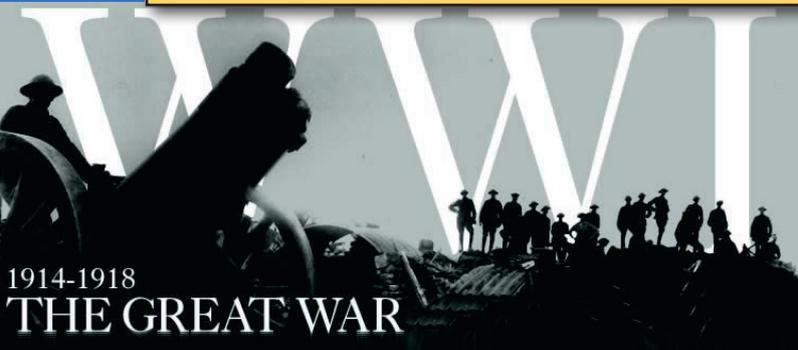
A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR
DOWELL, Frederick Robert
Service Number: 6377
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 **Frederick Robert Dowell**, 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.

Frederick Robert Dowell 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

FREDERICK ROBERT DOWELL

Service Number: 6377

Rank: Private

Unit: 4th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 05 May 1917

Place of death: France

Cause of death: Killed in action

Age at death: 23

Place of association: Braidwood, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: Frederick Robert Dowell's name is located at **panel 40** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

Following is a selection of articles and letters taken from The Braidwood Dispatch and published in Braidwood Letters from the Front by Roslyn Maddrell

Mr F. H. Dowell received a letter from his son, Private F. Dowell, who was quartered at Fovant Camp, Salisbury, UK.

We have not done much work here yet, only route marching. We got three and a half days leave on the 17th November (1916), which we spent in London. I spent two and a half hours looking through the Tower of London. It was very interesting to be on the actual spot one had read so much about in history. On Sunday, I had a look round Westcliffe. It is a place something like Manly is to Sydney for the London people. On the following day I went along to St. Paul's. It is a lovely place and took me a good while to go through it.

There are 375 steps to the stone gallery; they won't allow anyone higher up since the war commenced, on account of spies. I also went through the crypt and saw the tombs of a lot of England's great men – Nelson, Wellington, Roberts, Florence Nightingale, Christopher Wren, and a whole lot more. I also spoke across the famous whispering gallery. It is wonderful how every sound can be heard across the space.

After my inspection of St. Paul's I had a glimpse through Westminster Abbey, the Museum, and London Bridge. I only had a few hours, and could not see much of each. It is dark here at about 4:30pm and at night time London and all towns here are in almost total darkness on account of Zepp raids.

We had to be back at Waterloo Station at 2:30pm on Tuesday. Thus ended my first tour of London. I hope to see more of it before I go to the front.

Private Dowell asks to give his kindest regards to all Braidwood friends.



Mr Dowell's other son Private F. Dowell writes from France, February 1917.

He had only joined up with his battalion, and was out trench digging all the day of writing, and on returning to camp he found his brother, Private S. A. Dowell, waiting to see him. He had been waiting about four hours. Steve, he says, looks the picture of health, and is just the same old bag of tricks – not a bit different for all the hard times he has gone through. He adds that he “he hopes to weather all the storm in front of him as well as Steve has done. I am in good health.”



Private Fred Dowell writing to his parents dated March 8th 1917. “Somewhere in France”, opens in a joyous strain by stating that, after six months absence he had received his first of letters from home. He says,

I came through my term in the front line safely. Fritz was raining his bullets and shells, and gas all around us. Some of the poor boys in my reinforcement were killed and a good many hurt, four or five being killed with one shell. We got a dose of his gas the first morning we were in the trenches.

My throat felt a little sore, but that was all.

It was bright moonlight weather while we were up the front, and fairly cold. The last day we were there it snowed. The Somme mud is some mud, as the Yanks say: you sink up to your knees in place, and it is a job to pull your feet out, it clings to you most affectionately too.

It is terrible to see the ruin that abounds everywhere here. Where ever you go for miles, where farms and villages and homes were, there is a sense of absolute desolation. The ground is nothing but one mass of shell holes, hardly a yard of it has escaped. God knows how anyone could have lived there during the bombardment that must have gone on. It is a terribly heartbreaking sight. I never realized it till I saw it. Pictures and reading cannot convey the real meaning to anyone. I hope I shall be able to forget it all, but I am afraid I won't.

Private Dowell has not received any of the many parcels sent to him as yet.

Private F. R. Dowell's brother, Private S. W. Dowell returned to Australia in 1918 and was discharged in 1919.



1917: The Braidwood Dispatch reporting the death of Frederick Robert Dowell.

The Roll of Honor.

The list of district boys who have lost their lives fighting for the Empire continues to increase and multiply. The latest victim of Hunnish "frightfulness" is Private F. R. Dowell, son of Mr. F. H. Dowell, of the Central Stores, Braidwood. A telegram to this effect was received by the Rev. W. D. Kennedy on Tuesday night, who immediately communicated the sad news to the parents of the deceased. The date of death is given as the 5th May. On that date the 4th Battalion, to which Private Dowell was attached, was engaged in the fighting for Bullecourt. It is presumed, therefore, that he lost his life in this battle, which has been described as one of the fiercest of the whole campaign. The late Private Dowell, who would have been 23 years of age in July, enlisted in February, 1916. He left Australia in August last and landed in France after undergoing the necessary training in England, on the 4th February last, when he met his brother, Private S. Dowell, who took part in the Gallipoli campaign, and was then fighting in France. Although he had only been a comparatively short time on the western front, the decea-

sed had participated in several actions. There was no soldier who left Australia who was fired with greater patriotism than he. Although he was the right-hand man in his father's store, with fine prospects ahead of him, with a lady love to whom he was engaged to be married, and surrounded with every comfort that makes life worth living and hanging on to, he could no resist what he conceived to be the call of duty, although he realised what it meant and the hard and strenuous life it stood for. His letters to his parents breathed the spirit of patriotism and a fervent desire to beat the Hun at whatever sacrifice. That he paid for his patriotism with his life is indeed a matter for sincere regret, although it will do much to soften the blow that his death has administered to his bereaved parents, for whom the most profound sympathy is felt amongst all classes in the community. A finer type of Australian manhood it would not be possible to find anywhere. Always quiet and unobtrusive, he was yet of a lovable disposition, popular alike with the employees in the store and its numerous clientele, and esteemed and respected by all who knew him. Mr. and Mrs. Dowell have been overwhelmed with condolences in their sad bereavement.



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24595

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PALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 6377

Name DOWELL Frederick Robert

Unit

Joined on 23rd February 1916

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is your Name? | 1. <u>Frederick Robert Dowell</u> |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? | 2. In the Parish of in or
near the Town of <u>Braidwood</u>
in the County of |
| 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a
Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the
latter, papers to be shown.) | 3. <u>British Born</u> |
| 4. What is your age? | 4. <u>22 years 8 months</u> |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? | 5. <u>Sheep</u> |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentices? If so,
where, to whom, and for what period? | 6. <u>No</u> |
| 7. Are you married? | 7. <u>No</u> |
| 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) .. | 8. <u>Father, Frederick Hopper Dowell</u>
<u>Braidwood, NSW</u>
<u>BRAIDWOOD</u> |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? .. | 9. <u>No</u> |
| 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His
Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Ineor-
rigible and Worthless, or on account of Convic-
tion of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servi-
tude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace
from the Navy? | 10. <u>No</u> |
| 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. <u>No</u> |
| 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous
service? | 12. <u>Yes</u> |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's
Service? If so, on what grounds? | 13. <u>No</u> |
| 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. <u>Yes</u> |
| 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox
and enteric fever? | 15. <u>Yes</u> |

I, Frederick Robert Dowell 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 three-fifths

Date March 16th 1916
wife and children

F R Dowell
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.

210/26
D 28694

Transferred to

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 6377 ✓
Rank Pt ✓ Name DOWELL F R
Unit 4th Battalion

Casualty Killed in action 5/5/17 658 L. 192. 1/2017 United London 25/5/17



[Handwritten signature]

DATE	A. F. B. 103 Receipt	PURPORT.	A. F. B. 2080A Receipt	REF. NO.
28/5/17	M.C. 2	ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION.	5/5/17.	
1-6-17		COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS		
4-6-17		NOT asking for Special		6/6
6-3-18		PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. <i>at auction</i>		
		No personal effects in kit B. R. M. No. <i>19/10/17</i>		
		CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF		
		Table No. <i>658 L. 1421 made 7/3rd Oct 20/7/17</i>		
		"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."		
		Pamphlet sent to <i>M. J. H. Dowell</i> on <i>2.11.17</i>		
				MEMORIAL SCROLL
				To <i>Father</i>
				<i>M. J. H. Dowell</i>
				<i>324574</i>
				<i>20/7/21</i> <i>AH</i>
				<i>"Received & acknowledged"</i>
				<i>by printed card 19.5.20.30.</i>
				<i>2nd</i>
				BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt <i>2nd</i> M.D.B.R.M. 58/58

WAR HISTORY INDEX

FIELD SERVICE. D24595 Army Form B. 2090A.

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) 26/4TH. BATTALION A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company

Regimental No. 6377 Rank Private

Surname DOELL Christian Names Frederick Robert

Died Date 5th. May 1917. Place FRANCE

Cause of Death* KILLED IN ACTION

Nature and Date of Report Army Form B. 213 dated 10th. May 1917.

By whom made Commanding Officer 24th. 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 Particulars not yet to hand. Date _____

By whom reported _____

State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 54) Will not received (b) in Small Book (if at Base) _____
 a Will or not (c) as a separate document.

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. A. G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Office, 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.

HZAC SECTION GRD. ECHELON G.H.Q. D.E.F.
 Station and Date 23rd. June 1917. Signature of Officer in charge of Section [Signature]
 Adjutant-General's Office at the Base

FORM B. 2090A/1917 500,000 1016 JFW (E228) Forms B. 2090A/B

J. H. Dowell

GENERAL STOREKEEPER

Central Stores,

BRAIDWOOD, 4th June 17 1917

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



Dear Sir,

For the purpose of collecting the Life Assurance, will you kindly furnish me with the,

"MILITARY CERTIFICATE OF DEATH"

of my Son,

No 6377, Private F. R. Dowell, 4th Battalion, A. I. F.

I am,

Yours truly,

J. H. Dowell

*Q. M. M. 5/17/17
 116*

Mc
 RECEIVED
 5/17/17

In Memory of

Private

Frederick Robert Dowell

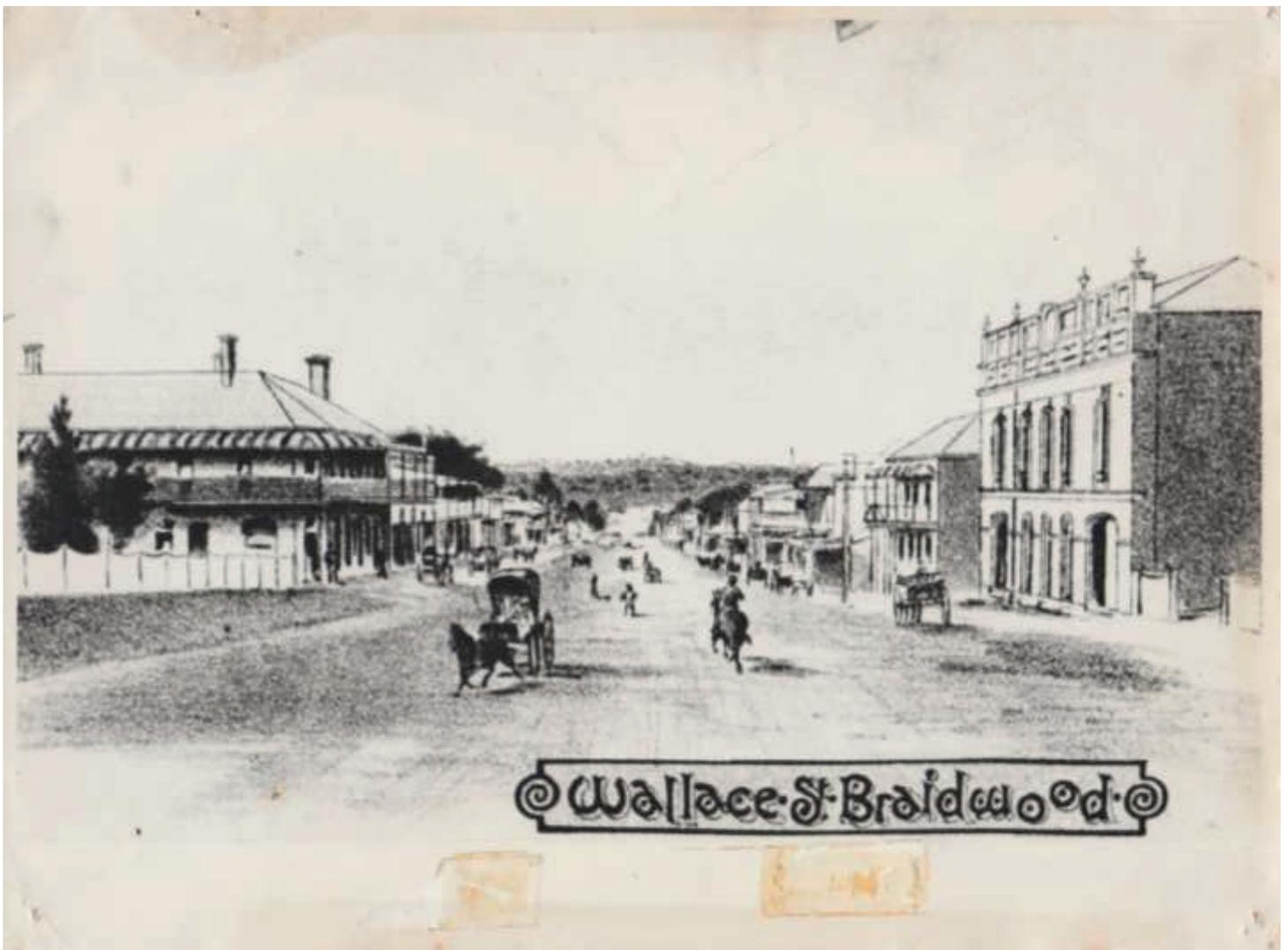
6377, 4th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 05 May 1917 Age 23

Son of Frederick Hooper Dowell and Lillia Emma Dowell, of Braidwood, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour
Villers-Bretonneux Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Braidwood Post Card

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