

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

“We will remember them well”

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES

ROLL OF HONOUR

HUGGETT, William

Service Number: 5125

Rank: Private

*Coo-ee-
Wont YOU
come?*

GULF OF SARON

SEA OF MARMORA

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 Jembalcumbene 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 **William Huggett**, 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.

William Huggett 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

WILLIAM HUGGETT

Service Number: 5125

Rank: Private

Unit: 1st Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 22 July 1916

Place of death: France

Cause of death: Killed in action

Age at death: 21

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,

Location on the Roll of Honour: William Huggett's name is located at **panel 29** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

1st Australian Infantry Battalion

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and served there until the evacuation in December. Its most notable engagement at Gallipoli was the battle of Lone Pine in August. Two members of the battalion, Captain A. J. Shout and Lieutenant L.M. Keysor were awarded Victoria Crosses for their valour at Lone Pine, Captain Shout posthumously.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. At Bullecourt in May 1917, Corporal G. J. Howell became the third member of the battalion to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the battle of 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. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919. Between November 1918 and May 1919 the men of the 1st Battalion returned to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.

1916: *The Braidwood Dispatch reporting the death of William Huggett*

In our last issue we briefly reported the death at the front of Sergeant W. H. Spicer, son of Mr. Frank Spicer, of this town, and Private W. Huggett, son of Mr. S. H. Huggett, of Mongarlowe. Sergeant Spicer was one of the first to enlist from Braidwood. He took part in the famous Gallipoli landing, and was in the thick of the fighting on the Peninsula till the end. He came through the ordeal unscathed by either bullets or sickness, although his comrade, Lance-Corporal S. Dowell, went down to sickness. Owing to his good work in the firing line Sergeant Spicer gained speedy promotion. He was only 27 years of age, and a native of Braidwood. He was a very popular young man, and the news of his death was received with many manifestations of regret. The greatest sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Spicer in their sad bereavement. Mrs. Spicer was away on a holiday when the news of her son's death arrived. They are both very much cut up, although they are somewhat consoled by the fact that he gave his life for his country. Private Huggett's death must have taken place about the same time. The sympathy of the community will go out to his bereaved father and mother.





1916: Goulburn NSW, Group portrait of Troops, taken outside the drill hall at Goulburn Training Camp. Identified is 5435 Private William Joseph Punch, 1st Battalion (Third Row, 11th from right). (Photo: Australia War Memorial, donor A. Speer)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0537

William Huggett left Sydney on 1 April, 1916 on the SS Makarini. Troops on board SS Makarini prior to departure.

D

655

STRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

16TH REINFORCEMENTS
1ST BATTALION.

16th R. I. F.S.
1st Battalion.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No.

5125.

1st Batt'n

Name 16TH REINFORCEMENTS
Unit 1ST BATTALION
Joined on

Buggett William
2nd December 1915

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ...
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ...
4. What is your age? ...
5. What is your trade or calling? ...
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ...
7. Are you married? ...
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ...
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ...
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible 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? ...
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 ...
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ...
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ...
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? ...
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ...

1. Buggett William
2. In the Parish of in or near the Town of Braintree
3. in the County of British born
4. 21 years / up to Nov
5. Single
6. No
7. No
8. Father Stephen Buggett
Wingfield Lane
Braintree
9. No
10. No
11. No
12. Yes
13. No
14. Yes
15. Yes

I, William Buggett, 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 wife and children

Date 20th December 1915

William Buggett +
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.

CARD CHECKED

Statement of Service of No. 5125

Name. Sluggett, William

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
"Waratahs" E. Coy. No. 1 Battn. 16 Pteif 1 st Battn	Private Private Private Dis. at Marseilles ex Caldonia May 5:16. Reported at 1 st Auct. dis. Base depot- Staples Joined 1 st Battn from 16 Pteif 1 st Battn. A.I.F.	Dec 3 Dec 18 1-3-16 20-5-16 11-4-16	Dec 18 1915 1-3-16 20-5-16 11-4-16	Q 56 E 59/16 DQ 6:16 PTE 69/4391 16-8-16
	KILLED IN ACTION	France 22-25/7/16	A.I. 67/6816 5/8/16 -6-8-16 265	
	Proceeded to join 1 st Anzac entrenched Batt.	26-6-16	A.C. 1681.	

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

Transferred to

D

DEFENCE
B.R.

D 11069

W

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 5125

Rank

Private

Name

Huggett W.

Unit

1st Battalion

Casualty

Killed in action 22 to 25/7/16 C.118.L.265/476416
Add. Ltr. 10.8.16.116

DATE	PURPORT.	REF. NO.
16-8-16 31-8-16	M.O. 2 Advise COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF Cable No. 118.L.265/476416 to C.R.M. 45/1383 & Book " in Caret despatched 8.12.19. H.C. FINAL NOTICE 4 R/T 1822 Farewell from K.H.P. 10/12/20	A.F. B.2000A Received.
9.12.21	BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt 2nd M.D.B.R.M. 54/100 175	
17-10-21	STAR ISSUED No. 38739 Date 1936	
17-10-21	BRAZIL WAR MEDAL ISSUED No. 38739 Date 1936	
17-10-21	VICTORY MEDAL ISSUED No. 34880 Date 1935	
17-10-21	MEMORIAL PLAQUE To Father (Direct) M/S. Huggett 300654 28.10.21 G.P.R.	
LIST.		

FIELD SERVICE.

9m.

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	1ST INFANTRY BATTALION.A.I.	Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company	16TH REINFORCEMENTS.
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Regt. No. 5125 Rank PRIVATE

Name HUGGETT William.

Date	22/25th July 1916
Died	Place (In the Field) FRANCE
	Cause of Death* KILLED IN ACTION.

Nature and Date of Report Army Form B.213 dated 28th July 1916.

By whom made Commanding Officer 1st Infantry Battalion.A.I.F.

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

Place	Not yet to hand
Burial Date	-
By whom reported	-

State whether he leaves a will or not	(a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Not yet to hand
	(b) in Small Book (if at Base) -
	(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.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  LIEUTENANT.
Officer i/c Records.

Station and Date Rouen France. 18th October 1916.

ANZAC SECTION 3rd Echelon G.H.Q.
W. 12920/4141 400,000 12/15 JFW BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Eleanor St.
Eastgrove
Goulburn
8 Jan 1916

To Officer i/c Base Records.

Gir

Would you
oblige me by giving me some information
respecting ~~the~~ the undermentioned Soldier
as to whether he is still alive or otherwise
as I have had no communication from
him for some time past. his last address
was as follows.

Private William Huggott
No 5169. 16th Reinforcements
14 Battalion A.D.B.D
Co A.P.O
S 17. B.E.F
France



Awaiting your early Reply

I am Gir
Yours faithfully.

J. H. Huggott

No Mrs G A Cunningham
Eleanor St

East. Goulburn

Z/5125

D. 11069

29677

12th January, 1917.

Dear Sir,

In acknowledging receipt of your communication dated 8th instant, I have to inform you the nearest approach to the soldier referred to is shown on the records as No. 5125 Private William Huggett, 16th Reinforcements, 1st Battalion, who enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force at Liverpool, New South Wales, on 20/12/15. He was born at Braidwood, and next-of-kin is shown as residing in that town.

Should the abovenamed soldier be identical with the subject of your enquiry, I regret to inform you he was reported in a brief cable message as having been killed in action between 22nd and 25th July, 1916.

Yours faithfully,

Major
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. S. H. Huggett,
C/o Mrs. G. A. Cunningham,
Eleanor Street,
East Goulburn, N.S.W.



Bell's Creek
Tas Braidwood
Sept 22/22

The Officer in Charge
Base Records
Victoria Barracks
Melbourne

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I have today received a
Medal for my late son Wm
Hugget also found to be filled
up with particulars for an
inscription on his grave.

This letter which was evidently
posted in Melbourne about the
10th of last Feb. was addressed to me
at Mongarlowe - where it has
been since I do not know, and
I think should be enquired into.

The Post master at Mongarlowe
knows very well that I have been
away from them for 5 years. He
also knows very well my
present address, which I give
above. I hope my reply
will not be too late for your
purpose.



DECEASED
SECTION
SEP 26 1922

I am yourself S. H. Hugget Jr.

RECEIVED

Wm Hugget Jr.

In Memory of
Private
William Huggett

5125, 1st Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 22 July 1916 Age 21

Son of Stephen Henry and Rossetta Huggett, of Bell's Creek, New South Wales. Born at Braidwood, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour
Villers-Bretonneux Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

From Braidwood Dear Braidwood, by Netta Ellis

Editorial comment at the beginning of the war, gave emphasis to the effect of war on such domestic affairs as markets for primary products, and the unemployment caused by the closure of mines and factories as export markets disappeared. Reports of fighting overseas were always optimistic, allied victories being predicted and casualties stated as minimal.

However, some weeks after the Dardanelles campaign, as the true number of killed, wounded and missing was reported and that event seen as a failure rather than a success, a fear of defeat and the real tragedy of the First World War, the "Great War", was realised. In 1917 as local boys were casualties to the horror of the trench fighting in France, the conflict was no longer so remote, as letters were received from soldiers recovering in England from wounds.



The people gave their support by contributing large amounts to the war loans, the proceeds of most social events going to this purpose. The women rallied to the Red Cross Society. By 1917, Braidwood women had made 3,756 pounds of jam to aid the war effort; 202 pounds were made in Durran Durra and 304 pounds in Majors Creek and Jembiacumbene!

Nevertheless, the local people voted overwhelmingly in the negative at the referenda in 1916 and 1917 asking for the power to conscript men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five for overseas service to be given to the Commonwealth Government. There was much criticism in the local press of the personality and



actions of Prime Minister William Morris Hughes, who was described as a "tinpot Welsh autocrat", and of the exclusion of voting in the referenda of people with the names of German origin. Perhaps the democracy of the goldfields still permeated the community and conscription was seen as a contradiction of individual freedom. A significant proportion of the population was of Irish origin and some of these had conflicting loyalties. Moreover, by 1917, the rural workforce was seriously depleted. At Easter 1917 the N.S.W. Recruiting Committee issued the following verse:

**Who Rides Today?
Bending neck to bit and bridle
Pace the war steeds in their pride;
Who will fill the empty saddles?
Who will for Australia ride?
Who rides today, for Empire rides,
Where duty leads the way -
Where brothers fight and die for us
Who rides, who rides today?
Will you mount for heroes fallen?
For your soul's sake in this war?
There are southern horses waiting?
On the crimson fields afar.
They are waiting dumb, expectant,
Jingling rein and tossing head,
For the men who'll charge for Freedom
In the saddles of the dead.
Hark, the bugle call resounding
From across the Ocean wide -
Take the steed that waits a soldier,
And for dear Australia ride.**

The appeal to love the Empire, duty, freedom and 'dear Australia' was expected to be more powerful to the young men of the country areas if allied to the bushman's love of riding. But The Braidwood Dispatch had already recorded in January 1917 "All the eligible young men who were prepared to go to war have gone."



Peace Day, Wallace Street Braidwood, 11 November, 1918.

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