

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

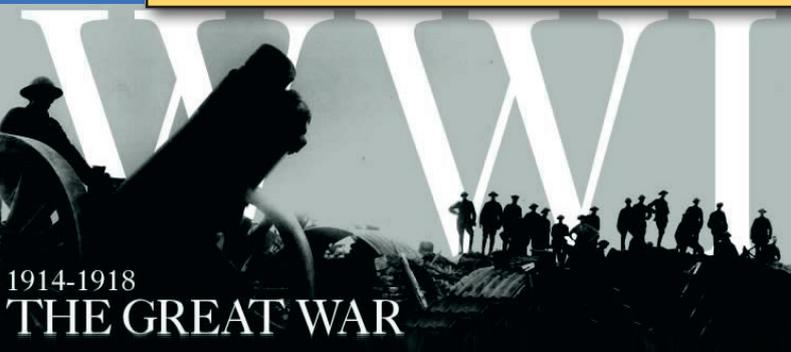
WILSON, Samuel Charles

Service Number: 3534

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 **Samuel Charles Wilson**, 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.

Samuel Charles Wilson 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

SAMUEL CHARLES WILSON

Service Number: 3534

Rank: Private

Unit: 53rd Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 19 July 1916

Place of death: France

Cause of death: Killed in action

Place of association: Port Macquarie, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery, Fromelles, Lille, Nord Pas de Calais, France

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: Samuel Charles Wilson's name is located at **panel 158** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

53rd Australian Infantry Battalion

The 53rd Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 1st Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 1st, the 53rd was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Sydney. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

The battalion arrived in France on 27 June 1916, entered the front line for the first time on 10 July, and became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, at Fromelles, on 19 July. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster. The 53rd was part of the initial assault and suffered grievously, incurring 625 casualties, including its commanding officer, amounting to over three-quarters of its attacking strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

Fromelles was the first major battle fought by Australian troops on the Western Front. Directed against a strong German position known as the Sugar Loaf salient, the attack was intended primarily as a feint to draw German troops away from the Somme offensive then being pursued further to the south. A seven-hour preparatory bombardment deprived the attack of any hope of surprise, and ultimately proved ineffective in subduing the well-entrenched defenders. When the troops of the 5th Australian and 61st British Divisions attacked at 6 pm on 19 July 1916, they suffered heavily at the hands of German machine-gunners. Small parts of the German trenches were captured by the 8th and 14th Australian Brigades, but, devoid of flanking support and subjected to fierce counter-attacks, they were forced to withdraw. By 8am on 20 July 1916, the battle was over. The 5th Australian Division suffered 5,533 casualties, rendering it incapable of offensive action for many months; the 61st British Division suffered 1,547. The German casualties were little more than 1,000. The attack was a complete failure as the Germans realised within a few hours it was merely a feint. It therefore had no impact

whatsoever upon the progress of the Somme offensive.

The 53rd spent the freezing winter of 1916-17 rotating in and out of trenches in the Somme Valley. During this period the battalion earned the nickname "the Whale Oil Guards" after the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Oswald Croshaw, ordered the troops to polish their helmets with whale oil (issued to rub into feet as a trench foot preventative) for a smart turn out on parade. In March 1917, the 53rd participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. It was spared the assault but did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 53rd's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. The 14th Brigade took up positions to the north of Villers-Bretonneux and held these even when the village fell, threatening their flanks.

Once the German offensive had been defeated, the Allies launched their own offensive in August 1918. The 14th Brigade did not play a major role in these operations until late in the month, but its actions, including those of the 53rd Battalion at Anvil Wood, were critical to the capture of Peronne, which fell on 2 September. For a succession of courageous actions during the Peronne fighting, Private William Currey was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The 53rd Battalion entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918. This operation was mounted by the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, in co-operation with American forces, to break through the formidable German defences along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion withdrew to rest on 2 October and was still doing so when the war ended. The progressive return of troops to Australia for discharge resulted in the 53rd merging with the 55th Battalion on 10 March 1919. The combined 53/55th Battalion, in turn, disbanded on 11 April.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05445.001

SAMUEL CHARLES WILSON #3534

Studio portrait of 3534 Private (Pte) Samuel Charles Wilson, 3rd Battalion, from Port Macquarie, NSW. A 29 year old labourer prior to enlistment on 25 July 1915, he embarked for overseas with the 11th Reinforcements from Sydney aboard HMAT Euripides on 2 November 1915. After transferring to the 53rd Battalion, he was killed in action on 19 July 1916 at Fromelles, France on the same day and at the same place as his brother, 4887 Pte Eric Robert Wilson [see image P05445.002]. After the war his grave could not be located and he was commemorated on the VC Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles. In 2008 a burial ground was located at Pheasant Wood, France containing the bodies of 250 British and Australian soldiers including Privates Samuel and Eric Wilson. All of the remains were reburied in the newly created Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery. At the time of the official dedication of the new cemetery on 19 July 2010, ninety-six of the Australians, including Privates Samuel and Eric Wilson, had been identified through a combination of anthropological, archaeological, historical and DNA information. Work is continuing on identifying the other remains relocated from the burial ground and buried in the new cemetery as unknown soldiers.

53rd A. I. F.

S. C. WILSON, 3534.

Killed 19.7.16. Details D & B.

Informant said Wilson was in B Co. 7 Pl. and came from Port Macquarie N.S.W. He was a bomber and in the Fromelles attack he held at bay a German party attempting to come down a sap while a number of other men were able to get away. He held the sap all alone and was himself killed by a bomb when the others had safely got away. Informant believed he was recommended for some decoration for his heroism.

Reference: Pte. E. B. Taylor, 3528, B Co. 6 Pl.
No.6 General, Rouen. 16.4.17.

G.D.P. 4-11-16

D.L.F.

S

V

53 Australian Imperial Force Wilson, S. C. 3534

(K. July 19/16).

" Wilson was killed on July 19/16 at Fromelles. He was bombing some Germans in a trench, when about 50 of them rushed out at him. He waited until they got quite near and then threw his remaining bombs down between himself and them. "

Eye Witness - No. Generally known.

Description :- Tall, ginger hair. bad upper front teeth

Informant : B. Murray, 3085
53 Aus. Imp Force H Quarters Co
Ward C. Welsh Hospital,
Hetley

Home address :-
(Not given).

Feb 3/17.
N. W. Hick.

German death list 4-11-16

S

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.,

Wilson
S.C. 3534

"Killed in Action 19-7-16"

The above name appeared on German death list dated 4-11-16.

London

30-11-16.

S.

France.

A. I. F. 53.

WILSON, S.C. 3534. G.O.L. 4-11-16
Wilson, A.W. 3474/A.
Wilson, E.R. 4887.

K/ July 19th. 1916.
H/ July 20th. 1916.
M/ July 19th. 1916.

They were brothers. All three belonged to VII.pl., B.Coy. I saw the eldest killed at Fleurbaix on July 19th. That must have been S.C. The youngest was killed on July 20th., and the other one was in camp here last week. He told me about his younger brother before he went back to the Bn. a fortnight ago.

Reference: Pte. P.J. Fendlen, 4907, B.Coy.,
No. 4 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
31.1.17.
SA.

Written Adj: 53. 7.2.17
A.D.B.D.

53rd Battn.
late 4th Battn.
A.I.F.

WILSON
Arthur W. 3474a

Missing - 19-7-16.

"In reply to your enquiry dated 9th Feb. 1917, I have been able to obtain the following information:-

A No. 3532 Pte Wilson J.A.E. who recently rejoined the Unit after being wounded on the 19/7/16, is a brother of No. 4887 Pte. E.R. Wilson and No. 3534 S.E. Wilson. He does not know who No. 3474a A.W. Wilson is and apparently this name has become confused with the two brothers."

Informant: Lt-Col ^{A/} Adjutant H.W. Hutchison ^{for Lt Col.}
53rd Battalion, A.I.F.
16/2/17.

Next of Kin -

John Herbert Wilson,
161 Cecily Street,
Leichardt, N.S.W. ^{Cont. by H.G. Feb. 1917.}

Cert: by H.Q. Feb. 1917.



AUSTRALIAN BRANCH. BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY,"
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— INQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH B.R.C.S.

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

Feb. 9th, 1917. 1916.

The Adjutant.
5th. A.D.B.D.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir;

We have been requested by our Sydney Bureau to make enquiries re three men of the 53rd. Battalion. brothers.

4887. E.R. Wilson.
3534. S.C. Wilson.
3474A. A.W. Wilson.

and have received many unofficial reports to say that two of the brothers were known to the third to be killed, but the third was well and now with his unit, though in No. 5. A.D.B.D. Camp during the early part of January.

We should be most grateful if you would kindly let us know whether you have had in the depot during January a Wilson of 53rd. Battn. who has been discharged to his unit, as we are almost afraid this may only be another case of confusion of identities owing to similarity of names.

With apologies for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Nora Drake
Secretary. *per Ali.*

9th February, /7.

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our Sydney Bureau to make enquiries for three brothers in your Battalion:-

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| No.4887 | E. R. WILSON | 53rd Battn. | Missing on 19-7-16. |
| " 3534 | S. C. -"- | -"- | Killed - " - |
| " 3474A | S.A.W. -"- | -"- | Missing on 20-7-16. |

and have received many unofficial reports to the effect that two brothers were killed, but that one was now with the Battalion, and had been in No.5. A.D.B.D. early in January.

We should be most grateful if you could tell us whether you have any of those three Wilsons on your Rolls, who has lately rejoined the Battalion, (Jan) after having been at Etaples, as we think this may be a case of confusion between men of a similar name; or if you could give us your latest news of the three.

We are anxious to obtain information for enquirers.

With apologies for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

The Adjutant,
53rd. Aust. Inf. Battn.

SECRETARY.

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

Dead P3

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 28 JUL 1915



Name *WILSON. S.C.*

Unit *10th Training 4th Batta*

Joined on *26 7 15*

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What is your Name? | 1. <i>Samuel Charles Wilson</i> |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... | 2. In the Parish of in or near the Town of <i>Brandewood</i> 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. <i>British Subject.</i> |
| 4. What is your age? | 4. <i>29 years and 2 months.</i> |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? | 5. <i>Labourer.</i> |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? | 6. <i>No.</i> |
| 7. Are you married? | 7. <i>No.</i> |
| 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) .. | 8. <i>George Wilson (Father) Sheppard Post Office Post Office Square.</i> |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? .. | 9. <i>No.</i> |
| 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. <i>No.</i> |
| 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. <i>No.</i> |
| 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? | 12. <i>No previous service.</i> |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? | 13. <i>No.</i> |
| 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. <i>Yes.</i> |
| 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? | 15. <i>Yes.</i> |

I, *Samuel Charles Wilson* 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 $\frac{2}{5}$ of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife $\frac{3}{5}$ wife and children

Date *28 July 1915*

S. C. Wilson
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.

DECEASED
CARD CHECKED

Statement of Service of No. 3534 Name Wilson S C

| Unit in which served. | Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. | Period of service in each rank. | | Remarks. |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----|----------|
| | | From— | To— | |

11th. Rein. 3rd. Batt.

Dis. to duty from
4. Aux Hosp (and) 1/16
TRANSFERRED TO 53rd Battalion 16/2/16

P. II 478 30/16
P. 1/55

KILLED IN ACTION

name. 19/7/16.

1976 299
38
P. 23806/10/16

Entered
from
B. 103

adm. Hth Aux. Hosp. 9 months
Abbassia 8-12-15.
discharged Abbassia 6-1-16
Proceeded to join 53rd Bn.
ex. Section 16-2-16.
Embarked to join B.E.F. Aux.
19-6-16.
Reasemb. at Marseilles
28-6-16.

A. 36.
R. 242. 209.
A.P. 4048.
A.P. 9106.
L.R. 5942

DECEASED

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

R. Howard. Lt.

11th. Rein. 3rd. Batt.

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 } 53rd Battalion, A.I.F. Squadron, }
 or } Troop, Battery }
 CORPS } or Company }

Regtl. No. 3534 Rank Private

Name WILSON, S.C.

Died { Date 19/7/16.
 Place In the Field, FRANCE.
 Cause of Death * Killed in action,

Nature and Date of Report Army Form B.213. 29/7/16.

By whom made C.O. 53rd 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 Not yet to hand.
 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 Kh Xems Lieut.,
 For O.C. Australian Records Section, 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q., B.E.F.

Station and Date Rouen, FRANCE. 6/9/16.

Casualty Form - Active Service.

12 SEP 1916
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY SECTION

Regiment or Corps *13th Bn* Name *Wilson* *3534*
 Regimental No. *3534* Rank *Pte*
 Enlisted (a) *16.7.16* Terms of Service (a) Service reckons from (a)
 Date of promotion to present rank } Date of appointment to lance rank } Numerical position on roll of N.C.O.'s }
 Re-engaged } Qualification (b) }

| REPORT | | Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported in Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 30, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case. | Place | Date | Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 30 or other official documents. |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Date | Form when received | | | | |
| <i>12.12.15</i> | <i>4 int</i> | <i>Admitted to 53rd Bn.</i> | <i>Abbey</i> | <i>12/15</i> | <i>Winnipeg A.S.B.</i> |
| <i>16.2.16</i> | <i>S.O.P. 18</i> | <i>Admitted to 53rd Bn.</i> | <i>Batman</i> | <i>11.2.16</i> | <i>C.P. 14021</i> |
| <i>16.2.16</i> | <i>C.O. Bn. B. 213</i> | <i>Taken on strength of 53rd Bn. at Tel-el-Kebir</i> | <i>Tel-el-Kebir</i> | <i>16-2-16</i> | <i>A.P. 4485 20.1.1914</i> |
| | <i>C.S. Bn. Rec. 213</i> | <i>Embarked to join 53rd Bn.</i> | | <i>19/1/16</i> | <i>at 213</i> |
| | | <i>Disembarked at</i> | <i>Fromelles</i> | <i>20/3/16</i> | |
| <i>28/7/16</i> | <i>60538</i> | <i>Killed in action</i> | <i>France</i> | <i>19/7/16</i> | <i>A.Q. 1806 B.213 057/3806</i> |

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 (b) e.g., Signaller, Rhinoceros Smith, &c., &c., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. (P. 72)

53rd Bn.

WILSON

S.G. - 3534 -

"K/A 19.7.16"

Wilson, S. G. 3534. 53 Bn. B. Co.

Fell 19.7.16. near Fromelles

AUSTRIAN RED CROSS
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU

LONDON BUREAU

FINAL GERMAN DEATH LIST

Melbourne 18.10.1920

- S -

In Memory of

Private

Eric Robert Wilson

4887, 53rd Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 19 July 1916 Age 20

His brother, Samuel Charles, also died in service and is buried alongside him.

Remembered with Honour

Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

TRANSFERRED TO

53rd Batt

P3

D

17667

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

MISSING

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 28 JUL 1915
LIVERPOOL

Name WILSON, E. R.
Unit 10th Rein 4th Battn
Joined on 2.6.15

25th Reinforcements,

1st. Battalion,

15th. Reinf.
1st. Batt. A.I.F.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Eric Robert Wilson
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 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?
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?

16

1.

2. In the Parish of Macquarie in or near the Town of Port Macquarie in the County of Macquarie

3. British subject

4. 19 yrs 9 mos

5. Laborer

6. no

7. no

8. George Wilson, "Husband" (father) Port Macquarie

9. no

10. no

11. no

12. yes

13. no

14. yes

15. yes

I, Eric Robert Wilson 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 28/4/1915

Eric R Wilson
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.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05445.002

ERIC ROBERT WILSON #4887 (Samuel's Brother)

Studio portrait of 4887 Private (Pte) Eric Robert Wilson, 53rd Battalion from Port Macquarie NSW. A 19 year old labourer prior to enlistment on 28 July 1915, he embarked for overseas with the 15th Reinforcements of the 1st Battalion from Sydney aboard HMAT Star of England on 8 March 1916. He was killed in action on 19 July 1916 at Fromelles, France, the same day and place as his brother, 3534 Pte Samuel Charles Wilson [see image P05445.001]. After the war Pte Eric Wilson's grave could not be located and he was commemorated on the VC Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles. In 2008 a burial ground was located at Pheasant Wood, France containing the bodies of 250 British and Australian soldiers including Privates Eric and Samuel Wilson. All of the remains were reburied in the newly created Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery. At the time of the official dedication of the new cemetery on 19 July 2010, ninety-six of the Australians, including Privates Eric and Samuel Wilson, had been identified through a combination of anthropological, archaeological, historical and DNA information. Work is continuing on identifying the other remains relocated from the burial ground and buried in the new cemetery as unknown soldiers.

In Memory of
Private

Samuel Charles Wilson

3534, 53rd Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 19 July 1916 Age 30

His brother, Eric Robert, also died in service and is buried alongside him.

Remembered with Honour
Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Acknowledgements

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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