

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



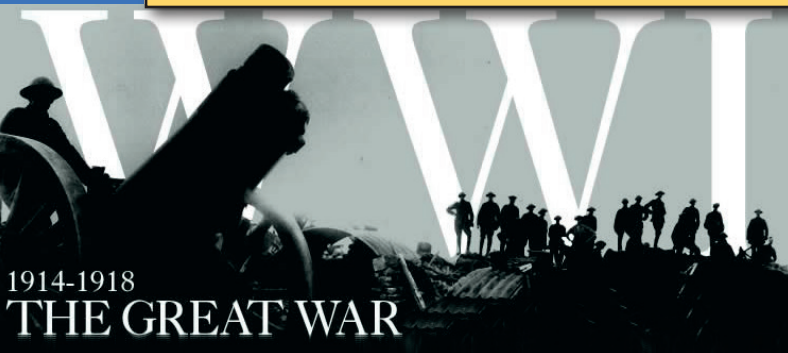
ROLL OF HONOUR
BACKHOUSE, Victor John

Service Number: 4432

Rank: Private

*"Coo-ee-
Won't 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 **Victor John Backhouse**, 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.

Victor John Backhouse 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

VICTOR JOHN BACKHOUSE

Service Number: 4432

Rank: Private

Unit: 54th 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

Age at death: 20

Place of association: Nelligen, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, Lille, Nord Pas de Calais, France

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

Location on the Roll of Honour:

Victor John Backhouse's name is located at **panel 158** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

54th Battalion

Private Victor John Backhouse was a member of the 54th Battalion raised in Egypt on 16 February 1916 as part of the “doubling” of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 2nd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 2nd, the 54th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Moving to France in June 1916, the 54th fought its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles, on 19 July where Private BACKHOUSE was initially listed as missing but eventually listed as killed in action. Fromelles was a disaster.

The 54th was part of the initial assault and suffered casualties equivalent to 65 per cent of its fighting 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. An offer by the Germans to allow a truce to treat the many wounded Australians was refused.

After a freezing winter manning trenches in the Somme Valley, in early 1917 the 54th Battalion 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 54th'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 54th Battalion at Anvil Wood, capture of Péronne, which fell on 2 September, were critical in adding to the heavy casualties of 1918 which, with declining enlistments in Australia resulted in a decision in mid-September 1918 to disband several Australian battalions to reinforce others; in the 14th Brigade this battalion was to be the 54th. The men mutinied in response, which resulted in a temporary postponement of the order. The 54th fought its last major battle of the war, St Quentin Canal, between 29 September and 2 October 1918. On 11 October it ceased to exist as a separate entity when it was merged with the 56th Battalion to form the 54/56th Battalion.



VICTOR JOHN BACKHOUSE #4432

CERTIFIED COPY.

14th. REINF. 18th. BATTN.

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad

No. 4432

Name BACKHOUSE V. J.

Unit 14th. REINF. 18th. BATTN.

Joined on 9/8/1918 54th BATTALION

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... 1. Backhouse Victor John
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... 2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of Braidedwood ... 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. Natural born
4. What is your age? ... 4. 19 yrs 3 mths
5. What is your trade or calling? ... 5. Sawmill Hand
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... 6. No
7. Are you married? ... 7. No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... 8. Father John Backhouse, 14th Road, Braidedwood
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... 9. No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... 10. No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... 11. No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... 12. Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... 13. No
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day ... 14. Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... 15. Yes

I, V. J. Backhouse, 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 22nd Aug 1918

V. J. Backhouse
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.

5342

J.F.C.
(Washburn)
6699
J.F.

Currowan Crk
Blyde Rd.
18th Aug. 1916

Colonel Luscombe

Dear Sir,

I received a wire from you dated 8th inst. stating my son No 4432 ^{Regt. D. J.} Backhouse was missing no date or place stated. Since then I have seen in the papers that he is wounded. Kindly let me know such in the case & also when & where he was wounded, also the nature of the wounds, & what hospital he is in. We are anxiously waiting all particulars.

Yours faithfully
John Backhouse
Currowan Crk.
Blyde Rd.
Via Braidwood

P.S. Victor's Battalion
is the 54th. late of the
13th.

L.F.

4th September, 6.

84329

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 18th ultimo, forwarded through the Assistant Adjutant-General, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, I have to inform you the only report received in this office concerning your son, No. 4432 Private V. J. Backhouse, 54th Battalion, is to the effect that he is missing, no date being stated.

As you state his name was published as having been wounded, this is evidently due to a Press error.

You will be promptly advised should any later information come to hand.

Yours faithfully,

Major,
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mr. J. Backhouse,
Clyde Road,
Currowan Creek,
Via BRAIDWOOD, N.S.W.

Refn

His Number
is 4432

August 18th 1916

Dear Sir, Will you kindly let me know if you possibly can any news of my Cousin Private V. J. Backhouse, 54th Batt 14th Brigade, he sailed from Sydney on the 16th Feb. 1916, and I have had several letters from him from Egypt, but he has not received any of mine, His father got a telegram last week here saying Pte. V. J. Backhouse was missing, So if you could find out where he was fighting, or if he is killed I will be greatly obliged to you indeed, The last letter I had from him was from Egypt dated 30th May. Trusting I am not putting you to any inconvenience I remain yours

faithfully

Mr. S. J. E. Anderson
Currowan Creek

Clyde Rd. via Braidwood

RECEIVED
- AUG 22 AM 9.16

6699

16.8.16

BR

H. S. & W.

VEB.

51500

28th August

6

Dear Madam,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 18th instant, and to state No. 4432 Private V. J. Backhouse, 54th (late 13th) Battalion, is reported as missing - no date being stated. As the cable message which reported him was received from London it is to be assumed he was in action in France.

No further particulars have been received, but should such come to hand at a later date they will be available to you upon receipt of your request.

Yours faithfully,

Major.
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. J. E. Anderson,
Elyde Road,
Currowan Creek,
Via Braidwood, N.S.W.

26 OCT 16

Clyde Road, Oct 20th 1916

The Secretary

Dear Sir

Just a line to ask
if you have ~~the~~ heard anything of
my Cousin ~~the~~ Rte. V. J. Backhouse,
No 4432. 54th Batt.

(late 13th) who was in France
and was reported missing in the
193 Casualty list last August.

I wrote to you some few
weeks ago and you said you would
try and find out something about
him. Do you think he may
be a prisoner of war, or he
may be in one of the Hospitals
in France. I do hope and
trust you will be able to trace
him for me. Thanking you
for your last letter.

I remain yours sincerely

Mrs. J. E. Anderson.

BR Clyde Rd. Via Braidwood
= N. S. W.

RECEIVED
SECTION

26/10

RECEIVED
25 OCT 16M.
RECEIVED

RFM.

[Handwritten signature]

28th October, 16

8835

Dear Madam,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated 20th instant, concerning your cousin, No. 4452 Private V. J. Backhouse, 54th (late 13th) Battalion, who is posted as missing (no date), I regret to state that up to the present no further news has come to hand.

It is understood that everything possible is being done the authorities overseas to endeavour to trace members of the Force so reported, and if, as the result, any definite information is received his father will be immediately notified.

Yours faithfully,

Major,
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. J. E. Anderson,
Glyde Road,
Burrowan Creek,
Via Braidwood, N.S.W.

[Handwritten signature]

2 JUL 17

Currowan Ck
29th. May 1917

The Officer in Charge, Base Records.

Dear Sir,

No 2859 I received a wire on the
24th inst. from you, stating my son,
Pvt. Leslie James Backhouse, was
wounded.

Will you please let me know as soon
as possible the nature of his wound &
what Hospital he is in.

Also have you had any further news
of my other son 4432 Pvt. Victor John
Backhouse, who was reported as
missing about the beginning of last
August.

Anxiously awaiting your reply

I remain

Yours faithfully

Mrs.

John Backhouse
Currowan Ck,
Clyde Rd.,
Dun Brailmore
N. S. Wales

5513
CORRESPONDENCE
SECTION
76

JUN 4 1917

2 PM 37 76



75773 7th June, 1917.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I have to state no particulars are available regarding the nature of your son's wound, or the name of the hospital to which he was admitted; but his case is not specified as serious, and letters to the following address will be forwarded to wherever he is located:-

No. 2859b, Private L. J. Backhouse,
17th (late 55th) Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
Abroad.

With reference to your other son, No. 4432, Private V. J. Backhouse, 54th Battalion, no further news has come to hand, since the report that he was "missing". Courts of Enquiry are now in progress with a view to bringing these cases to finality. All available evidence in connection with Private Backhouse, will be collected, and an opinion recorded of what may be reasonably be assumed has been his fate. Immediately the result of such enquiry comes to hand, it will be transmitted to next-of-kin.

Yours faithfully,

Major,
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. J. Backhouse,
Currowan Creek,
Clyde Road,
Via Braidwood, N.S.W.

MISSING

TRANSFERRED TO 542 Battalion

30317

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

14th. Reinf's
13th. Battalion.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No.

4432

Name

BACKHOUSE V. J.

Unit

14th. REINF. 13th. BATTN.

Joined on

9/8/15

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 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?

1. Backhouse Victor John
2. In the Parish of in or near the Town of Braidwood in the County of
3. Natural born.
4. 19 yrs. 3 mos.
5. Sawmill hand
6. No.
7. No.
8. John Backhouse (Father) Currowan Creek Clyde Road. Braidwood
9. No.
10. No.
11. No.
12. Yes.
13. No.
14. Yes.
15. Yes.

I, V. J. Backhouse 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 three-fifths

Date

23rd August 1915

V. J. Backhouse

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.

Transferred to

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

D

X

35498

No.

Rank

Name

Unit

Casualty

*

340

Backhouse V J
54th Lat 13th Batt

No Date Missing CIB 2307 6644^c 5th London 4/8/17

17/20/7/16

6382 1817/1989 7 D/London 18/1/17 11/17

WAR GRATUITY SCHEDULE

D 2 B 4

DATE

A.F. B. 103 Received

PURPORT.

A.F. B. 2020A Received.

REF. NO.

6.8.16

M. U.

2

Advised

Missing

COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSION

M. C. 2

ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION.

19-20/7/16

Ad et B Pensions advised re Casualty with Statement 4010

CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF

Cable No.

CIB 1817 18/1/17 8/284 D 2 19/9/17

Court of Inquiry proceedings received - B. R. M. 35/1484

Circular B.R.M. 46/1388 & Booklet re Convey despatched

26 11 19

Order by postcard 12.4.20



BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comd

2nd

M.D.B.R.M. 14/01

"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."

Memorial sent to Mr. J. Backhouse 24. 11. 21/15

Desp 16/11/21 Bk

MEMORIAL SCROLL

To Father

No. 4 Backhouse 330286

24. 11. 21/15

Desp 16/11/21 Bk

LIST.

FIELD SERVICE.

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 54TH INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. (Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company) -----

Regimental No. 4432 Rank PRIVATE

Surname BACKHOUSE Christian Name Victor John

Date 12-20th July 1916 Place In the Field FRANCE

Cause of Death* KILLED IN ACTION

Nature and Date of Report Court of Enquiry convened by C.O. 54th Battalion A.I.F. held "In the Field" on 4th August 1917.

By whom made -----

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

State whether he leaves a Will or not (a) in Pay Book (Army Book) or (b) in Small Book (if at Base) Will not received (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 Post 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 front it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Station and Date 54th Battalion A.I.F. 12th September 1917 Signature of Officer in charge of Section ----- CAPTAIN, Adjutant-General's Office at the Base.

W.2090A (Rev. 22/10/16) - H. A. 12, 5-17 - (10097) - Forms 2090A & 2090B.

O 1/c Records.

Army Form B. 103.

Regimental Number 4432.....

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 54th Battalion late 14th/13th Bn.

Rank Private Surname BACKHOUSE Christian Name Victor John

Religion ----- Age on Enlistment ----- years ----- months

Enlisted (a) 9.8.15 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 ----- or Corps Trade and rate -----

Signature of Officer -----

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks (Taken from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents)
Date	From whom received			
		Embarked		
22.8.16	Nav. Roll	ex BALLARAT	Disembarked	EGYPT 22.8.16 AP.6566
7.4.16	54th Bn. 2213	Joined 54th Battalion	Ferry Post	1.4.16 AL.470 Q.7/1713
19.6.16	54th Bn.	Embarked to join B.E.F. per H.T. Caledonian	Alexandria	19.6.16 AP.9107
29.6.16	C.O. Troops	Disembarked	Marseilles	29.6.16 LR.8960
21.7.16	54th Bn. 5213	Reported MISSING	France	19-20 July '16 AQ.1504 CISEL 235 O.22/3614
4.8.17	CO 54th Bn.	KILLED IN ACTION	France	do Ref. 12/667/7
Court of enquiry				DQ42/5768 VLF466

ARMED SECTION, 3rd BOMBARDMENT C.H.Q. British Expeditionary Force.

O. 1/c Records.

(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) Signatures, including Smith, etc.

MK AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Base Records Office,

Melbourne, 29th July, 1921.

Mr. J. Backhouse,

Currowan Creek,

Clyde Road,

BRAIDWOOD.

615 N.

Dear Sir,

I regret very much that, notwithstanding the efforts of our Graves Services Unit, we have so far been unable to obtain any trace of the last resting place of

your son the late No. 4432 Private

V. J. Backhouse 54th Battalion

and, so that no possible source of information shall be overlooked, I shall be much obliged if you will let me have on loan any letters or communications that contain any reference to the circumstances surrounding his death, particularly the exact locality at which it occurred, or where he was last seen alive. Of course any information you may have received as to his burial would be of the greatest assistance. The reason these steps are being taken is to identify, if at all possible, those bodies that are being recovered but which have nothing on them to definitely establish identification, and thus obviate the necessity of interring them in the new Military Cemeteries under the heading "An Unknown Australian Soldier."

Only those portions of any letters having a direct bearing or reference to the above need be forwarded. They will be carefully preserved and returned without delay.

If you have nothing that will help, would you kindly let us know, so that we can advise the overseas authorities.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Imhean

MAJOR.

Officer in Charge Base Records.

To the Officer in Charge Base Records,

Victoria Barracks,

Melbourne.

(KINDLY SUBMIT YOUR REPLY HEREUNDER.)

(Place) *Currowan Crk, Clyde Rd*

(Date) *13th Aug. 1921.*

Dear Sir,

The enclosed letter from the R. C. Society is the only definite information I have received about the death of my son, Pte. V. J. Backhouse. My sister made inquiries from the Melbourne R. C. Society with this result: I sincerely hope this letter will give a clue to my son's last resting place, so that it will enable you to trace him. The information I received previous to this, was that Pte. V. J. Backhouse was seen wounded in the German line, but no place was mentioned.

yours faithfully

Mrs. John Backhouse

Currowan Crk

Clyde Rd.

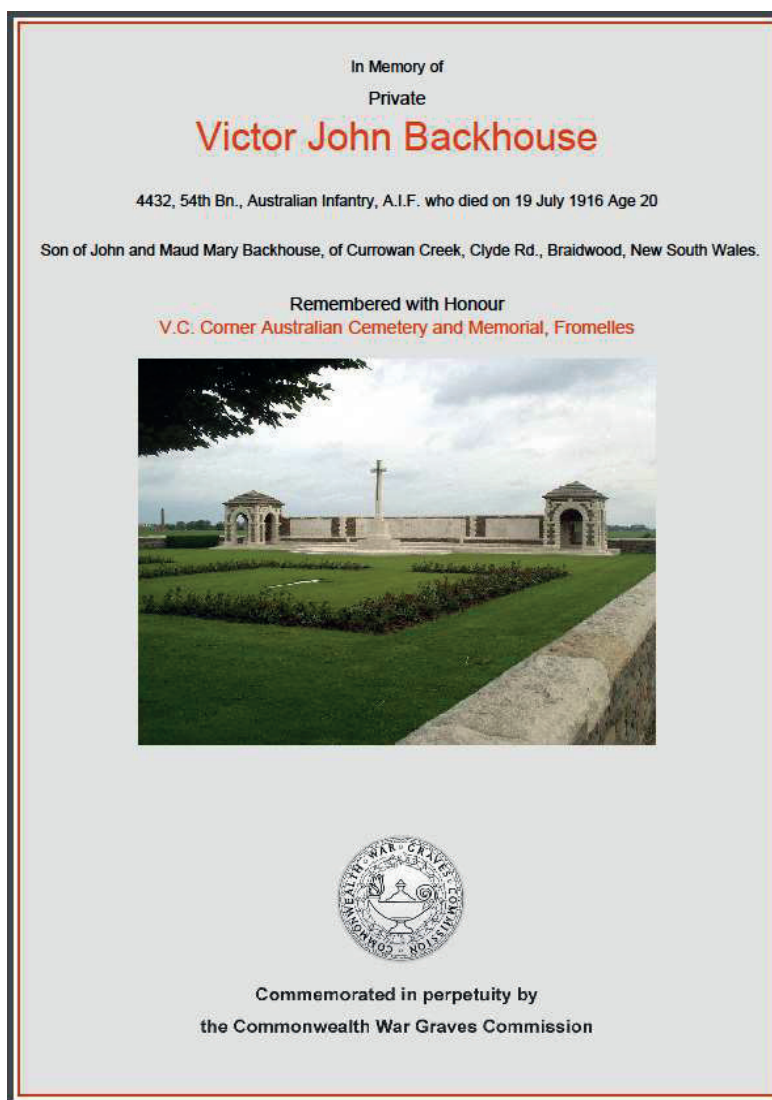
Braidwood.

R. S. Wales

Small acknowledgment & documents returned

RECEIVED
AUG 17 1921

RECEIVED
AUG 17 1921



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

Lest We Forget