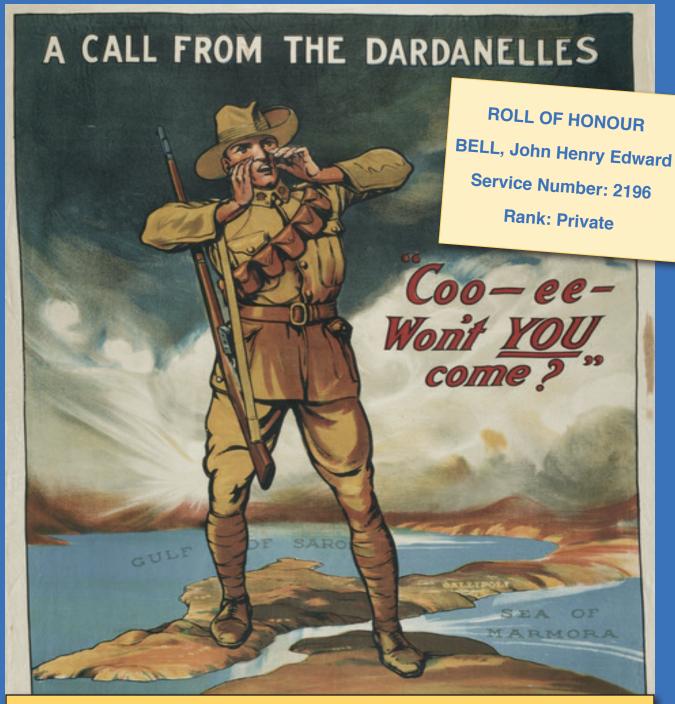
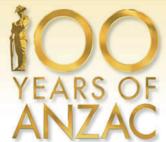
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"



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.





THE SPIRIT LIVES 2014 - 2018

Introduction

This year, 2015, marks the centenary of the start of the Gallipoli campaign and Australia's involvement as a nation in the greatest and most terrible conflict ever seen to that time. Australians joined their Armed Forces in large numbers. Their motives were as varied as their upbringings, from a need to save the Empire, of which Australia was an integral part, to the desire to have a great adventure.

Braidwood and district were no exception. Over the four years from 1914 to 1918, from a population of about 5000, 465 men and women from what is now the 2622 postcode area – including Braidwood, Majors Creek, Araluen, Mongarlowe, Nerriga, Ballalaba and Jembaicumbene joined the Navy or Army. Of these 377 returned to Australia. Sadly, 88 lost their lives.

A varying amount of their history is recorded in the Australian War Memorial. Some of their names, but not all, are recorded on local memorials. More is recorded in limited local histories and newspapers, not readily available to the general public; and the people who lived with and knew these distant relatives are also passing on.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch has collected all the information available from the Australian War Memorial and local sources, including the Braidwood Museum. Families, still resident in the district, have added their family knowledge and their precious memorabilia.

This booklet is the available story of **John Henry Edward Bell**, one of the 88 Braidwood volunteers who did not return from World War I. It contains his details as recorded in the World War I Roll of Honour, his Enlistment Papers, Field Service records, any Casualty notification, correspondence relating to his death, details of decorations won, any available photos, and, in some instances, family correspondence or recollections.

John Henry Edward Bell died for his country, for you and for me. Please pause a moment to remember him.

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.

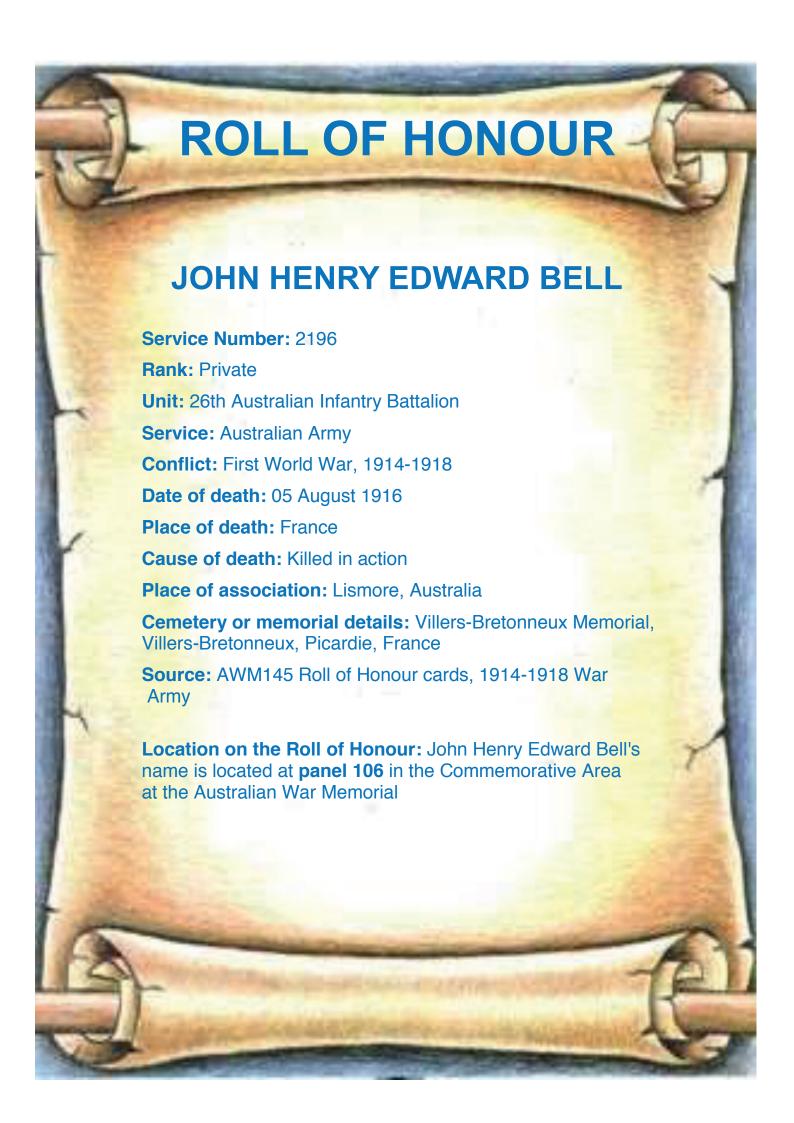
Australians generally thought of themselves as an integral part of the British Empire and the Australian Army and Navy were part of the Imperial Forces. In 1914, Australia's Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, immediately promised Australian support for Britain 'to the last man and the last shilling.' The 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.



Lest We Forget.



26th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 26th Battalion was raised at Enoggera, Queensland, in April 1915 from recruits enlisted in Queensland and Tasmania, and formed part of the 7th Brigade. It left Australia in July, and, after training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 12 September. At Gallipoli, the 26th played a purely defensive role and at various times was responsible for the defence of Courtney's and Steele's Posts, and Russell's Top. It withdrew from the peninsula on 12 December.

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian Division in March 1916, in concert with the 28th Battalion, the 26th mounted the first trench raid undertaken by Australian troops on the Western Front on 6 June. The Battalion fought in its first major battle around Pozieres between 28 July and 7 August. After a short spell in Belgium, the 2nd Division came south in October to attack again in the Somme Valley. The 26th Battalion took part in two attacks to the east of Flers, both of which floundered in mud and slush.

In early 1917, the 26th Battalion joined the follow-up of the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line and attacked at Warlencourt (1-2 March) and Lagincourt (26 March). For his valorous actions at Lagincourt, Captain Percy Cherry was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. On 3 May, the Battalion was also involved in the second attempt to breach the Hindenburg Line defences around Bullecourt. Later that year the focus of the AIF's operations switched to Belgium. There, the 26th battalion fought in the battle of Menin Road on 20 September, and participated in the capture of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October.

Like most AIF battalions, the 26th fought to turn back the German spring offensive in April 1918, and in the IuII that followed mounted "peaceful penetration" operations to snatch portions of the German front line. In one such operation in Monument Wood on 14 July the 26th Battalion captured the first German tank to fall into Allied hands - No. 506 "Mephisto". In another, on 17 July, Lieutenant Albert Borrella was awarded the Victoria Cross. Later in the year the 26th participated in the great offensive that began on 8 August, its most notable engagement being an attack east of Mont St Quentin on 2 September. The Battalion's last action of the war was the capture of Lormisset, part of the operation to breach the Beaurevoir Line, on 3 October 1918. The 26th Battalion was disbanded in May 1919.

John Henry Edward Bell's name on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial Canberra:



ROLL OF HONOR.

A telegram was received by Mrs. W. Ah You on Saturday announcing that her brother, Private John Bell, had been killed in the fighting in France on the 5th August. The deceased, who was 29 years of age, was a native of Braidwood, and resided here until the family removed to Burrenjuck some few years ago. At one time he was an employee in the "Dispatch" office. He enlisted in May, 1915, so that he had seen a good deal of fighting. He was of splendid physique and keen on the soldiering game. The "Review" extends its sympathy to the family in their sad bereavement.

Mr. T. Keyte, of Major's Creek, has received a telegram from the Defence Department that his son-in-law, Private R. Duffy, was killed in the fighting in France on 15th August. Mrs. Duffy is staying with her parents at Major's Creek. This paper tenders its sincere sympathy to the bereaved family.

1916: The Braidwood Dispatch reports on the death of John Henry, Edward Bell.

MILITARY FORCES. LIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad. Name Joined on Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before 1. What is your Nan 2. In the Parish of 2. In or near what Pari near the Town of Te 3. Are you a nature tritish Subject r a Nuturalized British Subje ON.B. If the lat 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 1 ... 8. Who is your next of kin ? (Address to be stated) 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? 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? ... 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? ... 13. 14. (For married men, seidowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of seidowed mother)—

Do you understand that so separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? 14. 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small poxy and enteric fever! John Henry Edward 00 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. + wife and children. Date 110

*This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widoverselecthant children under 18 years of age.

† Two fifths must be allosted to the wife, and if there are children three fifths must be allosted.

D-107/1-15 -- Q-662

Signature of person enlisted.

Transferred to AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. 2/96 CRATUITY SCHEDULE DOJ B Joseph Name BELL, J.H.E. 26 d Bater Unit Casualty Killed in action 5.8.76 Sibl 344 6941A 1 . 13 . "WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."
Pamphier ann to W. J. B. W. on 10-9 21 6 B. 103 Received PURPORT. A. F. B. 2090A Received SEP 1015 M. C. ADVISED, KILLED IN AGTION,
SEP 1015 M. C. ADVISED, KILLED IN AGTION,
COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS 5.8.16 CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF "Will" to D.P.M. M.D. M.D. M. PERSONAL ETTECTS EX Minhingoles Ofrouter B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched 1914/1915 Star lanued B.R.M. 43/1229/ 26/20/3 To Comdt. 2 M.D. B.R.M. 52/488 2/9/04 BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt ... 244 M.D.B.R.M. 53/1175 MEMORIAL SCROLL LIST.

Casualty Form-Active Service.

| | Enliste | ed (a) 28.4. | Regiment or Corps 28th Rank Private 15 Terms of Service (a) War * | Name BELL. | J.H.E. | | |
|-------|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Date of promotio to present rank Extended | | to lance rank Re-engaged | | Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. | | |
| | | | Record of permutions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as | | | Remarks | |
| | Date | From whom received | reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case. | Place | Date | taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents. | |
| 15.1 | .16 | C.O. B.213 | Joined Battalion | Tel-el-kebir | 11.1.1 | 0.1810 10/598. 8 A.P.2813 | |
| 15.3. | .16 | Embkn Roll | Proceeded to join B.E.F. | Alexandria | 15.3.1 | 6 | |
| 21.3 | .16 | Disembn Roll | Disembk'd ex Alexandria | Marseilles | 21.3.1 | 8 L.R.5063 | |
| 24.6 | .16 | C.O. B.2069 | (1) Drunkenness. (2) Absent from billet with out leave 2100 to 2330 11.6.16. Awarded 168 hours F.P. No 2 | France | 20.6.1 | 0.1810 86/3961 6 A.Q.853 | |
| 27.7 | .16 | 0.0. B.2069 | Throwing away overcoat when on the march 12.7.16 Awarded 48 hours F.P.No 2 | | 22.7.1 | 0.1810 89/5435 6 A.Q.2878 | |
| 9.3. | .16 | 0.0. B.313 | Killed in action | France | 5.8.1 | 0.1810 82/4851 V.L.53 6 A.Q.2722 18.8.16 | |
| o, C | d. | (a) Inst | as of a man who has re-engaged for, or colleted into Section | D. Army Ranges navigal | | Officer I/C Records | |

| Enliste | ental No.2 | B-15 erms of Service (a) War 9.4 | m Bell Bell Serville Serv | glt. | Army Form B. 130. 2196 8 100 (a) 26 - 4-15 | |
|---------|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------|--|--|
| | esent rank | Date of appointm to lance rank Re-engaged | Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. | | | |
| Date | Prom whom received | Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualities, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 215, Army Form A.36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case. | Place | Dut | Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213. Army Form A. 36, or other official documents. | |
| 15.1.16 | GO Bruk | PROCEEDED TO JOIN B.F. F. | 21 et ketir Alexandria | 11.1.16 | 0.P3813 | |
| 21.8.16 | Roll | DISEMBRD EX ALEXANDRIA (1) Drumklemen (3) about from bille without leave from no to 2000 n. 6. 16 without leave from no to 2000 n. 6. 16 without leave from no to 2000 n. 6. 16 without 8 2 leave on to 2000 n. 6. 16 | Marsullis | 21.3.16 | L. R. sobs | |
| 9.8.16 | 82069 8213 | Killed in action | France | 20.6.16 | A 683 000 82/081 42.83 A 6 2722 8816 | |
| 27716 | 82069 | Throwing away overcut when on The znarch 12 7.16. awarded 49 hours 1: P. 14°2 | France | 22 7.16 | A. D. 2878 | |
| | | | | 140 | Officer I/C Records | |
| | Origin | al. Copy to A.I.F.H'Qrs 2 | 7.9.16. | | | |

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

WILL

4/26th Batt., 7th Brigade.

In the event of my death I give the whole of money property and effects to Miss E. and H. Bell, Burrinjuck,

via Goulbourn,

New South Wales,

Australia.

(Signature) J.H.E. Pell, Private No 2196.

Date 20/11/15.

Australian Infantry Forces.

Witnesses - Michael Byrne Richard John Collins.

Certified to be a true copy of the Will of No 2196 Private J.H.E. Bell, 26th Battalion, received from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, 23/5/17.

Signed

3 11

Checked Dately.

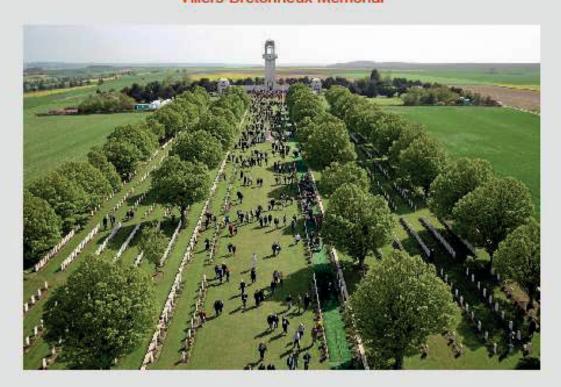
In Memory of

Private

John Henry Edward Bell

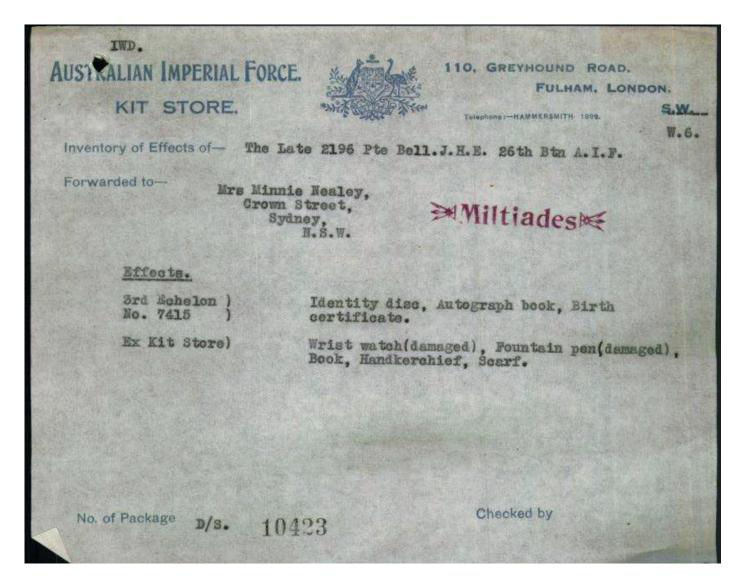
2196, 26th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 05 August 1916

Remembered with Honour Villers-Bretonneux Memorial





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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 fi

"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

RROWN