

# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

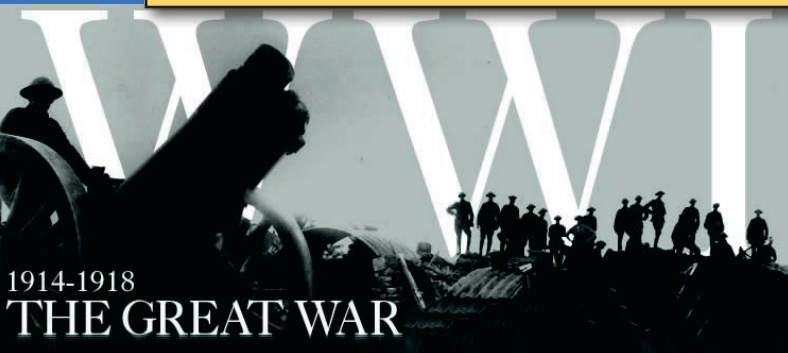
## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



*"Coo-ee-  
Won't YOU  
come?"*

ROLL OF HONOUR  
DAVIS,  
Oscar Stanley Raymond  
Service Number: 3790  
Rank: Private

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.



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 **Oscar Raymond Stanley Davis**, 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.

**Oscar Stanley Raymond Davis** 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

## OSCAR STANLEY RAYMOND DAVIS

**Service Number:** 3790

**Rank:** Private

**Unit:** 19th Australian Infantry Battalion

**Service:** Australian Army

**Conflict:** First World War, 1914-1918

**Date of death:** 15 November 1916

**Place of death:** France

**Cause of death:** Killed in action

**Age at death:** 23

**Place of association:** Braidwood, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Warlencourt British Cemetery,  
Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Arras, Nord Pas de Calais, France

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

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** Oscar Raymond Stanley Davis' name is located at **panel 88** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

## 19th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19th's original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914. The 19th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 21 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Pope's Hill.

After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. *The 19th Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.*

*Oscar Stanley Raymond Davis was killed in action during this battle on 15 November, 1916.*

In 1917, the 19th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost five times as strong, at Lagincourt. The Battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

The spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 19th Battalion helped to stop. For his actions during the fighting around Hangard Wood on 7 April, Lieutenant Percy Storkey was awarded the Victoria Cross. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the 19th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaurevoir Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle. The casualties of 1918, combined with long-term leave for 1914 enlistees, and dwindling new enlistments had sapped the strength of the AIF. On 10 October 1918 the 19th Battalion was disbanded to reinforce other battalions in the brigade.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00519

*May 1917 France: Picardie, Somme, Albert Bapaume Area, Flers: A view of the Flers Battlefield, showing an old front line trench improved by the Australians during the winter of 1916-1917 on the Somme. Note the sandbagged area in the right foreground.*



D 40392

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 3790

Name DAVIS O. R. S.  
Unit 9th Inf 19th Bn  
Joined on 11-9-15

MISSING

19th Bn

### Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Oscar Raymond Stanley Davis
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? Braidwood in or near the Town of Braidwood in the County of NSW
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Yes
4. What is your age? 21 years 10 months
5. What is your trade or calling? Laborer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? no
7. Are you married? no
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Charles Davis 39 Mona Street Auburn NSW
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? 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? 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 no
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? 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? yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? yes

I, Oscar Raymond Stanley Davis, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

\* And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife three-fifths

Date 27 Sept 1915 wife and children

O. R. S. Davis  
Signature of person enlisted.



W

Transferred to

DEFENCE  
B.R.

D 47547

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

WAR GRATUITY SCHEDULE

No. 3790.

Rank

Private

Name

DAVIS O.R.S.

Unit

19<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Casualty

Wounded

b. 132 884/782441 New Len 19.12.16

271.

Previously reported Wounded now repl. Wounded &amp; Missing 14.11.16.

CIBL 1001/8183A 2<sup>nd</sup> London 30.1.17.

270.

Previously reported WOUNDED Missing  
now reported killed in action 15.11.16

CIBL 2195 1713

dated London

8.1.18 Received B.R.

10.1.18

DATE

A.F. B. 103 Received REPORT.

A.F. B. 2020A Received;

REF. NO.

22.12.16

N.O.K. Advised Wounded

1.2.17

M.O. 2. ADVISED WOUNDED &amp; MISSING 14.11.16

9.2.17

COPY MADE FOR CAS PENSIONS

15.8.17

PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. 15.8.17

15.1.18

N.O. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION 15.11.16

15.1.18

Ad.P. Pensions advised re casualty vide Statement 130

14.10.18

Court of Inquiry proceedings received - B.R.M. 35.16.18

Circular B.R.M. No. 1393 &amp; Booklet re B.R.M. 35.16.18. 8.12.19.16

FINAL

2.7.17

0741

70/20/10/5

WAR HISTORY INDEX



17.7.206

PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE, induplicate TRANSMITTED NEXT OF KIN, B.R.M. No. 35.17.18

18/6/30 Blom & Victory medals forwarded to  
 eldest brother Mr. C. Davis Regt 4963



VR



# 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) 19th BATTALION A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company

Regimental No. 3790 Rank Private

Surname DAVIS Christian Names O. R. S.

Date 15th November 1916 Place FRANCE

Cause of Death KILLED IN ACTION

Nature and Date of Report Proceedings of Court of Enquiry held on 11.12.17.

By whom made Commanding Officer 19th 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.

State whether he leaves a Will or not (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Will not received (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.

AUSTRALIAN SECTION 3rd EMBELON G.R.A. Station and Date 1st February 1918 Signature of Officer in charge of Section J. M. LEAN Adjutant-General's Office at the Base

W 2090A M 1748-100,000-11, A 36-2/11-(11010)-Form B/2090A/2

Officer i/c Records

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Base Records Office,  
Victoria Barracks,

MELBOURNE

Dear

RL

22/12/16

Sir,

to advise you that

has been 3790 Private O. R. S. Davis,

regret

19th Battalion

the nature of which and the name of the hospital to which he has been admitted are not at present known here, but on receipt of later information you will be promptly notified. It is not stated as being serious and in the absence of further reports it is to be assumed that all wounded are progressing satisfactorily.

It should be clearly understood that if no further advice is received this Department has no later information to give.

Letters should be addressed as under:-

WOUNDED

Regimental Number, Rank and Name,  
Unit,

Australian Imperial Force,

C/o A. I. F. Headquarters,

130 Horseferry Road,

Westminster, LONDON. S.W.

The word WOUNDED must be written prominently in red ink.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Chas Davis,

39 ~~Albion~~ St reet

Auburn

N. S. W.

J. M. LEAN.

Major,

Officer i/c Base Records.

Abona St



# **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

Base Records Office,

Melbourne, 15th September, 1917.

OCT-8 1917

1917.

Mr. C. Davis,

39 Mona Street,

AUBURN. N.S.W.

To

Officer i/c Base Records,  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE.

(Kindly submit your reply hereunder.)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I regret to have to inform  
you that no further official  
news has yet been received of  
No. 3790 Pts. O.R.S. Davis,  
19th Battalion

Wounded &  
who was reported/missing on  
14th November, 1916.

I shall be glad if you will  
return this letter to me with  
a statement as to whether you  
have obtained any news of the  
soldier from any other source.

If letters or post cards  
from the soldier have reached  
you SINCE THE DATE THAT HE WAS  
POSTED MISSING, the last you  
have received should be en-  
closed; it will be returned to  
you.

If you have received from  
soldiers or others reports that  
the soldier is dead or a pris-  
oner of war, you should state  
the names and addresses of the  
people who informed you; if  
they were soldiers you should  
give their names, numbers, and  
regiments; if they sent you  
letters, the letters should be  
forwarded. Any letters you  
send will be returned to you  
in due course.

J. M. LEAN, Major,

*I regret that I can not  
give you any information  
what was about my  
Brother I would tell  
very much to know.*

*Yours Truly  
Chas Davis*

*Mrs Gilligan  
8/10.*

*Miss Blue*



(Signature)



Magowan Rd  
Gorham,  
6-6-30

L Robinson  
Officer in Charge Base Records

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter  
of the 31<sup>st</sup> May desiring to learn  
particulars concerning the late  
LC 3490 Private C. H. S. Davis  
195<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Both parents are deceased & I  
myself being the eldest brother  
would like his War Medal forwarded  
to me to the above address  
Yours faithfully  
Charles Davis



In Memory of

Private

# Oscar Raymond Stanley Davis

3790, 19th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 15 November 1916 Age 23

Son of Seth and Sarah Davis. Native of Braidwood, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour  
Warlencourt British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission





*Wallace Street, Braidwood, early 1900s.*

### **Acknowledgements**

Everybody responded enthusiastically to the idea of capturing the information about Braidwood's 88 World War I veterans who lost their lives. The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch is most grateful for the support they received in carrying out this task and would like to acknowledge those of whom we are aware: Karen, Chris and Renee Nelson, Roslyn Maddrell, Karen Shea, Jill Clarke, Rod McClure, Ben and Meaghan Frohling, Diane McGrath, Us On Mondays Quilting Group, Len Mutton & Co and local shopkeepers for their World War I window displays.

Thank you to the students and teachers of Braidwood Central School and St. Bedes School who have embraced these soldiers and have honoured their memories on Anzac Day 2015.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch raised a good proportion of the funds for the cost of producing these booklets. The efforts of the members of the sub branch involved are very much appreciated. This money was augmented by welcome funding from the Federal Government through the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program and the Braidwood Community Bank.

To all those who helped in any way, many thanks. Your efforts have ensured we remember these Braidwood and District Veterans well.

**Back Cover:** Peace Day, 11th November 1918, Wallace Street, Braidwood.

*"Wild day in Braidwood: When Braidwood woke up on Tuesday morning to find the 'glad tidings of great joy' awaiting it that Germany had signed the armistice and the frightful carnage of the past four years or so had come to an end it simply went mad with delight. No other words could adequately describe the excitement that followed." "Braidwood Letters from the Front" by Roslyn Maddrell.*



# ROLL OF HONOUR

Alley, Clair Underwood  
Archer, Fred  
Backhouse, Victor John  
Barnett, Frederick George  
Barry, Charles Louis  
Beatty, Walter Cusack  
Bell, John Henry Edward  
Black, George Scott  
Bruce, Thomas Fraser  
Byrne, Cecil John  
Callan, William Henry  
Catlin, Robert Henry  
Clarke, Lester Thomas  
Cook, Thomas John  
Crandell, Christopher George  
Cregan, Clarence Theodore Augustus  
Cullen, Henry Thomas  
Davis, John Henry  
Davis, Oscar Raymond Stanley  
Dawson, Edric Athol  
Dayball, Arthur Joseph  
Dempsey, Charles Frederick  
Dempsey, Charles  
Dowell, Frederick Robert  
Feeney, William  
Fisher, Osborne  
Flack, John Foster  
Garnett, Henry James  
Geelan, Robert Michael  
Gosling, Fred  
Gough, James  
Green, Francis Henry  
Healy, Myrtle James  
Howard, John Alexander  
Huggett, William  
Hunt, Frederick William  
Hunt, John  
Hush, Percy Alfred  
Hush, Thomas  
Hush, Austin Septimus  
Innes, Henry George  
Kelly, Herbert Albert  
Kemp, Leslie Smith  
Keyte, Robert

Knight, Charles Oliver  
Lee, Thomas James  
Lennon, James  
Lupton, Spencer  
Lynch, James Joseph  
Matthews, Francis  
McCool, Francis Leslie Neil  
McDonald, Alexander Joseph  
McLean, Donald  
McRae, Finley Arnold  
Meade, Arthur Stuart  
Merton, Thomas David  
Montgomery, Stanley  
Moore, William  
Newberry, Alwyn (Alwin) Horace James  
O'Brien, Thomas Daniel  
O'Reilly, John  
Pooley, Edward  
Rex, Horace Joseph  
Riley, Frank  
Roberts, Frederick Bede  
Robinson, William James  
Rodgers, Albert  
Seidel, Alfred George  
Seidel, Henry Edward  
Sharpe, George Lyle  
Sharpe, Reginald  
Sherman, Edgar Robert  
Sherman, Percy Frederick  
Simmons, George  
Smith (Greenwood), George  
Spicer, William Henry  
Steele, Alexander Norman  
Stein, Daniel Godfrey  
Stewart, David Walter  
Styles, Reginald Lucian  
Torpy, Patrick Edward  
Torpy, Thomas Patrick  
Walker, William Albert  
Watt, James  
Watt, Oscar Harold McClure  
White, Alister  
Whitelaw, Thomas Philip  
Wilson, Samuel Charles

Lest We Forget