

# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

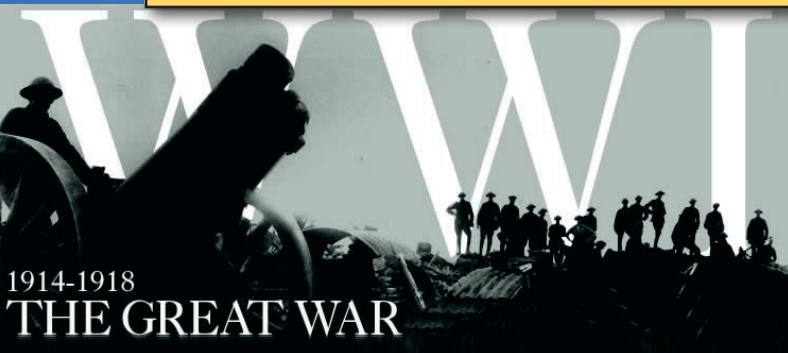
DAWSON, Edric Athol

Service Number: 1634

Rank: Corporal

*"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 **Edric Athol Dawson**, 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.

**Edric Athol Dawson** 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

## EDRIC ATHOL DAWSON

**Service Number:** 1634

**Rank:** Corporal

**Unit:** 17th Australian Infantry Battalion

**Service:** Australian Army

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

**Date of death:** 10 August 1918

**Place of death:** France

**Cause of death:** Died of wounds

**Place of association:** Braidwood, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Vignacourt British Cemetery,  
Vignacourt, Picardie, France

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

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** Edric Athol Dawson's  
name is located at **panel 82** in the Commemorative Area  
at the Australian War Memorial

## 17th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 20 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. For a short period part of the 17th garrisoned Pope's Hill, but for most of its time on the peninsular the Battalion was responsible for the defence of Quinn's Post, one of the most contested positions along the entire ANZAC front. The Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915.

After further training in Egypt, the 17th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 22 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The Battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time, although in a reserve role, between 18 and 28 August. 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 17th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

In 1917 the 17th 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 four 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.

*After another winter of trench duty, 17th Battalion helped to thwart the German Spring*

*Offensive of 1918. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the Allied armies turned to the offensive and the 17th 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. It was training out of the line when the armistice was declared in November 1918, and was disbanded in April 1919. Edric Athol Dawson lost his life on 10 August 1918, just three months before the end of the World War I.*

Published in "*The Braidwood Dispatch*", 1918:

*"The town received quite a shock when the news that Private E. Athol Dawson, son of R. Dawson, Manager of the Commercial Bank, had made the supreme sacrifice. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dawson are among the most active war workers in the district, the only ray of comfort is expressed in the words of Horatius:*

*And how can man die better*

*Than facing fearful odds,*

*For the ashes of his fathers*

*And the temples of his Gods?"*

From "*Braidwood Letters from the Front*" by Roslyn Maddrell



### **EDRIC ATHOL DAWSON #1634**

*Studio portrait of 1634 Private (later Corporal) Edric Athol Dawson, 17th Battalion of Braidwood, NSW. A bank clerk prior to enlisting, he embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT Themistocles (A32) on 12 May 1915. He was wounded in action near Vanvillers, France on 9 August 1918. He died of his wounds at the 61st Casualty Clearing Station, France on 10 August 1918, aged 27. He is buried in the Vignacourt British Cemetery, France.*



A view of the Vignacourt cemetery. The 20th and 61st Casualty Clearing Stations were in Vignacourt when the German advance began in March 1918. The cemetery was opened in April and closed in August, after 584 soldiers had been buried there. From the Thuillier collection of glass plate negatives. Taken by Louis and Antoinette Thuillier in Vignacourt, France during the period 1916 to 1918



Can Bank  
Braidwood

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

Original Copy  
L. Russell Reed

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 1634

Name

DAWSON, Edric Athol

Unit

1<sup>st</sup> Repts 17<sup>th</sup> Batts

Joined on

18. 4. 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. (For Married Men and Widowers with children)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service? ...
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ...

PAY BOOK No.

190444

1. Edric Athol Dawson
2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of ...  
state ...  
in the County of ... New South Wales
3. Natural Born
4. 24 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>12</sub> years
5. Bank Clerk
6. No
7. No
8. Father, Reginald Weston Dawson  
Commercial Bank  
Braidwood N.S.W.
9. No
10. No
11. No
12. Yes
13. No
14. ...
15. Yes

I, Edric Athol Dawson 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

and children

Date 11/5/15

Edric Athol Dawson  
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.



DAWSON	Edric Athol	1634	1/17th Battr
Surname.	Other Names.	Regimental No.	Unit.
PURPORT.		2nd MD	AUTHORITY.
Embkd. at Sydney per H.M.A.T. A32 "Themestocles" 12/5/15			
Pte.			
8.11.15 Trans Hos			1/15 MEFO 32/1
14.11.15 Ret to duty			1/15 MEFO 33/2
23-2-17. From 1st Sthn Gen Hpl. to 3rd Aux Hpl. Trench			
feet. Appendicitis.		M.K	IB 179/14-17.
20.11.16. Adm. to 1st Sthn. Gen. Hosp. Trench Feet.		LH	IB 91/16-16
26.2.17. Dis. from 3rd Aux. to T.D.P. Downs Appendicitis		LH	IB 201/15-17
9.11.16 Emb. on H.S. "Carisbrook Castle at Havre for Eng Trench Feet			
		LH	BEFO 71/3-16
20.11.16 Adm. to 1st Sthn Gen Hosp Trench Feet			Lon 1/14-17
24.3.17 Marched out to No 3 Com Depot Hurdcott from No 1 Com			
Depot P.D.			Lon 29/2-17
4.5.17 Tfd to 62nd Btn from 17th Btn			Lon 38/3-17
25.1.18 Tfd to 3rd Aux Trench Fever			IB 407/14-18
21/11/17 Rej 17th Bn from Hosp sick Eng			BEFO 67/3-17

D.825/3.16.-C.3024.

PURPORT.		AUTHORITY.
10.1.18 Adm to Exeter W.H. Trench Fever		IB 397/17-18
4.5.17 T.O.S. 62nd Btn from 17th Btn ex No 3 Com Depot Hurdcott		Lon 2/64-17
17.6.17 To be Temp Corporal		Lon 9/9-17
10.8.18 DIED OF WOUNDS ( GSW L.Arm Fract. & Back )		(MH) BEFO 48/3-18
27.6.17 On Command at 16th Bde. School		Lon 10/1-17
25.12.17. To hosp sick.		(MD) BEFO 2/4-18
10.1.18. Adm. to War Hosp Exeter TR. FEVER s/t		(MD) LDN 5/1-18
31.1-14.2.18 Dis from Hosp to Fur & Rep Hurdcott Trench Fever		IB 410/11-18
19.9.17 Re-transferred to 17th Btn from 62nd Btn to 61st Dft. Btn		Lon 78/4-17
10/11/17. Proc. o/s to France via Spton ex O/Seas Tng Bde		
Longbridge Deverill.		LDN. 86/1-17
19/9/17 Tfd. to 17th Bn. from 62nd Bn on m/o. to 61st Dftg. Bn.		LDN. 29/11-17
21/9/17 Re-trans. to 17th Bn from 62nd Bn on mchg. in 61st D. Bn		LDN 82/3-17
13/7/17. Mchd into 62nd Bn. from 16th Inf Bde Schl. of Inst.		LDN 15/4-17
1.11.17. Retrans. to 17th Bn. from 61st Bn on mchd. into O/S. Tng Bn.		LDN 87/2-17
10.9.17. On command at Can. Sch. of Instrn. Tidworth from 62nd Bn		(MD) LDN 28/8-17
9.1.18. Emb. for Eng per "St patrick" TR. FEVER.		(MD) BEFO 4/3-18
15.7.18. Rejd 17th Bn. ex A.I.E.D. Havre.		(MD) BEFO 45/2-18
10.8.18. DIED OF WOUNDS at 61st C.C.S.		(MD) IB 546/15-18



## (SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Army Form B. 105-11.  
Part II.Regiment or Corps **2nd. Bn. 68th. 17th. Battalion.** Regimental Number **1634.**\*Substantive Rank **Cpl.** Surname **DAWSON.** Christian Names **Eric. Athol.**

\*Acting Rank

\*\* To be entered in pencil to facilitate alteration.

Nothing to be written in this margin.

Widespread 50000 5/18 G.W.P.Co.(440)

(A) Date.	(B) From whom received	(C) Authority of Part II. of Order.	(D) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, positions, etc. All acting as well as substantive positions to be shown, the method of entry of which see A.C.I. 186 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(E) Place of casualty	(F) Date of promotion, reduction, retirement, casualty, etc.	(G) Remarks, and initials and rank of an officer
14/2/18.	No. 4. Com. Dep.		Marched in from A.H.Q. London. ex Furlo.	HURDOTT.	14/2/18.	
12/4/18.	"		Sick to Camp. Iso. Hosp.	"	12/4/18.	
19/4/18.	"		SCABIES.	"	19/4/18.	
24/5/18.	"		Marched in from Camp.	"	24/5/18.	
31/5/18.	"		Isol. Hosp.	"	31/5/18.	
10/6/18.	O/seas. Tng. Bde.		Sick to Camp. Isol. Hosp.	"	10/6/18.	
10/6/18.	No. 4. Com. Dep.		SCABIES.	"	10/6/18.	
10/7/18.	O/seas. Tng. Bde.		Marched in from Camp. Isol Hosp.	"	10/7/18.	
15/7/18.	A.I.B.D.		Proceeded O/seas. France. ex O/seas. Tng. Bde.	POLE STONE.	15/7/18.	DO. 55.15
29/7/18.	60.17th. Btn.		Longbridge. Deverill. via		29/7/18.	/7/18.
20/7/18.	60.17th. Btn.		Cpl. marched in ex En.	HAVRE.	20/7/18.	
17/8/18.	6th. AF. Amb.		Rejoined Bn.	FRANCE.	17/8/18.	DO. 45/4276.
9/8/18.	6th. AF. Amb.		Wounded in Action	"	9/8/18.	
11/8/18.	61st. C.C.S.		S.E.L.ARM. FRAC. BACK. Adm.	"	11/8/18.	
			to 61st. C.C.S.	"	11/8/18.	
			Adm.	"	11/8/18.	
					10/8/18.	VI. 804. DO
					48/4731.	

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Base Records Office,  
Victoria Barracks,

MELBOURNE. 4th December 1916.

Dear Sir,

I regret to advise you that information has been received to the effect that **No. 1634 Private E. A. Dawson,** was admitted to the **1st Southern General Hospital** suffering from **Trench Feet.**

His postal address will therefore be:-

**SICK No. 1634 Private E. A. Dawson,**  
**17th Australian Infantry,**  
**in 1st Southern General Hospital.**  
**C/o A. I. F. Headquarters,**  
**130 Horseferry Road,**  
**Westminster, LONDON. S.W.**

To ensure speedy delivery the endorsement "SICK" should be written prominently in red ink.

Any further reports received will be promptly transmitted.

**Mr. R. W. Dawson,**  
**Commercial Bank,**  
**Braidwood. NSW.**

Yours faithfully,

**J. M. LEAN.**  
 Major,  
 Officer i/c Base Records.



EG

9th November, 1918

Dear Sir,

5883

As requested in your communication of 4th September, I beg to enclose herewith certificate in duplicate of report of death of the late No.1634 Corporal Edric Athol Dawson, 17th Battalion.

The address of deceased prior to enlistment is shown on the records as:-

Commercial Bank,  
Braidwood, N.S.W.,

which is also the address of next-of-kin, shown as father, Mr. R.W.Dawson.

Yours faithfully,

Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.

The Public Trustee,  
Box 7, G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W.



E. McK.

DESPATCHED

24th January, 1919.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 1634, Corporal E. A. Dawson, 17th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he was wounded in action in France on 8th August, 1918. On the 9th idem he was admitted to the 6th Australian Field Ambulance, and transferred to the 61st Casualty Clearing Station, France, on the 10th idem, where he died the same day as the result of his wounds (shell wound Left Arm fractured, & back). He was buried at Vignacourt, France, the Rev. G.A.N. Boycott officiating.

The utmost care and attention is being devoted where possible to the graves of our soldiers. It is understood that photographs are being taken as soon as is possible and these will be transmitted to next-of-kin when available.

These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connection with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. R. W. Dawson,  
Commercial Bank,  
BRAIDWOOD,  
New South Wales.

Major.  
Officer i/c Base Records.

## Australian Imperial Force.



A.I.F. KIT STORE,  
110, GREYHOUND ROAD,  
HAMMERSMITH,  
LONDON, W. 6.

Inventory of Effects of - No. 1634 DAWSON. E.A. 17th Battalion. A.I.F.

Forwarded to - Father -  
Mr Reg. W. Dawson,  
Commercial Bank,  
Braidwood,  
NEW SOUTH WALES.

Effects received from the field (3/6907) 18.9.18  
ONE PARCEL (SEALED) CONTAINING:-

2 Discs, 2 Wallets, YMCA wallet, Testament, Badge,  
Photos, Metal cigarette case, Letters, Coin, Silver?  
wrist watch (damaged).

✶SARDINIA✶

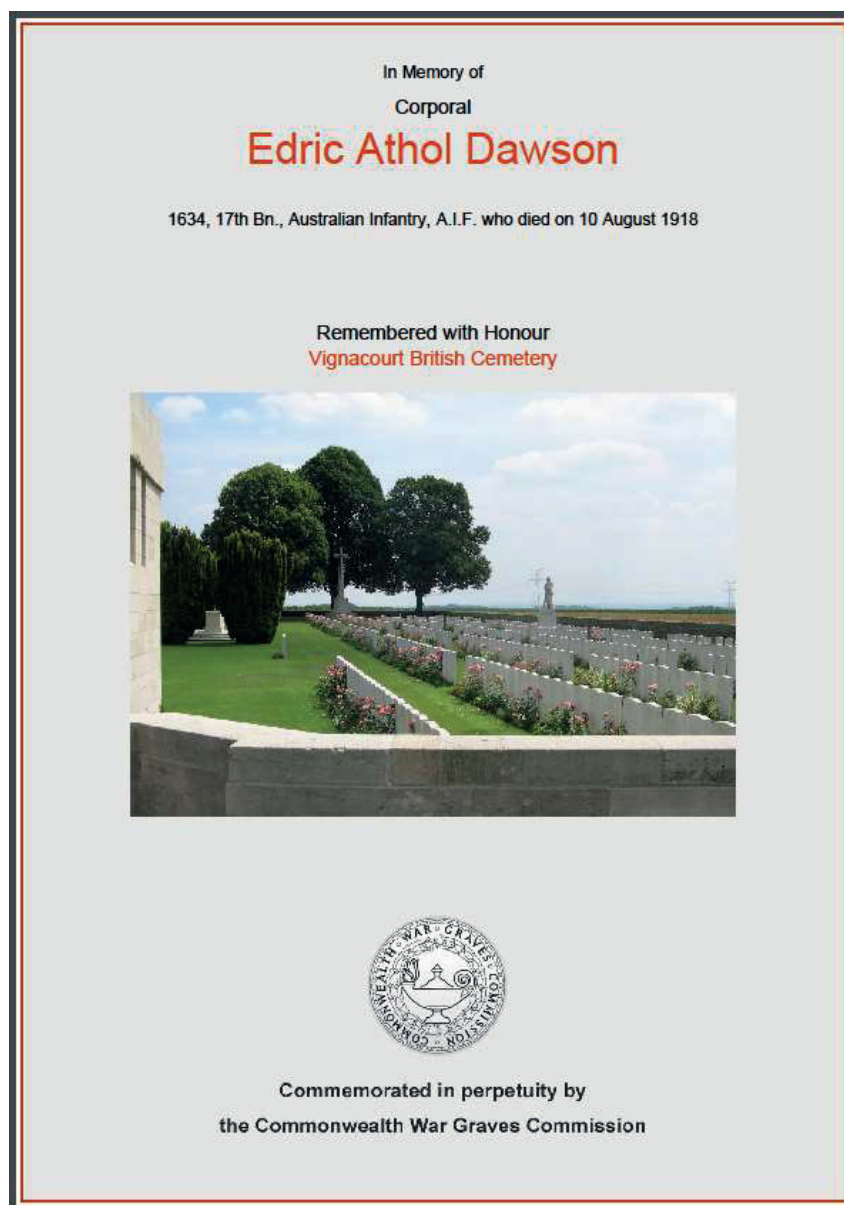
No. of Package

D/S.

42386

Checked by





## 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