

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?"*

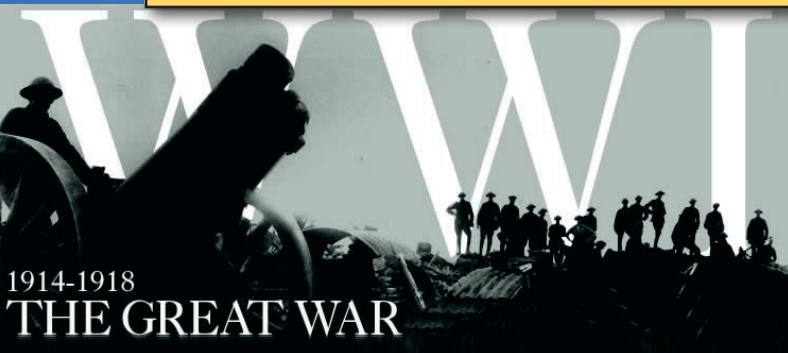
ROLL OF HONOUR

FISHER, Osbourne

Service Number: 3106

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.



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 **Osbourne Fisher**, 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.

Osborne Fisher 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

OSBORNE FISHER

Service Number: 3106

Rank: Private

Unit: 48th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 06 August 1916

Place of death: France

Cause of death: Killed in action

Age at death: 39

Place of association: Mundijong, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial,
Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: Osborne Fisher's
name is located at **panel 145** in the Commemorative Area
at the Australian War Memorial

48th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 48th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Roughly half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 16th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 16th, the men of the new battalion hailed mainly from regional South Australia and Western Australia. The new battalion formed part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division. It became known as the "Joan of Arc" (the Maid of Orleans) battalion because it was "made of all Leanes" - it was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ray Leane, his brother was the adjutant, and several other relatives were scattered throughout the battalion.

The 48th's first major battle on the Western Front was Pozieres. Here, it was tasked with defending ground captured in earlier attacks by the 2nd Division and entered the firing line on two separate occasions - 5 to 7 and 12 to 15 August. During the former period the battalion endured what was said to be heaviest artillery barrage ever experienced by Australian troops and suffered 598 casualties. A diorama at the Australian War Memorial depicts the battalion's experience at Pozieres. Before it had recovered from the trials of Pozieres, the 48th was also required to defend ground captured during the battle of Mouquet Farm.

1917 was also a trying year for the 48th Battalion. In two of the major battles in which it fought - the first battle of Bullecourt, in France, and the battle of Passchendaele, in Belgium - it was forced to withdraw with heavy casualties as result of poor planning and inadequate support. On neither occasion did the battalion fail for want of courage or skill amongst its own troops.

Like most AIF battalions, the 48th rotated in and out of the front line through the winter of 1917-18. In the spring of 1918 it played a crucial role in blocking the main road into Amiens when the Germans launched their last great offensive. When it came time for the Allies to launch their own offensive, the 48th took part in the battle of Amiens between 8 and 10 August, and the battle to seize the Hindenburg "outpost line" between 18 and 20 September. This was the 48th's last battle of the war. It disbanded on 31 March 1919.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

G01534E

France, 1st August, 1916: Bombardment of Pozieres by German artillery.

D

16465

Transferred To
48th. Batin, 3.3.16

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**

No. 3106

Name Fisher OsborneUnit 19/16thJoined on 7/7/1510th, Reinforcement
16th Bation.**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

1. What is your Name? Osborne Fisher
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? in or near the Town of Malpas in the County of New South Wales
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Natural Born
4. What is your age? 38 yrs.
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) (Mother) Elizabeth Fisher, Adderidge, Chongall, New South Wales, Australia.
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. (For married men and widowers with children and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? Yes

I, Osborne Fisher 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~~ three-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my ~~wife and children~~ widowed mother.

Date 31.7.15

Osborne Fisher
Signature of Person Enlisted.

W

Transferred to

D 13214

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 3106 ✓

Rank

Pte. ✓

Name

FISHER O. ✓

Unit

48th Battalion late 16th Batta.

Casualty

6.8.16 Killed in Action. Enl 203/6938 F. S. Loman 29/9/16 ✓

"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."

Memorial sent to Mrs. Fisher 21.9.16 ✓

DATE

PURPORT.

A.F. B. 2090A Received,

REF. NO.

6.9.16

M.O. 5 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION 6.8.16
COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS

19.9.16

5.10.17 Geo. Fisher (Brother) asking for Of Cert. - Particulars re death - Effects - 16/1

CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF

Cable No. 243 vide 2/28.4.16

12.4.17

PERSONAL EFFECTS - Beaulieu

No personal effects in kit B.R.M. No. 203/14/40

DISTRICT INCH

Circular B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched by post 20.5.20 ✓
Received & acknowledged by post 20.5.20

27/8/20

261470 Star issued B.R.M. 23/229/14/15 BB To Comdt. 5th M.D. B.R.M. 51/ P36 ✓

26.1.21.

Copy of Probate re Wills - filed - B.R.M. 52/935 ✓

9/9/21

BRITISH MEDAL to Comdt. 5th M.D.E.F. 63/1211 ✓



VICTORY MEDAL to Mother B.R.P.F. 42

22 JAN 1923

Registered Post No. 527 G. P. O. Melbourne

LIST.

D. 174/13 - C. 142 - 120

CARD CHECKED

4

Statement of Service of No. 3106 Name Fisher, Osborne

Units in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, etc.	Period of Service in each Rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
15 Depot 10/16 " Rf	Private	7/7/15	15/7/15	Co. 393
	"	16/7/15		88 298
	TAKEN ON STRENGTH FROM	5/2/16		Pt 2. 1104 17/2/16
	Transferred To			Pt 2245 22/3/16
	48th. Batin. 3.3.16			
48th Batin.	Taken on strength.	3.3.16		" 117. 26.3.16
	Proceeded to join B.E.F.	2.6.16		
	Alexandria			
	Disemb: Marseilles	9.6.16		
	KILLED IN ACTION	France 6.8.16		60343. P2/2690. 29.8.16
See A. 713.103 enclosed				
R 2032/4/16 no information available				

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

922. W. G. Fisher
5th B. B. O.

France.

FIELD SERVICE.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36 or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT } 48th. Battalion A.I.F. Squadron,
or } Troop, Battery
CORPS } or Company

Regtl. No. 3106 Rank Private

Name FISHER Osborne

Died { Date 6.8.16
Place In the Field FRANCE
Cause of Death* Killed in Action

Nature and Date of Report A.F.B. 213 11.8.16

By whom made C.O. 48th. Battalion A.I.F.

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

Burial { Place Not yet to hand
Date -
By whom reported -

State whether he leaves a will or not { (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Not yet to hand
(b) in Small Book (if at Base) -
(c) as a separate document -

All private documents and effects received from the front or Hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer as the case may require, together with the deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Signature of Officer in charge
of Section Adjutant-General's
Office at the Base

Lieut.
Officer in Charge

Station and Date Rouen FRANCE 18.10.16

Anzac Section
3rd. Echelon G.F.C.

138 Royal St.
East Perth
West Australia
15/6/20

O. G.
Base Records Office
Melbourne

In reply to your letter
of 3/6/20 re my application for 1914/1915
Star to be issued in connection with my
son the late No 2016 Pte C. Fisher, ^{48th} Battalion
I am his next of kin, his father having
died on 10/1/14.



Yours faithfully
Elizabeth X Fisher
^{for}
_{mother}

Witness W. J. Fisher
138 Royal St.
E. Perth.

DECEASED
SECTION
JUN 22 1920
RECEIVED

~~John~~

Mrs Blair

45 Gloucester St.
Subiaco
W. A.

Jan 5th 1917

The Officer in Charge
Base Records.

Dear Sir,

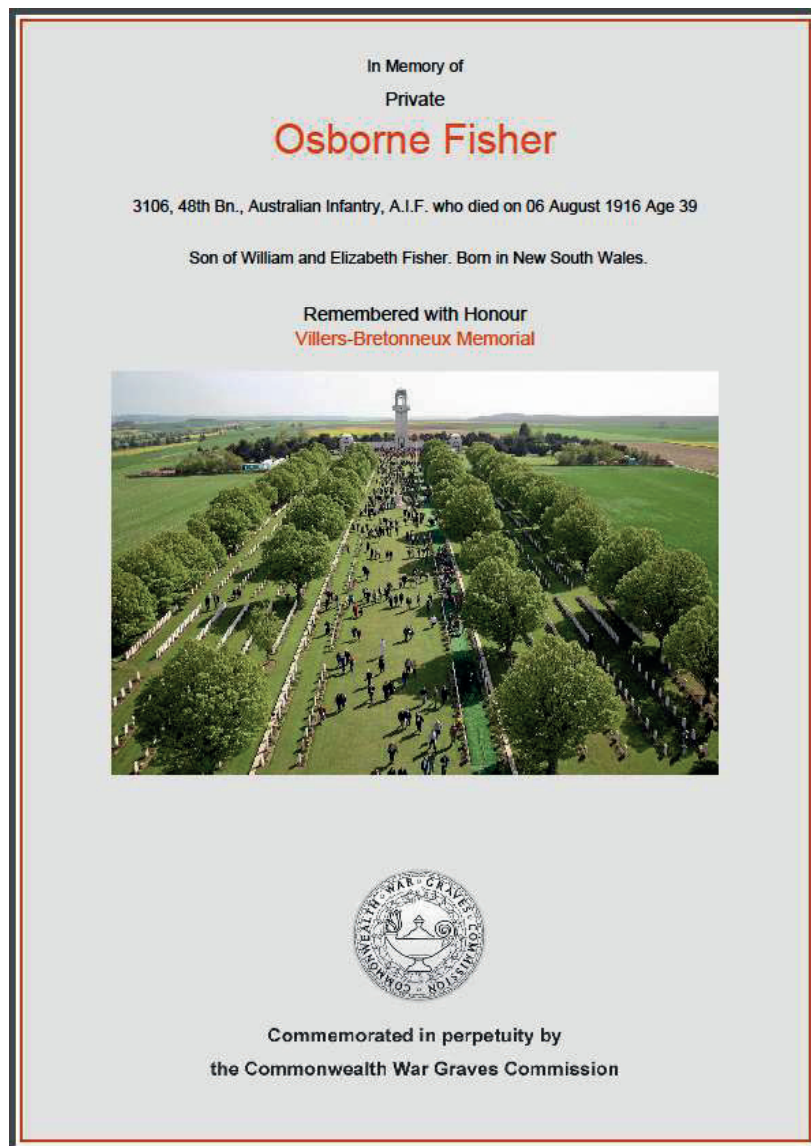
Will you please forward to
above address a certificate of death of my brother,
Private Osborne Fisher, No 3106, 48th Batt. who was
killed in action on Aug 6th 1916. Also, if there is any
property of his in your charge, will you please send
it to above address. I would also like to know if
anything has yet been heard of my other brother Private
Walter Stanley Fisher, No 4272, who was reported
missing about the same date.

Yours faithfully,
Geo. Fisher



P.S. Can you give any particulars as to how
Osborne met his death.

Mrs. Morgan
B. F. to all
12/11



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