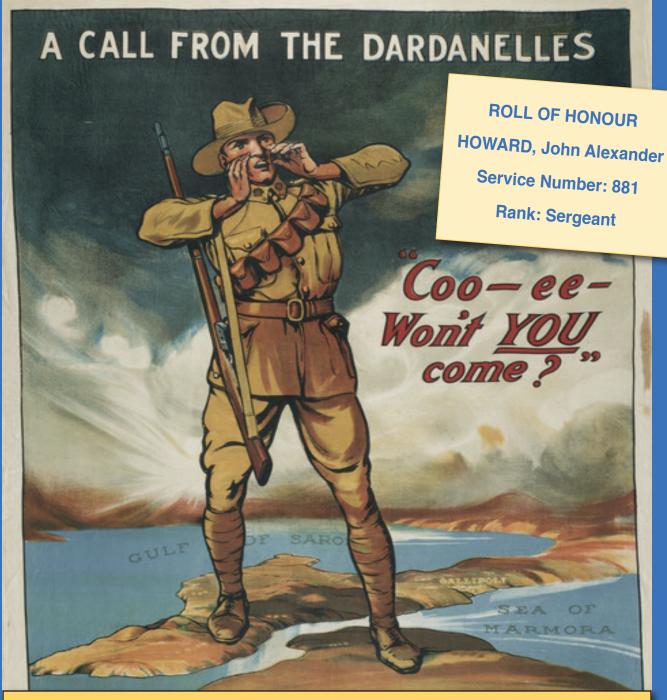
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 Alexander Howard**, 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 Alexander Howard 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.

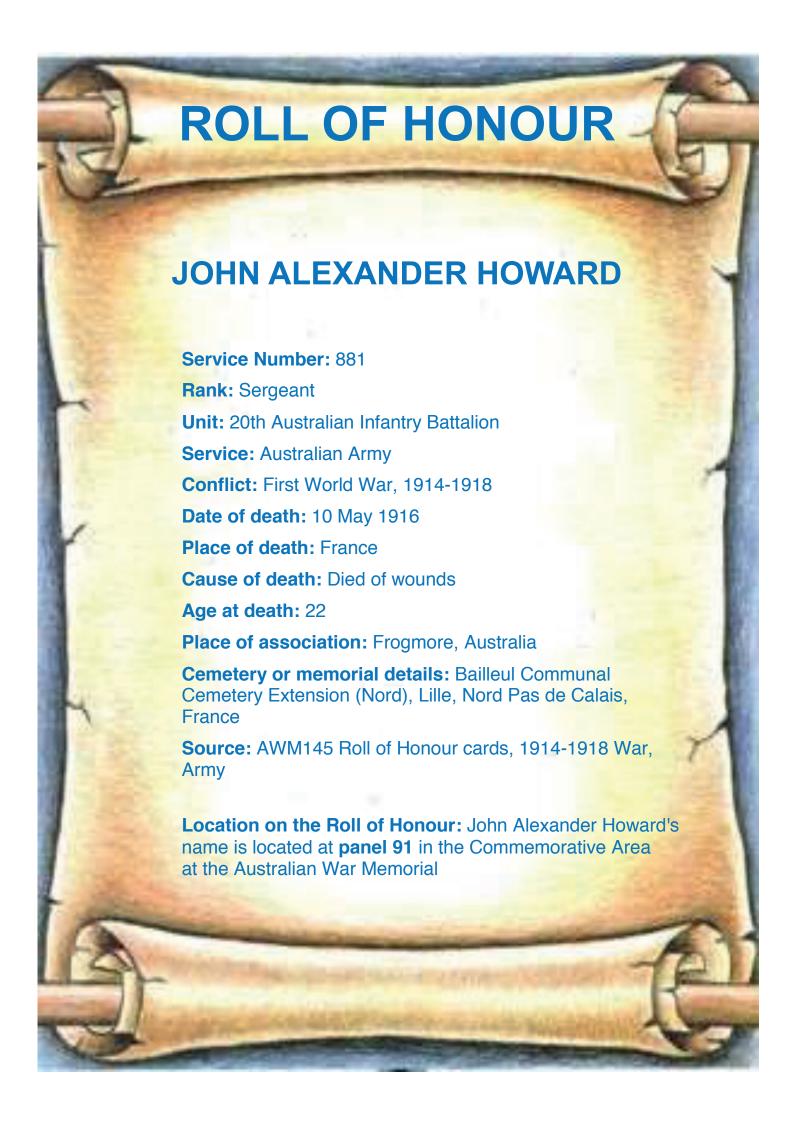
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





A Family united and divided through War

John Alexander Howard #881, died of wounds on 10 May 1916 in France, aged 22, he was in the 20th Battalion. His stepbrothers were also members of the 20th Battalion, Donald Smirnoff Begbie #6775, died of wounds on 28 April 1918 in France, aged 19 ½; and Arthur Percival Elphinston Begbie #6771 who had enlisted previously, on 3 August, 1915 at Goulburn, NSW with the consent of his father, Constable Arthur Vernon Begbie of Police Station, Frogmore, NSW. He was discharged in 1916 and enlisted again on 5 March, 1917, after service in France, he was later discharged in 1919, as medically unfit, aged 21.



20th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 20th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A sprinkling of the 20th'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 20th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 22 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

Arriving at Gallipoli just as the August offensive petered out, the 20th's role there was purely defensive. From 26 August, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on 20 December, the 20th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Russell's Top.

After further training in Egypt, the 20th Battalion proceeded to France. It entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time in April 1916 and in the following month had the dubious honour of being the first Australian battalion to be raided by the Germans. The 20th 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 the5th Brigade, came south again in

October. The 20th Battalion provided reinforcements for the attack near Flers between 14 and 16 November, launched in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.

In 1917, the 20th 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 Lagnicourt. 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. The 20th Battalion was one of many Australian battalions rushed to stop it, and it encountered some particularly severe fighting when ordered to attack at Hangard Wood on 7 April. With the German Army's last desperate offensive defeated, the 20th participated in the battles that pushed it 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 of the war. It was disbanded on 20 April 1919.



At Sea, January, 1916: recently evacuated from Gallipoli these unidentified men are peeling potatoes for what the unknown photographer called "the famous bully beef stew". A small group of four at upper right are wearing what is probably the white over green diamond shaped colour patch of the 20th Battalion. The remainder are possibly men of the 5th Field Ambulance. Taken aboard an unknown vessel i6 they are probably on the way to Egypt from the island of Lemnos.





MILITARY FORCES.

IMPERIAL FORCE. AUSTRALIAN

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

	1-11-0- 00 00 - 1
	OWARD John alexander
Unit _	6 -6 by Is Bat
Joined on	26-3-15
O LA LA LA POR	son Enlisting before Attestation.
Questions to be put to the Pers	
1. What is your Name!	John Mescauder Howard
	2. In the Parish of in or
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	near the Town of . Aralugu
	in the Court of . New Douth Water.
3. Are you a natural boro British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the	3 Natural Born
latter, papers to be shown.)	2 - 21 yrs 6 metho
4. What is your age?	5. Teacher
5. What is your trade or calling?	11
 Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, to whom, and for what period? 	
7. Are you married?	7. Sugle benon
	8 Mrs Degore
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	noguiste Mine
	Ma Burrowa Moth.
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power1	9
 Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incor- 	11
rigible and Worthless, or on account of Convic-	10
tion of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servi tude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace	. 1
from the Navy'	
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the	11 2 yrs. Old N.S.W. Voluntie Cadets
Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not	n. 7./
now serving, state cause of discharge	
12. Have you stated the whole, if and of your previous service!	12 · Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's	M
Service? If so, on what grounds?	13
14. (For Married Men and Widowers with children)-	
Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after	14
embarkation during your term of service	
, John a Howard	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 alintary
Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or bey	fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during
Aint I further agree to affet not less than two	THE PARTY OF THE P

CARD CHTCKED Howard John alexander Statement of Service of No. ... 991 Name ... Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. Unit in which served. From-20 th Back PE Punishment-Offence - absent without leave Pr II Su, 2/2/16 award - 5 days 7 8 10 2 22/16 PROVOTED Sergeant M. Gun Section 15:3.16 · · 23/1890 20.4 1L Reportedly Res. In J. Hall. A 76 32 . 2647. Buttelyd to 1914kth Star Oced of Wounds. 10.5.16. Died at 10. 85 an from bomb 10/5/16 ... 30/2432

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

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 OF CORPS 20th BATT	ALION, A.I.F.	Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company	"C" Company.
Regtl, No881_	Rank Serge	ant.	
Name HOWARD, John	Alexander.		
Date 10/5/16			
Died Place gth Casua	lty Clearing St	ation.	and the second
Cause of Death • Bo	mb Wound. Rece	ived in Action	
			ring Station 10/5/16.
2			Clearing Station.
* Specially state if killed in action, or dexpo	ied from wounds received in sure while on military duty, or	action, or from illness due to from injury while on military	s field operations or to fatigue, privation, or duty.
Place Bailleul	Cemetery		
Burial Date			
By whom reported	The Rev.Jas.	T.Hall, attach	ed to 8th Cas.C.Stn.
	(a) in Pay Book (A	rmy Book 64)	Yes.
State whether he leaves a will or not	(b) in Small Book	(if at Base)	co. defen
	(c) as a separate d	ocument	

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 Australian Records Section.

3rd Records Section.

B.E.F.

Station and Date FRANCE, >9 /5 /16

(4 11 5) W 497-810 200,000 4/15 H W V(P) A.O. 56
Fortus

B.E.F.

Casualty Form Active Service.

Regiment or Corps "C" Coy. 20th Battalion Regiment or Corps "C" Coy. 20th Battalion A.I.F.

Regimental No. 081 Rank Sergeant Name Howard, John Alexander.

Enlisted (a) 23/3/15 Terms of Service (a) Service reckons from (a)

Date of promotion 15/3/16 Date of appointment to present rank to lance rank 1

Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.

Extended_

215. Army Form	No construction of		
215. Army Form			Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
canualities, etc. during acrive service, is 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	
oin M.E.F	. Gallipoli Peninsula	16/8/15	
Mudros	Alexaniria	9/1/16	
t without .0 a.m0 a.m.	Tel el Rebiz	22/1/16	B/213 A.P.3168 D.O.Part II 6/541
rgeant of Section.	Moascar -	15/3/16	2/213 C.26 D.O.Pert II 23/1890
ed H.M.T. oma". arked.	Alexandria Marseilles		L.R.5093.
ltiple:-	FRANCE	9/5/16	A.T.687 (E.B.4/55)
	tiple:- ted .Stn.	ted FRANCE	ted FRANCE 9/5/16

(a) In the case of a man who has re-enjaged for, or enlisted into Section D. Army R verve, particulars of such re-enjagement or enlishment will be antered.

(b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

	Report	Record of promotions, teductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as			Remarks
Date	From whom received	reported on Army Form It. 213. Army Form A. 26, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	taken from Army Form B. 218, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
13/5/16	8 Cas. C.Stn.	Bomb wound. left arm, finger, and right ankle:- Admitted	FRANCE	8/5/16	A.T.673 (E.B.4/50)
.0/5/18	8 Cas. C.Stn.	DIED OF WOUNDS at 10.35	FRANCE	10/5/16	A.C.565 C.R.No.25982 (E.B.4/36) Cable ARS 93 12/5/16 D.O.Part II 30/2432
	Burial Report 18471	Buried at Bailleul Com- etery. Reported by The Rev.Jas T.Rall attached to 8 Cas. Clearing Stn.	FRANCE		A.T.633 (E.B.4/52) D.O.Part II 33/2647.
			Au		Lieut. Records Section, Cholon G.R.C., B.E.F.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Copy of Will extracted from A.B. 64 of the late No. 881 Sergt. J.A. Howard, 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to my mother, Alena Jessie Begbie of Frogmore, Burrows, N.S.W.

> John Alexander Howard, Private No. 881. 20th Battalion, A.I.F. (Sigmed)

15th August 1915.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Australian Records Section,
3rd ECHELON, G. H. Q., BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

July 11th

EFFECTS OF OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS.

LATEST REPORT.

Died of Wounds. 10/5/18.

Unit.

20th Battalion.

Number.

881

Ajana

Rank.

Sergeant

Name.

Howard J.A.

EFFECTS :-

Package No. 225.

pine, Wallet, (Inscribed J.A.H.), Testament, Motebooks, (2), Baiges, (2), Leather belt, Photos,

ers alona Jessie Segsie,
(or) Progmore,
Via Surrowee,
H.S.W.

5/5 798

Marino

for, O. C. Australian Records Section,

3rd. ECHELON, G. H. Q., B. E. F.

Wordvelle 8. Houald Street Hamilton. Offices in Charge melbourne Dear Su letter be war medalo of mus late sou 881 Sugarel Doward. I may state his father is dead and my Sau vas not-married The nearest-relatives livery are muself and his two Risters. yours Faithfulley Aleua & Torghie

881

Sergeant.

HOWARD, John Alexander.

30/5/18

'th Casualty Clearing Station.

Bomb Wound. Received in Action.

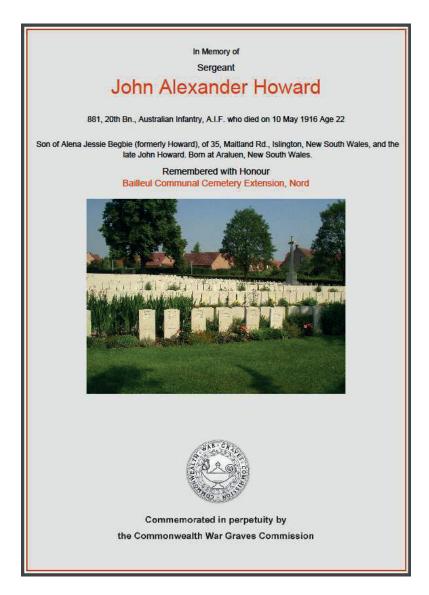
from 8th Casualty Clearing Station 10/5/16.
Officer Commanding 8th Casualty Clearing Station.

Bailleul Comptery

The Rev. Jas. T. Hall, attoched to 8th Cas. C.Stn.

Yen.

Australian Records Section. 3rd Bohelon G.H.G., B.R.F.



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

Torpy, Thomas Fatrick

Walker, William Albert

Watt, James

Watt, Oscar Harold McClure

White, Alister

Whitelaw, Thomas Philip

Wilson, Samuel Charles

AERROWN