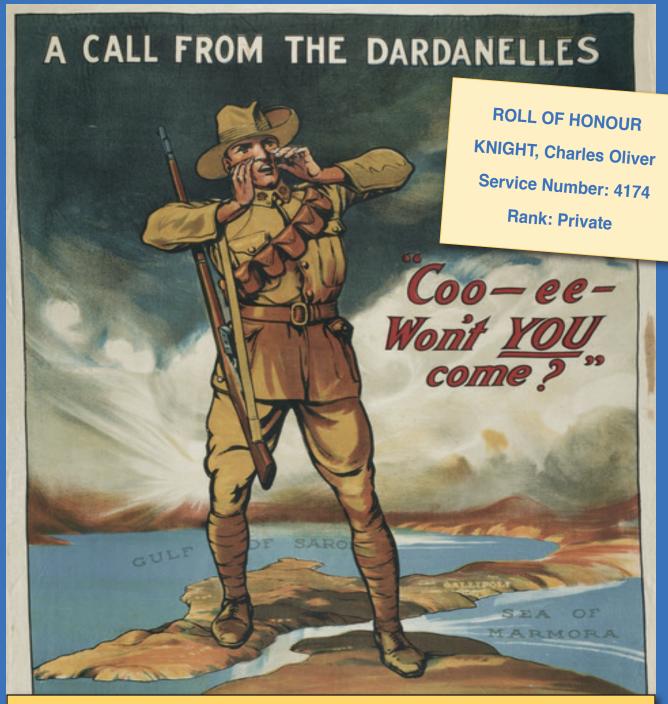
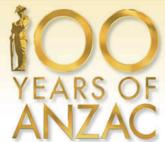
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 **Charles Oliver Knight**, 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.

Charles Oliver Knight 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.

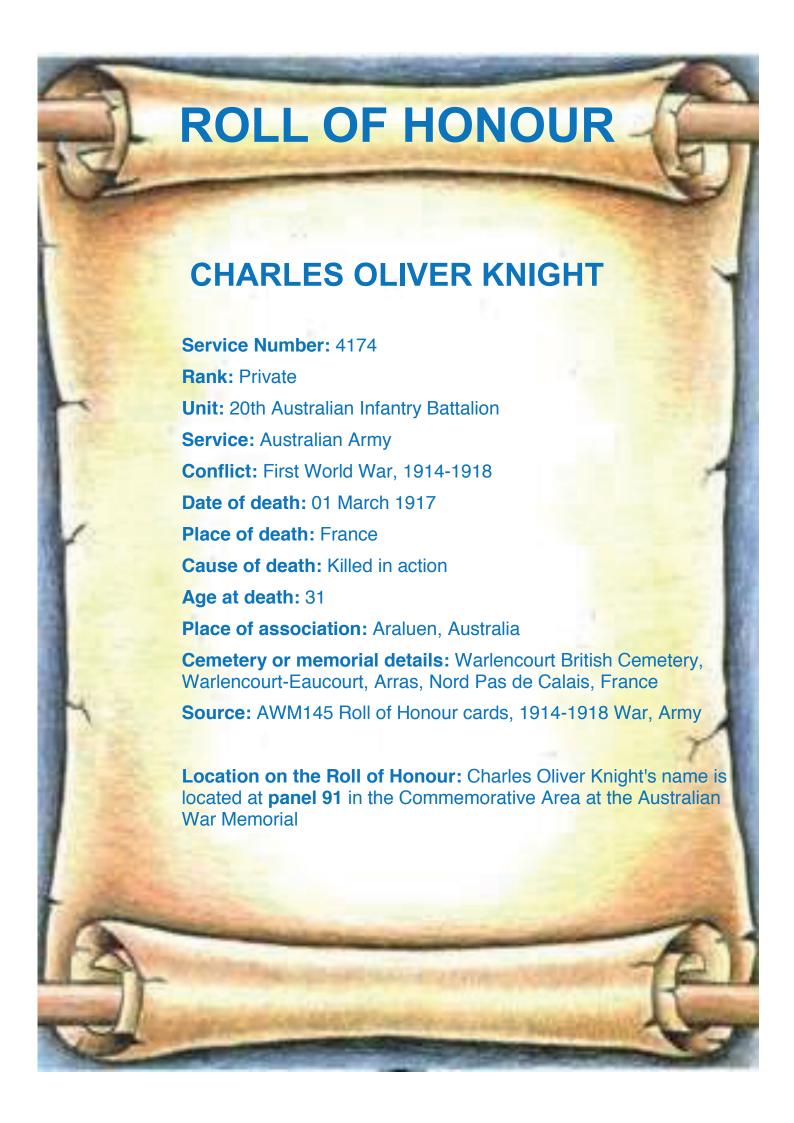
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





20th Australian Infantry Battalion



20th Colour Patch

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.



Araluen News: March 1917

A gloom cast over the Valley when it became known that Cecil Byrne and Charles Knight had lost their lives in recent fighting on the western front. Cecil Byrne was very popular in Araluen, he had been in action for some months without receiving injuries, and he hoped his luck would see him through. But fate decreed otherwise. Mr and Mrs J Knight of Crown Flat, their son Private Charles Knight, was killed in action, he enlisted in Sydney. Much sympathy is felt for the parents of both the young men.

Braidwood Letters from the Front by Roslyn Maddrell

"Xilled 1.3.18"

Buried near Horse Shoe Dump near Le Sars.

The Maire of Vignacourt has arranged for a Commemeration Ceremony to be held in the British Military Cemetery.
Vignacourt, this aftencon at 1430.

The Children of the village will place wreaths and flowers on the graves of English and Australian Soldiers buried there, and the graves are to be handed over to the care of these children for the future.

Delegates from the French Government and the French Army will be present and will address the gethering.

will be present and will address the gethering.
The Battalian will form up on road in front of B.O.R. ready
to move-off at 1400. Dress - belts and side arms.
All available men to attend this parade.
The Maire to the Cemetery the following will be the order of
the procession:

Australian Troops. (17th, 18th, 20th Bns; "th A.L.T.H. Bty, Bde. H.Q., and Field Ambulance.

School Children. Massed Bands. Military and Civil Authorities. French Schliers. givil Population.

- 1 9(+) 3(-) A.I.P. 20th 3tn

Китора 0.0. 4174

"K. Harch 1/18"

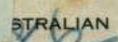
I didn't see Carlie Enight killed by shell (I think instantly) whilst on ration fatigue just outside Martinginch at the ration dump at night time. He was buried near where he fell.

Description: Call, dark, about 28 yrs, came over from Australia with me, left Sydney, March 11th/16 in "Graova"

Informent: L/Cpl. T.Acocks, 4051 Stn Ptn 3.Coy. Belgium.

H. B. H. London 17-2-19







MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IN	PERIAL FORCE.
Attestation Paper of Persons	Enlisted for Service Abroad.
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No. 4174 Name	116 H 1 6 0 000
Unit -	\$10 RIN-10-E
Joined on	77/7//5 5 3
	5
Questions to be put to the Per-	son Enlisting before Attestation.
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	3. In the Parish of in or
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born!	near the Town of Civilineer
	in the County of all beincent
3. Are you a natural born British Subject of a	& Trabural Low
Naturalized British Subject? (N.BII the latter, papers to be shown)	
4. What is your age?	Blacksmith Striker
5. What is your trade or calling t	
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	e to
7. Are you married!	7 Zea
	a Falter Tolm Knight
8 Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	Gralum
N. Property of the Control Property	, to Sente Court NEW
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. 1.75 M
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Insor-	Leo
rigible and Worthless, or on account of Convic- tion of Felmy, or of a Sentence of Penal Servi	10 . 5
from the Navy t	
 Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the 	4
Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy	11. 40
or Colonial Forcest If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous	12 400
18. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's	- La
Service! If so, on what grounds!	18
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an	14 400
amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day.	
15. Are you prepared to undergo incentation sgainst smallpox	55 460
and enterior fever?	
by me to the above questions are true, and I am withing Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or bey	and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military
"And fi further agree to allot not less than two	fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during
and the same and the same of t	e-fifths
wife and children	1 6 Result

Signature of person enlight

Army For	rm B. 103.			mental Nun	ber 4174
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Enlisted ((0)		service reckons fr	The second second	
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5.16.		" To Duty		14.6.16	D.0.40/317
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5.8.15.	0.0.80th Bn	Joined Battalion	FRANCE	30.7.1	. BELS AQ 3910.0.57/47
		Wounded in Action		4.8.16	TEP13 AQ 3810.0.57/507
7.10.10.	ANZ: SECTION	Admitted 2nd Aust Fld Amb:			ER 4855 .
		To Cas Clear: Station	X		
5.8.15.	44th C.C.S.	Admitted GSW R/ARM	*		AX 150/48
7.8.16.	let Sty Hpl	и и	ROUEN	6.8.16	AM 30 GD 55 V.L.54
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4.8.16.	Aust Aux Hpl	Admitted OSW R/ARM from	HAREFIELD	24.8.1	. ER 5358 84/1674E
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1.9.16.	Manual Property of the Parket	Class"A" To No 1 Command		1.9.16	ER 4718
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National Archives of Australia

NAA B2455 KNIGHT CHARLES OLIVER

NAA B2455 KNIGHT CHARLES OLIVER

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.2.17.	Base Depot	Marched out to Join UNIT		8.2.17	AX 4644	1
2.17.	c.o.Soth BN	Rejoined Battalion.	FRANCE :	9.2.17	. R213 B.9/8	0.27/2042
3.17.	*	KHARD IN ACTION		.3.17.	BAS B.9/10	V.L.286
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From Flat Dear sir. We received the welcome letter on saturday I had just posted my letter to you asking if you had heard any news of ph. l. O. Hhight tout was very Mankfull when the news came for it was better news than we expected, I hope I am not putting you to any trouble by writing to you asking what I did but was very anxious to know, so we received the wheome news on Saturday after my letter had gone to you. I thank you very much yor sending the news along. Fremain yours druly. Mrs & Junight

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) 20TH BATTALION. A. I. F. Squadron, Troop. 10TH REINFORCEMENTS.
OR CORPS Battery or Company Beginnental No. Bank
Surname K N I G H T. Christian Names Charles, Oliver,
Date 1st March 1917. Place FRANCE.
Died Cause of Death. KILLED IN ACTION.
Nature and Date of Report B213 dated 10th Barch 1917.
By whom made Commanding Officer 20th Battalion. A. I. F.
* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illusts due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or expusure while on military duty.
Place Particulars not yet to hand. Date
Burial By whom reported Will not received.
State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) (b) in Small Book (if at Base)
a Will or not (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 disporar of his estate should be
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.
PAC SUPPTIN A D ECHELON. G. H. C. B.E.F.
Station and 25th March 1917 Signature of Officer in charge of Section Officer 1/e Records.
(1332) Wt. 5710/M740 400,000 8/16 JFW [E328] Forms/B2080A/2

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of

No. 4174

Private Charles Oliver Knight, 20th Battalion,

Australian Imperial Force.

xxxxx was killed in action

(No record available)

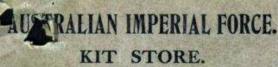
1st March

17

Cable No. C. I. B. L.

1185, from the Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London.
20th March 1917, confirmed by Mail from the Commandant A.I.F.
Headquarters, dated London, 27th March 1917.







110, GREYHOUND ROAD, FULHAM, LONDON,

Telephone :- HAMMERSMITH 1899.

W. 6.

Inventory of Effects of-The Late No. 4174 Pte. Knight C.O. 20th. Batt'n. Alr.

Forwarded to— (Father)
Mr. J.Knight,
Araluen,
South Coast,
N.S.W.

≥Euripidies :-

Effects.

B.A.T.

Brd. Echelon. No. 10137.

Testament, Wallet, Photos, Shoe Knife, Metal Wrist Watch & Strap.

Ex. Kit Store.)

Cigarette Holder In Case, 2 Handkerchiefs, Perescope, Kit Bag Handle.

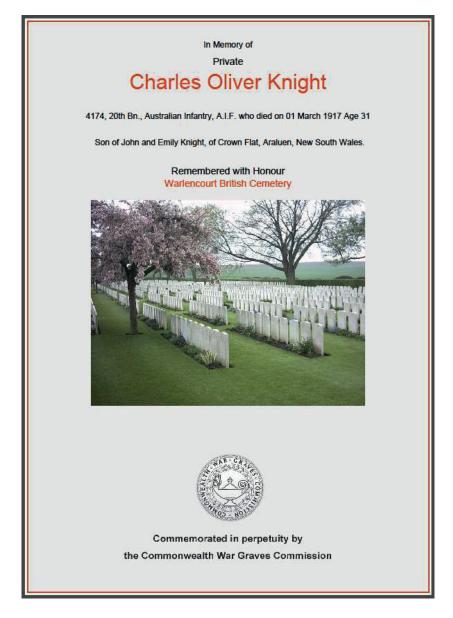
No. of Package D/S.

13133

Checked by

Asaluen Aug 4 I received the Photographs of the memorial Cross of my Son. Ar 4174 Private Charles Oliver Knight. and other fallen Goldiers. I am very thankfull to you for your kindness. I can't see any alteration that should be made it is quite right has far as I know. I thank you once more yours Faithfull John Knight Aralmen RECEIVED I should have written to you gooner. but have been in trouble. I have lost another Son. a young man.

Crown Hat Aralum Dear Sir. may 13 the Parcel arived safely. I thank you for sending it. I was not at home when it arived , or I should have sent you word before now. I think the Plarque very nice. Jam sending the stamps for the Complet. as you mentained in your letter. sorry to have not answered yours yours Faithfully. J. Thought brown Flat Booklet siket Szaluen



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

AERROWN