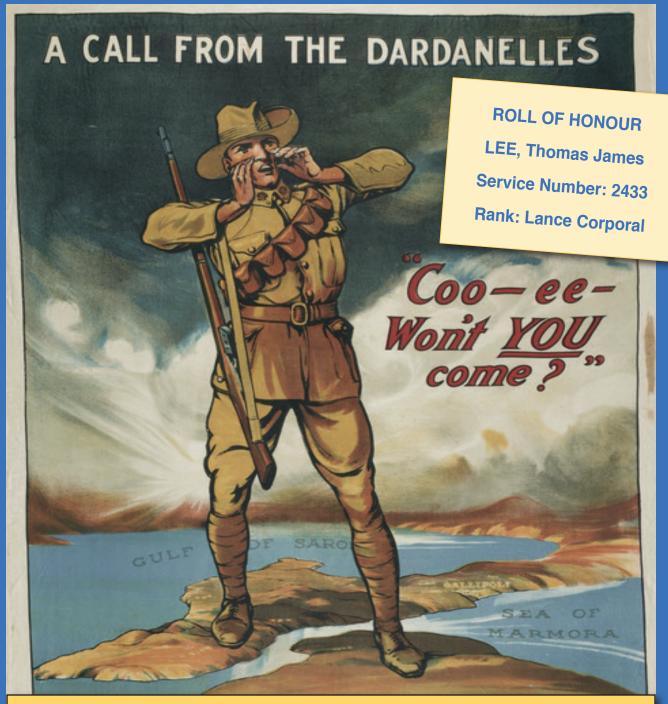
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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
Thomas James Lee, 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.

Thomas James Lee 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.

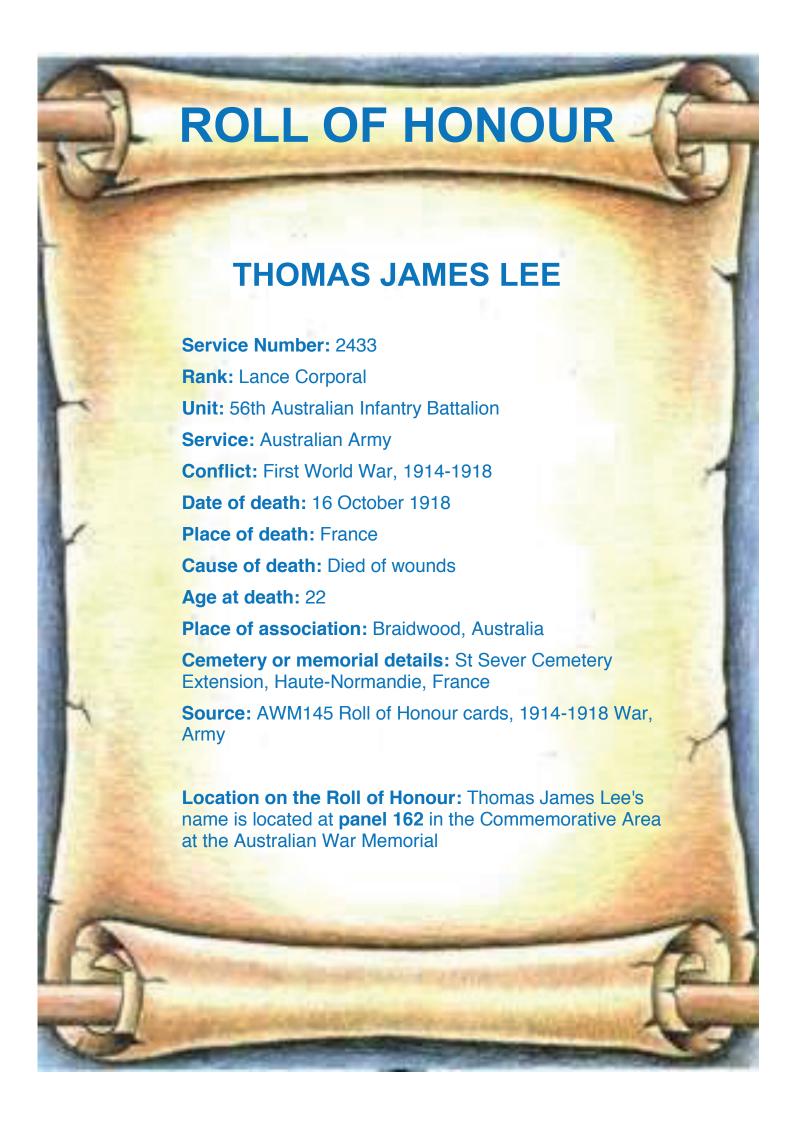
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





56th Australian Infantry Battalion



56th Colour Patch

The 56th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 4th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 4th, the 56th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 30 June 1916, the battalion entered the frontline trenches for the first time on 12 July and fought its first major battle at Fromelles a week later. The battle was a disaster, resulting in heavy casualties across the division. Despite these losses the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

After a freezing winter manning trenches in the Somme Valley, in early 1917 the 56th Battalion participated in the advance that followed the

German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. It was spared the assault but did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 56th's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.

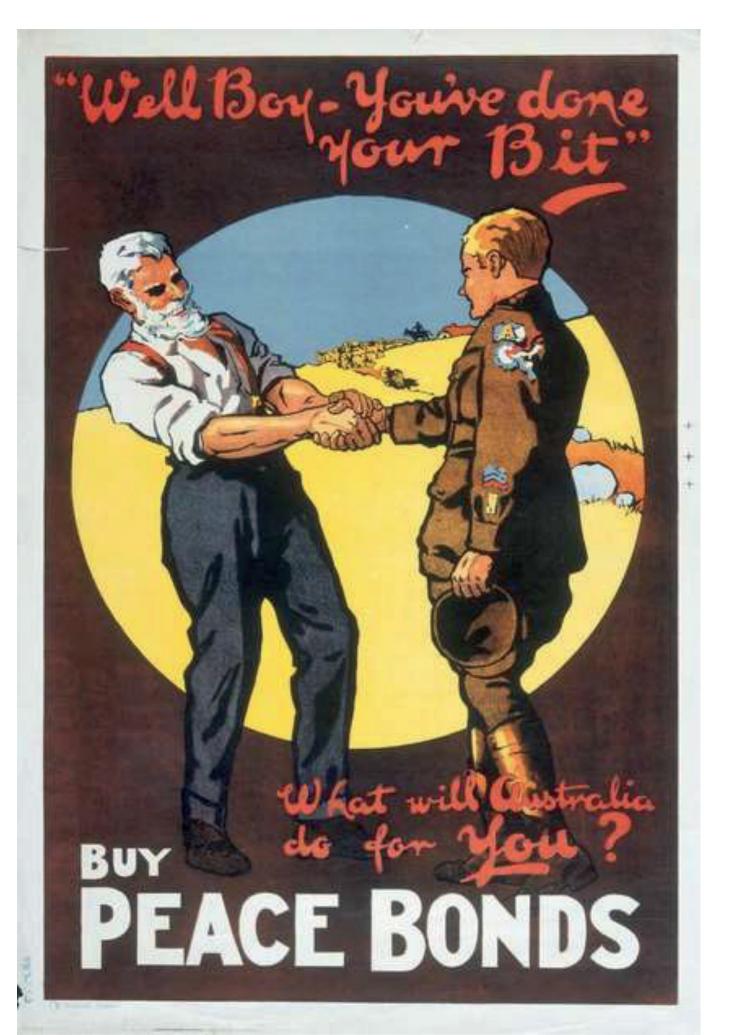
With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. The 14th Brigade, took up positions to the north of Villers-Bretonneux and held these even when the village fell, threatening their flanks.

Once the German offensive had been defeated, the Allies launched their own offensive in August 1918. The 14th Brigade did not play a major role in these operations until late in the month, but its actions were critical to the capture of Peronne, which fell on 2 September. The 56th fought its last major battle of the war, St Quentin Canal, between 29 September and 2 October 1918. It was resting out of the line when the Armistice was declared on 11 November. Soon after, members of the battalion began to be returned to Australia for discharge. It ceased to exist as a separate entity on 10 April 1919, when the remnants of all of the 14th Brigade's battalions were merged into a single unit.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

31 August 1918, France: Picardie, Somme, Clery: While maintaining the attempts to cross the Somme marshes. General Monash transferred the 2nd Division and 14th Brigade to the north of the Somme, and on this day launched the 5th Brigade (2nd Division) in a successful attack upon Mont St Quentin, the hill dominating Peronne. On the following day the 14th Brigade seized part of Peronne.





MILITARY FORCES.

564 Pm 54 sty

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons	Enlisted for Service Abroad.
No. 110 Name L	EE IHOMAS VAMES
National State Unit	COULS HE DEPOR STORE
Joined on	11/3/16
Questions to be put to the Pers	son Enlisting before Attestation.
What is your Name!	1 Nee Thomas James
	2. In the Parish of
	near the Town of COOMA
. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	
	In the County of N.S. WALES
L Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject (N.B.—II the latter, papers to be shown.)	Material Doon
i. What is your age!	12 hors 5 months
. What is your trade or calling!	5. Zabosed
Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, to whom, and for what period,	(TC)
Are you married? Mrs MrsHir LEE	MES JOSEPH GEORGE
t. Who is your next of kin† (Address to be stated)	BINALONG
	TO THE STATE OF
I. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	
1. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as incor- rigible and Worthless, or on account of Convic- tion of Feiony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servi- tude, or have you been diamssed with Diagrace from the Navy!	10. 70
I. 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	11 Sorre. 1/2/15:
f. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous }	12 7
I. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	11 100
L 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?	14
i. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small- pox and cutore fever?	215. Jun
by the above questions are true, and I am willing and Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyon	ond the limits of the Commonwealth.
	fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during
any service too the support of my wife and children	Her I See.

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(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Regiment or Corps 5/56th .BATTALION. Regimental Number 2433 .

*Substantative Rank Pto Lice Lett. Christian Names Thomas James.

*Acting Rank
(* To be entered in pencil to facilitate alteration.)

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to be written in this	S Date.	From whom received	Authority of Part II. of Orders	casualties, fransfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive pransitions to be shown, for method of outry of which see A.C.1, Bifold 1997. Cope and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	Place of cascalty	promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	Remarks, and initials and rank of an officer
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(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Regiment of Corps 5/56th. BATM LION. Regimental Number 2433

*Substantative Rank** L/C. Surname LFR. Christian Names Thomas Indian.

*Acting Rank____

(* To be entered in pencil to facilitate alteration.)

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2433/96

TARAGO (NSW)

MRS M LEE

Het INEFERENTIANCE CORPORAL THOMAS LEE ADMITTED HOSPITAL FRANCE THIRD OCTOBER DANGEROUSLY ILL

BASE RECORDS 18/10/18

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Mrs. M. Lee, Braidwood

BASE RECORDS OFFICE. VICTORIA BARRACKS, MMELIBOURNE, 10th Jan 1918

Dear Madam,

regret

to advise you that Private T. J. Lee,

has been reported admitted Keighley War Hospital,

England, 22.10.17, suffering from gunshot wound head. His postal address will be:-

No 2433 Private T. J. Lee, 56th Battalion.

Australian Imperial Force,

Abroad.

In the absence of further reports it is to be assumed that satisfactory progress is being maintained, but anything later received will be promptly transmitted, it being clearly understood that if no further advice is forwarded this department has no more information to supply.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. LEAN, Major,

Officer in Charge, Base Records.

D.194/3.17,---0.3416. au intimation to the above effect was so

M. B. A.

7th October, 1919.

Dear Madam.

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No.2433, hance-Corporal T. J. Lee, 56th Eastalion, I am now in receipt of civice that he was wounded (Gas) in action, 2nd occasion, on let October, 1918, and admitted to 8th Field Ambulance, transferred to 58th Casualty Clearing Stationary Nospital, Rouen, France on 2nd October, 1918, where he died on 16th October 1918, where he died on 16th October, 1918. He was buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France.

The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photographs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. M. Les. TARAGO. N. S. W.

Major. Officer i/c Base Records.



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

919

Inventory of Effects of - 2433 Lee. T.J. 56th Btm. A.I.F.

Forwarded to -Mother,

Mrs Martha Lee, Binalong Post Office, New South Wales.

Barambahne

Effects received from the field (3/9817) 5.11.18.

1 parcel (sealed) containing:-

Pipe, 2 Badges, 1 Shoulder Title, Netal Rins, 2 Discs, 3 Coins, Wrist Watch, Metal Cigarette Case, Netal Bracelet, Wallet, Photos, Cards, Letters, Cotton Bag.

46088

No. of Package

Checked by

· Memo: to Officer in Change. The effects in Not package were all in good order who received mark The office 3/c Bose woods, Jarago Defartment of Define June 2:2.1920 Yfelbourne victoria Dear Di in regardo to the soldiers grave which I received this morning of the soldies grave I thank you very much for the post cards in regard to the head stone of the soldier grave which is will not have it done yet as I have not got The ways and mean -at-present yours friend Partha Lee Lot office yarago JUN 5 1920

Solus St, Braidwood 13th april, 1921 The Office in Charge Records Melbourne Dear Sir reference to reasest of kin to the late no 2483 Dance Corporal 2. I Lee 51th Battalion. Thave to state that Shis mother arm the next of Kin to the above. There is no Widow Son or daughter or Father living. Thy address is as about Your uspectfully marthaxdee APR 39 1991 war medals 40. to mother Officer valiase Records 20.4.21.

In Memory of

Lance Corporal

Thomas James Lee

2433, 56th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 16 October 1918 Age 22

Son of Thomas and Martha Lee, of Elvington St., Braidwood, New South Wales. Native of Cooma, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour

St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. The cemetery extension contains 8,348 Commonwealth burials of the First World War (ten of them unidentified).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL ARTVO0032

First World War poster by acclaimed British silhouette artist, Harry Oakley. At the right of the poster, a man in silhouette is carrying his rifle and bayonet at the ready. Behind him, depicted in grey silhouette, are his comrades. This Australian version of the poster does not bear the artist's signature on the stone, whereas the British one does. Australian First World War recruitment poster. Appeals to a patriotic sense of honour to help fight the war and encourages the viewer to 'Join To-day'.

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

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

roipy, Fatrick Edward

Torpy, Thomas Patrick

Walker, William Albert

Watt, James

Watt, Oscar Harold McClure

White, Alister

Whitelaw, Thomas Philip

Wilson, Samuel Charles

AERROWN