

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

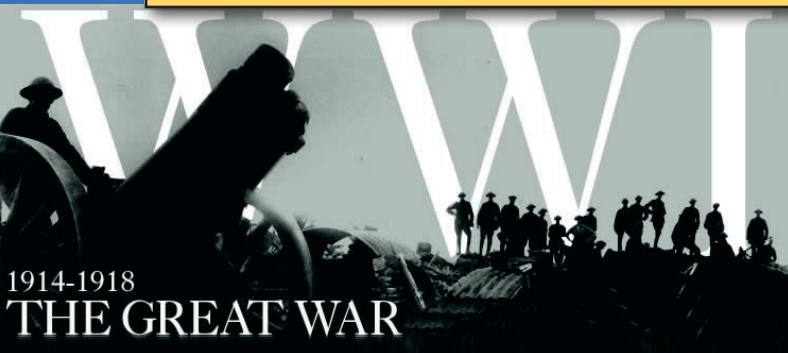
MATTHEWS, Francis

Service Number: 71

Rank: Sergeant

*"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.



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 **Francis Matthews**, 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.

Francis Matthews 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

FRANCIS MATTHEWS

Service Number: 71

Rank: Sergeant

Unit: 11th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 03 May 1915

Place of death: Gallipoli, Ottoman Empire

Cause of death: Killed in action

Age at death: 26

Place of association: Perth, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Shell Green Cemetery,
Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: Francis Matthews'
Name is located at **panel 63** in the Commemorative Area
at the Australian War Memorial



Egypt: Francis Matthews and company of the original 11th Battalion, No.1 Section, in front of the Sphinx.



Francis (Frank) Matthews

FRANCIS MATTHEWS #71

11th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked for overseas after just two weeks of preliminary training. It arrived in Egypt to continue its training in early December. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at around 4:30 am. Ten days after the landing, a company from the 11th Battalion mounted the AIF's first raid of the war against Turkish positions at Gaba Tepe. Subsequently, the battalion was heavily involved in defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, it made preparatory attacks at the southern end of the ANZAC position before the battle of Lone Pine. The 11th Battalion continued to serve at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 11th Battalion returned to Egypt. It was split to help form the 51st Battalion, and then bought up to strength with reinforcements.

In March 1916, the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres, the battalion manned trenches near Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme valley for winter.

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line. During a German counterattack at Louverval, France, in April 1917 Lieutenant Charles Pope was killed performing the deed for which he would be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres.

The battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive in March and April 1918, and later that year participated in the great Allied offensive launched east of Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The 11th Battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. This armistice was followed by a peace treaty, signed at Versailles on 28 June 1919.

In November 1918 members of the AIF began to return to Australia. In February 1919, the 11th and 12th Battalions were amalgamated due to steadily declining numbers in both battalions. They remained so linked until their last members returned home for demobilisation and discharge.



Francis Matthews' Grave at Shell Green Cemetery, Turkey.



FRANCIS MATTHEWS #71

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 71

Name Matthew Francis

Unit 11 Battalion Infantry

Joined on 26/2/18

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name?

1. Francis Matthew

2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?

2. In the Parish of

Graidwood

near the Town 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.)

3. Yes

4. What is your age?

4. 26 yrs (16/4/18)

5. What is your Trade or Calling?

5. School Teacher

6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, for whom, and for what period?

6. No

7. Are you married?

7. No

8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)

8. Mr Matthew

103 Academy St, Graidwood

(Comp No 238/25)

9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?

9. No

10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Service, with Ignominy, or as Insubordinate 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?

10. 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.

11. None

12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service?

12. Yes

13. Have you ever been reported as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?

13. No

*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?

14. No

I, Francis Matthew, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and bound 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 allow—

(a) Not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife.

(b) Not less than three-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date

26/2/18

Francis Matthew

Signature of Person Enlisted

10251/14.

* This clause does not apply to the case of married men or widowers without children under 25 years of age.

DEFENCE

2432

Transferred to

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 71 ✓

Rank Sergeant ✓

Name Matthews J

Unit 11th Battalion

Casualty Killed in action at the Mandanellas M.F.C. 5626/609 dated 21.6.15

Misc. No. 3/5/15 Killed in action Yaba Lige Gellipoli Peninsula

A.F. B. 2090A Received

DATE.

A.F. B. 103 Received

Ref. No.

18.6.15 asking confirmation for 310 Section

BR 2687

20.6.15 going made for war service

24.6.15 M.F.C. 5 advised B.R. 4162 vide M. 803.

CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF

Cable No. 1070 Spal. 10/8/15

31. 29.9.15 Out of hand for O.A. m.P. Rish
15. 12.15 Keenan Randall asking for information re will. 11/15
26. 1.16 Reply sent to letter of 31.12
24. 3.16 Keenan Randall asking information re Gay Booth. 16.4/15
14. 4.16 Enquiry sent of above to D.P.M. 2.16.15
11. 4.16 Not advised re AF B. 2090A
4.16 31.7.15 not acknowledged. 2/15

22.8.16 PERSONAL EFFECTS EX Keenan

10.6.16 Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B.R.M. 7/329

18.7.16 PERSONAL EFFECTS EX Keenan

19.8.16 Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B.R.M. 9/830

17.11.16 War Leave Certificate 5/451/4271

Circular B.R.M. 46, 1963 & Booklet to Graves despatched 2.1.17

1/10/2015 1914/15 Star issued B.R.M. 43/1215/3884 4995

WAR HISTORY INDEX



BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt 5th M.D.B.R.M. 4995

LIST

18/3/21

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 or CORPS } 11th Battalion, Squadron, } "A"
3rd Infy., Brigade, Troop, Battery }
A. I. F., or Company }

Regtl. No. 71 Rank Sergeant.

Name MATTHEWS, Frank Francis

Died { Date 3-5-1915.
 Place Kaba Tepe, Dardanelles.
 Cause of Death* Killed in action.

* 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.

State whether he leaves a will or not { (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Yes.
 (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 Paymaster at the Base (see Field Service Regulations, Part II.), 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

[Signature]
 A. D. [illegible]
 [illegible]
 [illegible]

Station and Date 3rd Echelon (Base)
Alexandria, EGYPT.

D 6216

Copy

Will.

In the event of my death I leave the whole of my property and effects to

Mrs. W. Matthews,

Corner of Lane and Clancy streets

Boulder,

West Australia.

*No. 71. Francis Matthews
11th Battalion.*

No. 71

Sergeant Francis Matthews,

11th Battalion,

1st Australian Division.

~~xxxx~~ was killed in action.

Gallipoli

(No record available)

Cable No. N.F.C.

5626, from the Officer Commanding Intermediate Base, dated Alexandria, 21st June 1915, and confirmed by Army Form B 104-52.

28th September

15

Captain.

xxxx 3000

DA

6th April, 1920.

Sir,

No. 71 Sergeant F. Matthews, 11th Battalion, the late
he is buried in Artillery
Road East Cemetery, Anzac, about 1100 yards South South East of Anzac
Cove, Gallipoli.

Mr. W. Matthews,
Clancy Street,
BOULDER. W.A.

P.W.

xxxx 4780

13th. April, 1923.

Sir,

your son,
the late No. 71, Sergeant F. Matthews 11th. Battalion,
his remains have been exhumed
and re-interred in the

SHELL GREEN CEMETERY, ANZAC, $\frac{5}{8}$ miles South of Anzac Cove, GALLIPOI
Artillery Road Plot, Grave 10.

This work is invariably carried out with every measure of reverence
and in the presence of a Chaplain.

Mr. W. Matthews,
55A Clancy St.,
Boulder,
W.A.

Australian Imperial Force.

Inventory of Effects of the late Hq. 71 - Sgt F.W. Matthews - 11th Batt
A.I.F.

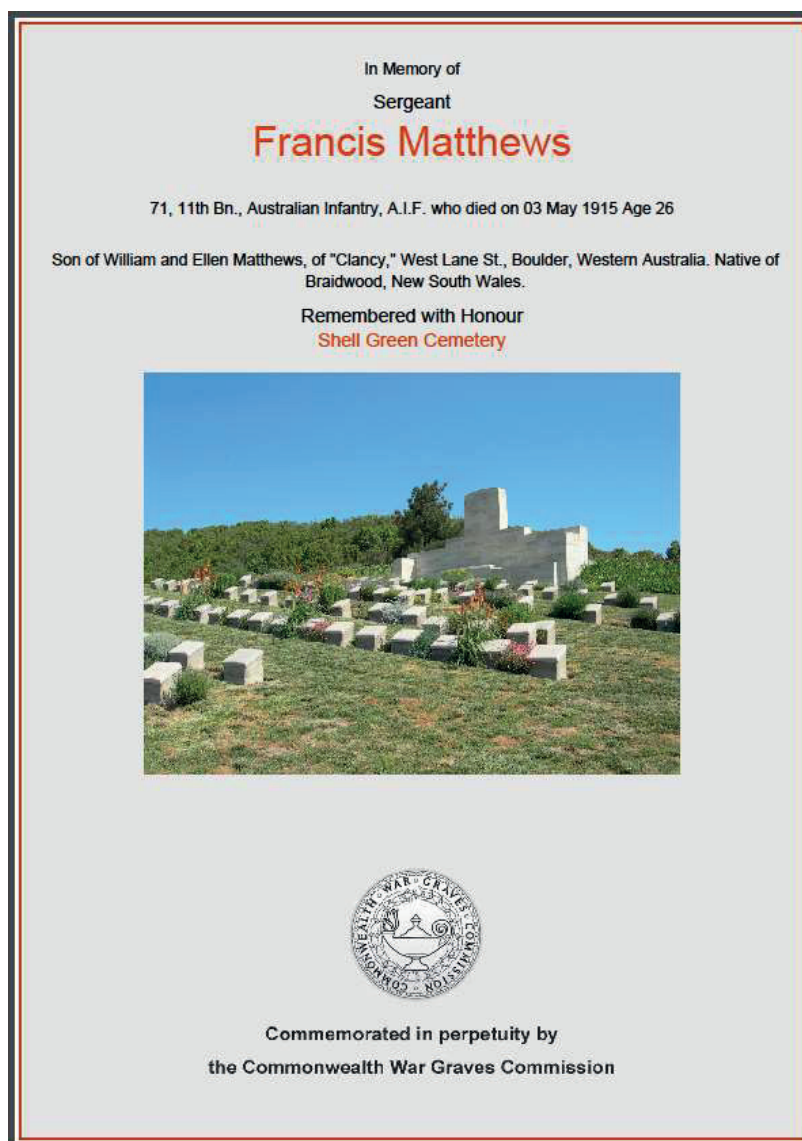
Number and description of Packages:—

1 Brown Paper Parcel

Date despatched 30/8/1918

Contents of

Purse
5 Coins
Disc
Language Book
Knife
Drill Book
Note Book
Pocket Compass
Postcards



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