

# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

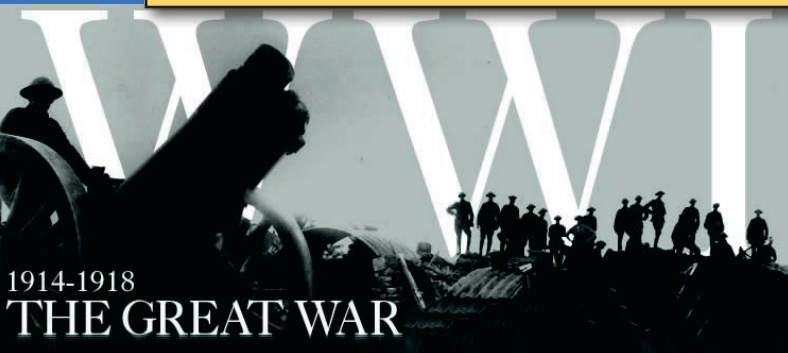
## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES

ROLL OF HONOUR  
McDONALD,  
Alexander Joseph  
Service Number: 132  
Rank: Corporal

*"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 **Alexander Joseph McDonald**, 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.

**Alexander Joseph McDonald** 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

## ALEXANDER JOSEPH McDONALD

**Service Number:** 132

**Rank:** Corporal

**Unit:** 1st Field Company, Australian Engineers

**Service:** Australian Army

**Conflict:** First World War, 1914-1918

**Date of death:** 25 April 1915

**Place of death:** Gallipoli, Ottoman Empire

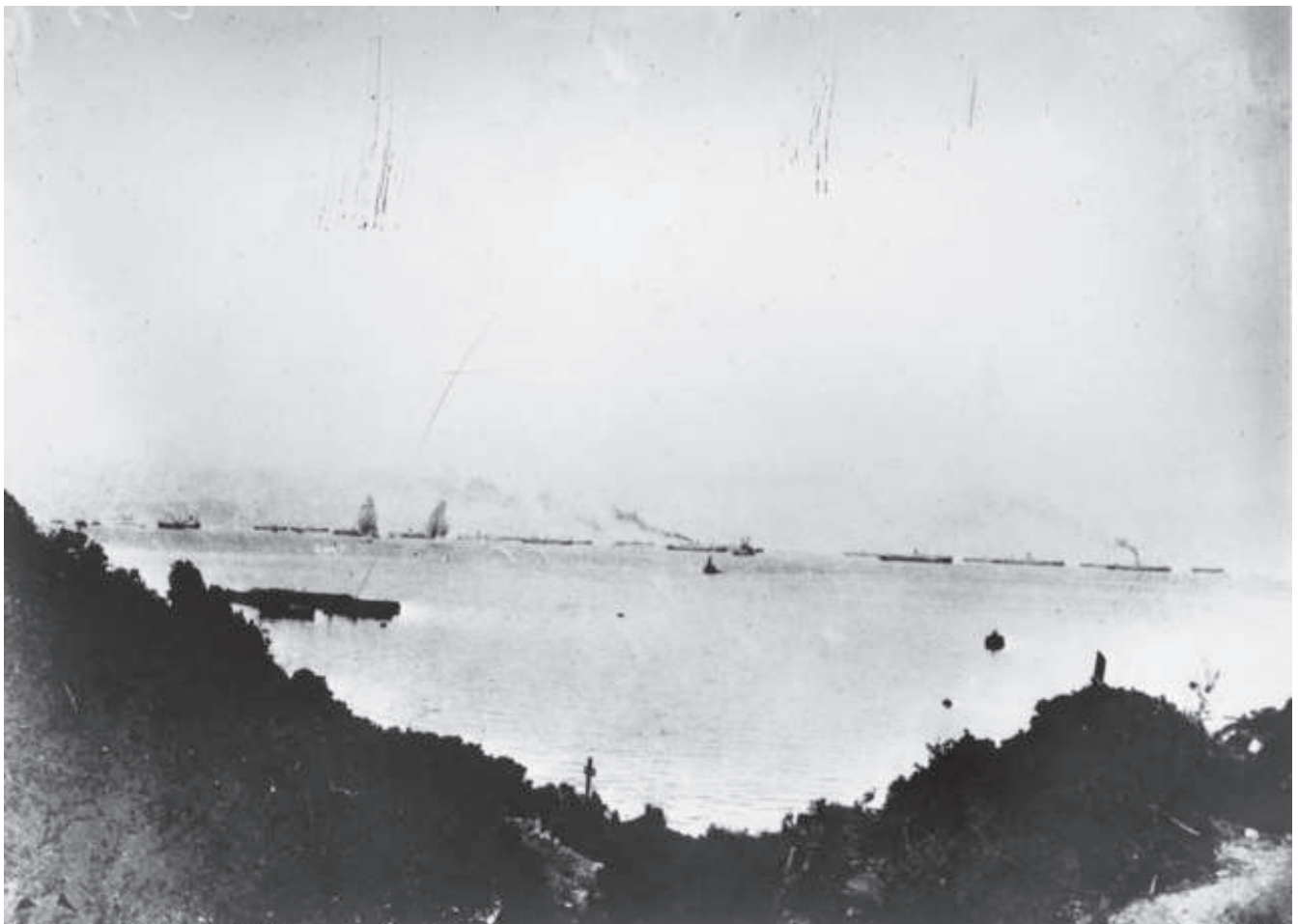
**Cause of death:** Died of wounds

**Place of association:** Sydney, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Shrapnel Valley Cemetery,  
Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

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

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** Alexander Joseph  
McDonald's name is located at **panel 24** in the  
Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C00728

*25 April 1915: Ottoman Empire: Turkey, Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Anzac Area (Gallipoli), Anzac Beaches Area, Anzac Beach: Shells bursting among the transports lying off Anzac Cove on the morning of the landing.*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C00801

*Ottoman Empire: Turkey, Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Anzac Area (Gallipoli), Anzac Beaches Area, Anzac Beach: One of the rowboats that was used on 25 April 1915 to land troops at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli Peninsula, lies wrecked on the beach.*

## Australian Engineers

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C03164

A memorial cross to Non Commissioned Officers and men of the 1st Field Company Australian Engineers, killed or wounded in action on the Gallipoli Peninsula, erected in the cemetery in which some of the men were buried by their comrades. The names listed on the cross are: [132 Corporal \(Cpl\) Alexander Joseph McDonald, died of wounds 25 April 1915, aged 31 years](#); [239 Cpl Hugh Colquhoun, died of wounds on 19 June 1915, aged 31 years](#); [122 Second Cpl John Joseph Gough, killed in action on 9 July 1915, aged 26 years](#); [54 Sapper \(Spr\) Henry Harnam Fairnham, killed in action 26 May 1915, aged 31 years](#); [55 Spr Walter Freebairn, killed in action on 25 April 1915, aged 24 years](#); [60 Spr Cecil William Robert Howlett, killed in action 2 May 1915, aged 21 years](#); [246 Spr William Moore, killed in action on 25 April 1915, aged 28 years](#); [70 Spr Cleveland Edmund Page, killed in action on 25 April 1915, aged 23 years](#); [74 Spr James Randall Pantlin, killed in action on 5 May 1915, aged 24 years](#); [191 Spr Fred Reynolds, killed in action on 25 April 1915, aged 21 years](#); [112 Spr Francis Leslie Wells, killed in action on 12 July 1915, aged 22 years](#); [15 Second Cpl George Harrington Bird, died of wounds at sea on 9 August 1915, aged 19 years](#); [212 Spr Charles Carrington Fowle, wounded at Shrapnel Gully and died in Egypt on 13 July 1915, aged 29 years](#); [344 Spr Edward Moore Carter, wounded at Gallipoli on 12 July 1915, and died on 23 July 1915, aged 19 years](#) (see image of Spr Carter's grave in Malta at P00545.040.)



D 21404

404  
AUSTRALIAN

MILITARY FORCES.

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 132 Name Mac Donald Alexander Joseph  
 Unit Field Engineers No 1  
 Joined on 19/8/14

## Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... MacDonald Alexander Joseph
2. In the Parish of Braidwood in or  
near the Town of Braidwood  
in the County of New South Wales
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Natural Born
4. What is your age? ... 30
5. What is your trade or calling? ... Carpenter & Plasterer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... Yes. To MacDonald Braidwood. 5 years.
7. Are you married? ... No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Brother. MacDonald Dennis. Rankin Police Stat. Sydney.
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 ... 18 mos. 2nd Mounted Rifles A.S.M. Discharged on completion of service.
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)—  
Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service? ... —

3. Alexander Joseph MacDonald 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 of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.\*

Date

19/8/14

Alex MacDonald  
 Signature of person enlisted.



W

Transferred to

D 416

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 134

Rank Corporal Name J. McDonald

Unit 1st Coy. Engineers

Casualty Died of wounds received in action at the Dardanelles.

Misc. No.

25/4/15 Died of wounds on board HMT "Alan McMillan"

A.F. B. 2080A Received

DATE A.F.

B. 103 Received

PURPORT

REF. No.

6/6/15

Copy made for War Pension

17/8/15

A.G. 2nd advised M. 18524 vide M. 332.

2/10/15

3rd Echelon found? Confirmation of A.G. 2

3132/209 vide No. 1

CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF

M. 26. 2132/209 vide 1

16

3

16

Reply sent 9/10/15 adv. re A.G. 209A

24/5/16

Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B. R. M. 6/1/18

22

3

16

D.R.G. 1 M.D. asking date on which above enlisted 28/3

28

3

16

Reply sent 6/22/16

Circular B.R.M. 46/1368 &amp; Booklet

a despatched 22/12/19K

30.4.20

{ 12/4/1915 Star issued B.R.M. 43/1221  
To Comd 2nd M.D. B.R.M. 50/507

HISTORY INDEX



"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."

Pamphlet sent to J. McDonald on 14/12/16. Addressed

BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Widow (remarried) direct M.D. B.R.M. 52/1223

VICTORY MEDAL to Widow - remarried d. R.D.F. 42

Registered (Doc) 111 9807 G.P.O. Melbourne.

PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE (2) TRANSMITTED TO NEXT OF KIN, B.R.M. No. 53/899

LIST

A. &amp; B. P. 1. 1. 1. No. 711.



## 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

Australian Engineers

Squadron,  
Troop, Battery  
or Company

1st Field Co.

Regtl. No. 132 Rank Corporal

Name Mc Donald A.J.

Died { Date 25/4/15

Place H.M.T. "Clan Mc Gillivray"

Cause of Death\* Died of Wounds received 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) NO

(b) in Small Book (if at Base) NO

(c) as a separate document NO

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

*Samuel J. O'Connell*  
O. C. Records Section Australia  
for A. A. G.  
G. H. Q. 3rd. Echelon M. E. F.

Station and Date Alexandria 15/6/15



TELEPHONE:  
CENTRAL 4741.

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

In all communications the full name, rank, full name and unit of Soldier referred to, are to be stated.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE,  
VICTORIA BARRACKS.

Melbourne, 15th February 1921.

Dear Madam,

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your husband, the late No. 132 Corporal A.J. MacDONALD, 1st FCEngineers I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he is buried in Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Anzac, Gallipoli, about 400 yards South East of Anzac Cove.

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 deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. LEAN, Major.

Mrs. A. J. MacDonald.

40 Burfitt Street  
LEICHHARDT. N.S.W.

Officer i/c Base Records.

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

### Receipt for Consignment from Defence Department.

I hereby acknowledge having received from the Officer in Charge of Base Records the undermentioned ( 1 ) Package, being the effects of the late No. 132 Corporal A. J. MacDONALD, 1st FCE. consigned to me.

No.	Description,	Signature
1	BRITISH WAR MEDAL	<i>C. Strafford</i>
1	VICTORY MEDAL	

(List No. 6.)

NOTE.—This Receipt should be Posted to—  
The Officer in Charge,  
Base Records,  
Victoria Barracks,  
Melbourne, Victoria.



G.H.

16th April, 1920

Madam,

your husband, the late No. 132, Corporal. A. J. MacDonald, -1st F.C. Engrs.  
he is buried in  
Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Anzac, Gallipoli, about 400 yards South East  
of Anzac Cove.

Mrs. A.J. MacDonald,  
1 Leichhardt Street,  
Glebe Point,  
SYDNEY...NSW.

1175-15-6

## Australian Imperial Force.

*Inventory of Effects* of the late No 132, A.J. McDonald. 1st Fld. Coy, Engrs

*Number and description of Packages:—*

1 Brown Paper Parcel.

4 FEB 1918

*Date despatched*

*Despatched Per Nester 9/2/16*

*Contents of*

*Parcel:—*

Prayer-Book, Letters, Cards, H'chief.

*G. Wake*  
Captain.  
Camp Quartermaster.



16th March

6

45975

Dear Sir,

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of the late No. 132, Corporal A. J. MacDonald, 1st Field Company Engineers, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died on board H.M.T. "Clan McGillivray", on the 25th April 1915, of wounds received in action at Gallipoli.

These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to supply all possible information in connexion with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Yours faithfully,

Capt.  
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs A. J. MacDonald,  
1 Leichhardt Street,  
Glebe Point,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.



"Niara"

Glenfame St

D-eg-af

S-ame-af

6 June 22

Officer in charge Base Records  
Victoria Barracks

Melbourne

War Medals Etc to Wilson  
Jm Major  
Base Records  
6/4/22  
Officer i/c Base Records

Dear Sir,

Re your letter as to  
the disposal of war medals etc of my  
late husband Capt A J McDonald 1st Field  
Company Engineers. I shall be much obliged  
if you will forward same to me, at the  
above address.

Thanking you,

Yours Hly

(Mrs) Ellen Strafford



Mrs Str  
7/6





JML/MB.

1st June, 1922.

DESPATCHED

1 JUN 1922

Dear Madam,

I shall be much obliged if you will let me know whether you desire the war medals, etc., of your first husband, the late No. 132 Corporal A.J. McDonald, 1st Field Company Engineers, or whether you would care to authorise me to hand them over to some other member of his family - he nominated his brother as next of kin upon enlistment.

Thanking you in anticipation of the favour of an early reply.

Yours faithfully,

Major.  
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. A.E. Strafford,  
"Niara",  
Glenfarne Street,  
BEXLEY. N.S.W.

### THE ODE

*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



In Memory of  
Corporal

# Alexander Joseph McDonald

132, 1st Field Coy., Australian Engineers who died on 25 April 1915

Remembered with Honour  
Shrapnel Valley Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission





## 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