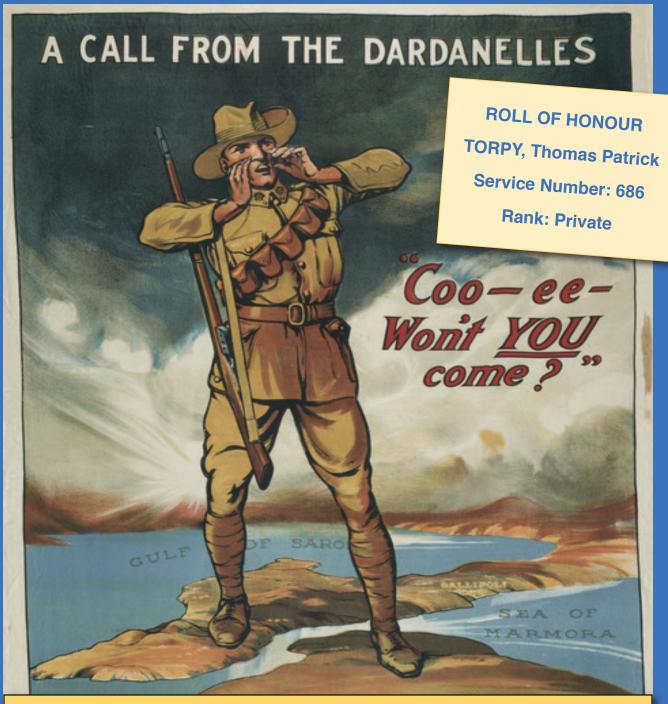
# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 Patrick Torpy, 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 Patrick Torpy** 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.

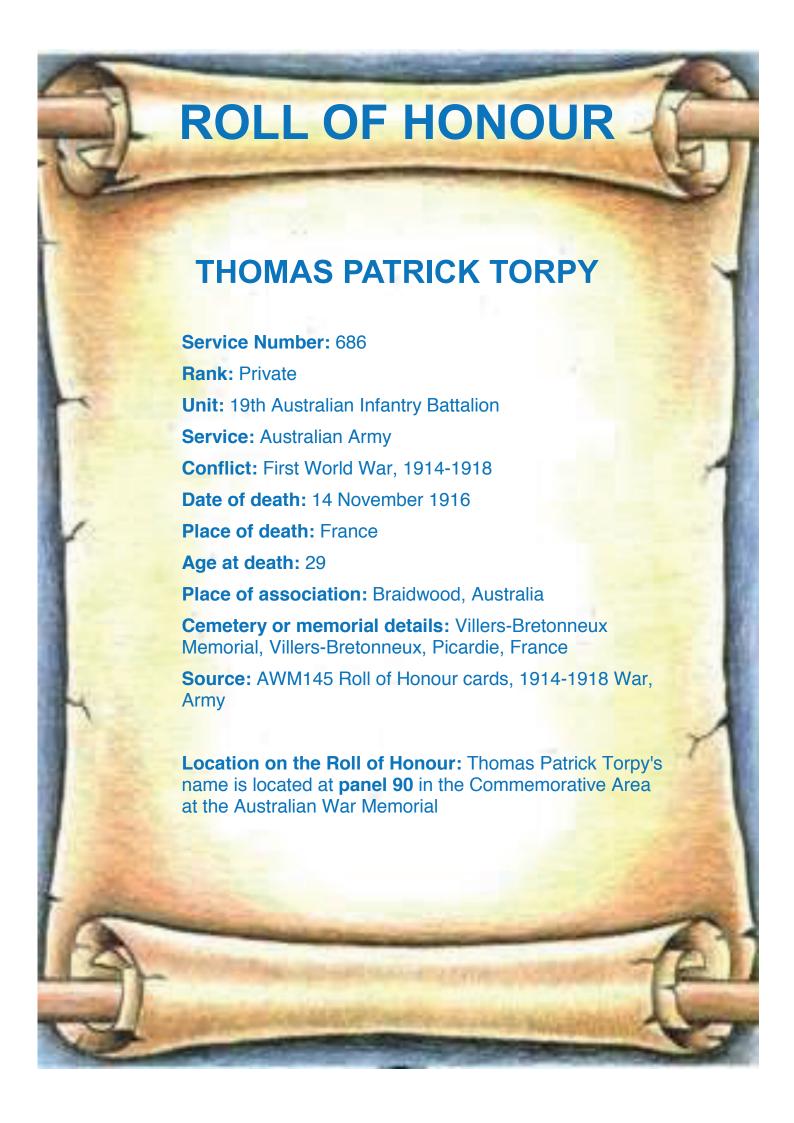
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





### 19th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19th'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 19th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 21 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Pope's Hill.

After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It 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 the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 19th Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.

In 1917, the 19th 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 Lagincourt. 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 that the 19th Battalion helped to stop. For his actions during the fighting around Hangard Wood on 7 April, Lieutenant Percy Storkey was awarded the Victoria Cross. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the 19th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army 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. The casualties of 1918, combined with long-term leave for 1914 enlistees, and dwindling new enlistments had sapped the strength of the AIF. On 10 October 1918 the 19th Battalion was disbanded to reinforce other battalions in the brigade.

## OUR SOLDIERS.

Mrs. M. Torpy, of this town, on Wednesday received a telegram from the Defence authorities conveying the sad news that her son, Private P. Torpy, had been wounded in France. Mrs. Torpy's three soldier sons are now out of action. Private E. Torpy was admitted to the Cambridge Hospital on the 11th March suffering from wounds received in France, while Private T. Torpy was reported missing six months ago, and no information as to his whereabouts has since been received.

Writing from England to his mother, Mrs. M. Irwin, Braidwood, Private Vin. Irwin says that Private P. Torpy, son of Mr. E. Torpy, of the Criterion Hotel, had been recommended for a Military Medal or a French decoration.

1918: The Braidwood Dispatch reporting on the fate of the three Torpy brothers: Patrick, Thomas and Eddie.

Private Patrick Torpy, of Lagoon, Braidwood, son of Mr and Mrs M. Torpy, has died from wounds received in France, this is the second son they have lost, and the other was Private Thomas Torpy, who was reported missing fully 12 months before any authentic information regarding his death was received. The late Patrick Torpy was 27 years of age, he took part in the Gallipoli campaign, returned to France in 1916. The deceased was a general favourite in the district, his other brother Private Eddie Torpy, returned recently suffering from a dose of Fritz's mustard gas.

The Braidwood Dispatch reporting the death of Thomas' brother, Patrick Edward Torpy, from Braidwood Letters from the Front, by Roslyn Maddrell

#### M. November 14th 1916.

I have a brother named T.P.Torpy in the 19th Batt.

Hisnumber is 686. I was told by a man called Ted O'Brien in the 19th Battalion, that my brother had been wounded in five places. He only mentioned that it was somewhere on the Somme, and he did not give the date when this happened. I had a letter from my brother in December from the Devonport Wilitary Hospital, saying that he was getting along all right. I have heard nothing more from him since.

wate 67 3 3.17

Informant: Pte E.J.Torpy. 1860. D.Coy.16 pltn No.3 Can.Gen.Hospital.

BOULOGNE. 9.3.1917.

Dent Deposition 16.8 14

ORIGINAD STATEMENT ECHELON.

2786/24/18

(COPY)

## Statement made by No. 659 Sgt Franklin L. 19th Btn

### re Ho.686 Pte Torpy T.P. 19th Btn Eissing 14.11.16

Pte Torpy was killed 14th November at Flers. He was not buried.

Dated at Perham Downs this 28th day of September 1917.

(3gd) L. Franklin

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) R. Dooley Lt.



#### AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY,"
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— INQUIRY BUREAU —

54. VICTORIA STREET.

LONDON, S.W.

16th March 1917.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:

Officer Commanding, Devomport Militery Hospital, DEVORPORT.

Dear Sir,

will you kindly tell us whether a private in the A.I.P., named 686 P. F. Forpy, 19th Battalion, was in your Hospital during Hovember on December? His brother tells us he had a letter from him whilst there, as the man is reported Missing, we are anxious to verify the truth in this statement.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

W.7. Johnson

As -Secretary

166 Po Janty Pro

this state is the little to the state of

Military 17

1

200

なないな

Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society.

Mo.346 Private Enrpy P.E., was admitted to this Hospital on the 12th October 1916, and transferred to the Australian Hospital, Dartford on the 31st October 1916.

Qe fa

Lieut.Colonel R.A.M.C. in charge Hillitary Hospital.

DETOIPORT.

17-3-17-

30th Merch 1917.

Ho. 1850. Ptc. E.J.Corry. D. Company. 19th Pentalton A.L.F.

Dear Pts. Yorpy, We have been requested by our Sydney Bureau to

make enquiries for your brother.

1686 . T.B. Porny, 19th Bette. A.J.F.
Missing 14.12.16.

and have received your report given in Lo. 2. Canadian General Hospital on 9.8.17. in which you key you had a latter from your brother in December from the Devemport Military Hospital.

We wrote at once to the O.C. Devenport Filitary Hospital, to try and trace your brother and received from the O.C. (17.0.17) that your brother had never been a patient in his Hospital - the nearest approach to such a name on their received being

We should be very glad if you could let us have the letter which your brother wrote you in December, or failing that tell us if there has been a typist's error in making the Hospital read as "Devonport Hilitary" for we are very anxious to trace your brother in order to send word to enquirers.

With best wishes.

-flu ·





# MILITARY FORCES

# RALIAN IMPERIAL

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 686.	Name Joth, BATTALION			
	Unit	19th,	BA	TALION
		4/	~ 1	

	Joined on 7/2/15
	Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.
1.	. What is your Name? 1. Torky Stomas Gatocak
	2. In the Parish of Braidwove from
2.	In or near what Parish or Town were you born? near the Town of React wove
	in the County of
3.	Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the
4.	What is your age?
5.	What is your trade or calling? 35. fablure
6.	Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, } 6.
7.	Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)
9.	Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? 9.
10.	Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible 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?
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
12.	Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous } {12.
13.	Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's  Service! If so, on what grounds!
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!
15.	Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox 15
b F	I, Horas Sattle To 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.
II	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
	Date 7/2// Swife and children July Signature of person enlisted.

1914-15. Star CARD CHICKED. Unit in which served. Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. Remarks. To-11/6/15 Breaking ca brunk (1 (2) bonduct to the prepudice the in creating a disturbance in his willet 11/0/16. Award 20 days Mussing France 14/1/16 CIBL 84th Redorbed Grusing brime In the hild about leave without leave thom 9 am on 18/8/16 (72 hds) award 20 days IP by P12/0 68/ 4516 OF E Rat 86 I have examined the above details and find them correct in every respect. SEE COPY A.F. B103 ENCLOSED

Transferred to 43714 FORCE. Rank I rivare Name OR Unit co Caspalty 14-11 16 Missing Cibl 884/7824 - Defondon 19-12-16. Etc. Seing Invistigated Cile 1853/9929 Ad Lond 249.7 Statement obtained from 859. Franklin 19th Blu rejarding fate of above, journaled to unit for investigation and a 10.17 Ba 501 Previously reported missing REF. NO. MA MES B. 2090A Received A.F. B. 103 Received DATE. 22. 12.16 M.C. 2 ADVISED, MISSING. 4.11.16 COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS 29-12-16 24.8 17 PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. Chine 21.9.17 westigations 29.9-17 8-10-17 NOV 1 2 1917 M.O. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION. 14. 11. 16. er. er & Densions advised ne Casualty vide Idatement 70 109. 24 11 19 Court of Inquiry proceedings received - B. R. M. 12/105 2 x. PROMISE SANT TO THE AUSTRALIANS REST. " PROMISE SANT TO THE TOTAL OF 19821 ME Olycutar B.R. M. 46/1383 & Beaklat re Graves Mespatched 12/ 1914, 1918 Star Issued B. R.M. 43/1929/9/4/98 1799 8 BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt Qud M.D.B.R.M. 50/1005 53 1043 Litary Should Forker on charge to.

11th April,

6.

Dear Madam.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication (undated), and to inform you the nearest approach to the soldier referred to is shown on the records in this office as No. 686 Private Thomas Patrick Torpy, 19th Battalion.

He enlisted as a member of the Australian Imperial Force at Liverpool, New South Wales on 25/2/15, giving his age at that date as 27 years, 8 months, occupation laborer. He was born at Braidwood, New South Wales, and next-of-kin is shown as mother residing in that Town.

Should the above soldier be identical with the subject of your enquiry, the following is his present postal address:-

No.686 Private T. P. Torpy,
19th Battalion,
5th Infantry Brigade,
Australian Imperial Force,
Egypt.

Yours faithfully,

Capt.

Officer 1/o Base Records.

In

Mrs. E. Anderson,
19 Cascade Street,
Paddington,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

19 Cascade St-To the Base Record assiel would you if possible hindly furnished me with the address of y yorky who left here with the expeditionary Horces how in byght husting you will reply Haromably your sincerely Meie anderson Address 19. Anderson 19. Cascade St-pagdingson Bydney
Sof Australia Archives of Australia

The Vaccon Maran and NEW ST Theoffier in Change Ban Berry wehere conly the name of the Battle in which suplow four Porpey \$656 195 guttalion fougat. and has been reporte a mise ing, I have paliarly vailed forward, and sure learning of myson Perche 2 & Propry do 1860 leving wounded & am ansions to know of These whereabout, any information went he thankfully so acres N'et fou let me know at fout cortreit Yours Rincard In my Kobb mothing later on early 7-3-17 NAA B2455, TORPY THOMAS PATRICI onal Archives of Australia

20th Asgust 1917.

British Red Cross, and Order of St.John
Hotel Christol

Boulogne-sur-mer.

June 4th 1917.

Dear Sir, .

This is a report we have had about Private T.P. Torpy 686, 19th Australians:-

He was in C Commany. He was killed on 14th Nov. 1916. I afterwards saw his body in front of Le Transloy, there was no opportunity for burial. He was short and dark.

Informant: Sergt. L. Franklin.859.

19th A.I.F. 6.Coy.

Le Havre 29/5/17.

Yours faithfully,

Pte T.R. Torpy, 17th A.I.F.

SGD. Secretary Wounded & Missing Dept.

D 36971

#### FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090a.

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 Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company
Regimental No. 686 Private
Surname TON PY Christian Names Patrick
Died Died 14th November 1916 Place France
Cause of Death* KILIED IN CTION
Nature and Date of Report Army The B213 dated 27.10.17.
By whom made constanting Off our 19th Battalion A I F  * Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from injury while on military duty.
Burial Place Particulars not yet to hand  By whom reported
State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Will not (b) in Small Book (if at Base)  a Will or not (c) as a separate document received
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.
ANZAC SECTION 3rd ECHELON arthre of Concer in charge of Section   Lieut   Date   B. E. F. Adjutant-General's Office at the Base
(1452) Wess /Maso Solod 1019 YFW 1832s, Formaniacoods

COINAL STATISHEST SCHOLON.

2726/24/18

(OOPY)

Statement made by No. 859 Sgt Franklin L. 19th Stn

re No.686 Pte Torpy T.P. 19th Btn Missing 14.11.16

Pte Torpy was killed 14th Hovember at Flers. He was not buried.

Dated at Perham Downs this E8th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) L. Franklin

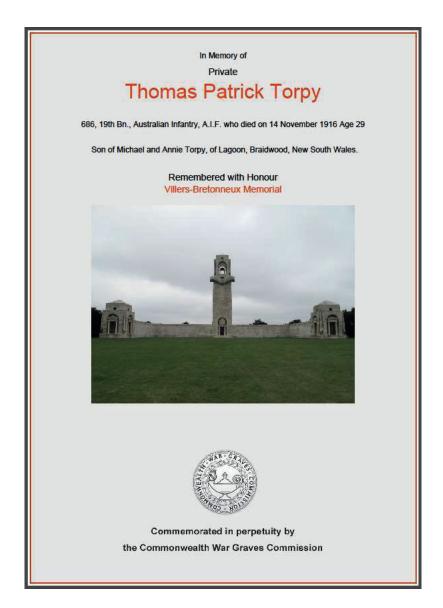
Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) R. Dooley Lt.

G15 78

Lagoon Blackwood 7th-oct 1920 Wear Lu Re Conquering No. 686 Pte. TP torpy 19 But i have to Inform you that he is still alive & the adress at the yours fatthfully anne Torpy In Torpy Lagoon Braidwood

Lagoon. Braidwood to the Officer in earge Bace Records Bear Sir I would like a shotographs-also & the grave of my late Son (86) pte TP Torpey 19 Battallion Jones Fathfully My In Forky Laggon 5th2 11921 In Salva National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, TORPY THOMAS PATRICK



### **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

RROWN