

# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

WATT, James

Service Number: 2554

Rank: Lance Corporal

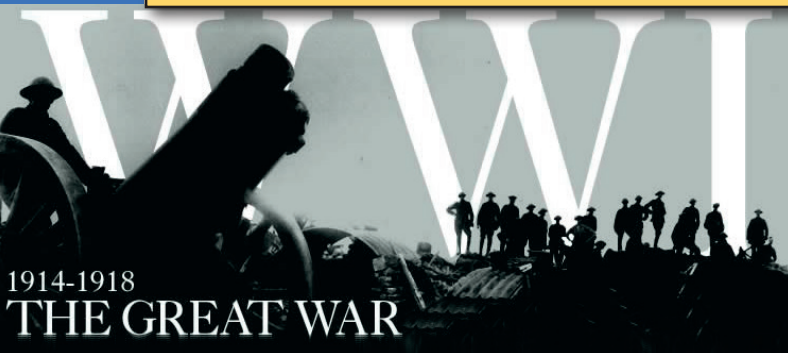
*"Coo-ee-  
Won't YOU  
come?"*

GULF OF SAROS

GALLIPOLI

SEA OF MARMORA

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.



1914-1918  
THE GREAT WAR

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 **James Watt**, 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.

**James Watt** 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

## JAMES WATT

**Service Number:** 2554

**Rank:** Lance Corporal

**Unit:** 57th Australian Infantry Battalion

**Service:** Australian Army

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

**Date of death:** 27 September 1917

**Place of death:** Belgium

**Age at death:** 28

**Place of association:** Braidwood, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

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

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** James Watt's name is located at **panel 164** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

## 57th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 57th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 18 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 5th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 5th, the 57th was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Melbourne. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France in late June, the 57th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster. Fortunately for the 57th it was allocated a supporting role and suffered relatively light casualties compared to its sister battalions. This, however, meant that 57th carried the burden of holding the line in ensuing days for the battalion. Despite its grievous losses, the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

*Early in 1917 the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, but it was spared having to assault it. It 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 57th'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. During this defence, the 57th Battalion participated in the now legendary counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April. When the Allies launched their own offensive around Amiens on 8 August, the 57th Battalion was amongst the units in action, although its role in the subsequent advance was limited. The battalion entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918. This operation was mounted by the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, in co-operation with American forces, to break through the formidable German defences along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion withdrew to rest on 2 October and was still doing so when the war ended. The battalion disbanded in March 1919.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00783A

*21 September 1917: Belgium: Western Front (Belgium), Menin Road Area, Polygon Wood: View from Polygon Wood showing a group of unidentified Australian infantry gathered in shell holes near no man's land.*



**JAMES WATT #2554**



**D**

33618

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.****Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**No. 477Name Watt JamesUnit A L H 12<sup>th</sup> L A 5<sup>th</sup>/57<sup>th</sup> Battn.Joined on 21/1/15**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

1. What is your Name? ... 1. Watt James
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... 2. In the Parish of Myanbena in or  
near the Town of Braidwood  
in the County of Damphier
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... 3. Yes
4. What is your age? ... 4. 25 years
5. What is your trade or calling? ... 5. Labourer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... 6. etc
7. Are you married? ... 7. No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... 8. Sarah Merle Watt  
Myanbena Kromarrace HSN
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... 9. etc
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? ... 10. etc
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. etc
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... 12. Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... 13. etc
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—  
Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? ... 14. Single

I, James Watt, 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.\*†

Date 25/2/15

James Watt  
Signature of person enlisted.



Transferred to

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

No.

*2554*

Rank

*Plt*

Name

*WATT*

*J*

Unit

*54th Btn*

*12th LH Regt*

Casualty

*Killed in action 27/9/17*

*890 L 1924 LIE dated London 16.10.17*

LIST.

*349*



DATE

A. F. B. 103 Received PURPORT.

A. F. B. 2090A Received,

REF. NO.

*22.10.17*  
**OCT 20 1917**

*M.C. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION. 27/9/17*  
*M.C. 3 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION.*

COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS

*1. 11. 17*  
*8.9.19*

*Will Certified extract from Probate of father 1/45/350.*

*Circular B.R.M. 46/1362 & Booklet re B-eyes despatched 12.12.19*

*Received by [signature] by printed card.*

*3/10/20*

*1914/15 Star issued B.R.M. 13/1229/21484*

*To Comdt. 2nd M.D. B.R.M. 52/100 277.*

*26/9/21*

*BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt 2nd M.D.B.R.M. 53/1118 1148.*

WAR HISTORY INDEX





nal No. 492 - 12th Light.Horse.

Army Form B. 103.

57th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Regimental Number 2554

**Casualty Form—Active Service.**

Lance/Corporal Regiment or Corps 5/57th Battalion.

Rank Private Surname W. A. T. T. Christian Name James

Religion Age on Enlistment years months

Enlisted (a) 21/1/15 Terms of Service (a) Service reckons from (a)

Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

or Corps Trade and rate

Occupation Signature of Officer

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
	O.C. Troops	A.O. "Shropshire"	Embarked Melbourne	25/9/16	
			Disembarked Plymouth	10/11/16	ER8573
21/11/16	15th Training Battalion	Marched in from O/Seas	Wool	21/11/16	FR1966 DO.38-29/12/16
30/12/16	do	Proceeded O/Seas, France, per "Princess Clementine"	Folkestone	30/12/16	ER7162
6/1/17	5th A.D.B.D.	Marched in from England	Staples	31/12/16	B213 E57/2
17/2/17	do	To hospital sick	"	10/2/17	B213 E57/7 D.O.9/1352
10/2/17	21st Gen.Hosp	Admitted Influenza	"	10/2/17	AK899/37
17/2/17	do	Transferred to England	"	17/2/17	AK899/63
18/2/17	H.S. "Panama"	Embarked for England	Havre	18/2/17	AK1022/25 D.O.11/1808

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) Signaller, Shoeing-Smith, &c.

W. 5635-51273 2000u M.17 (3651) C. P. & S., Ltd., Form B/103 E/1907.

P.T.O.

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
24/2/17	3rd A.G.Hosp.	Admitted Influenza	Brighton	24/2/17	Hosp. Report 12/3/17. DO.16/2
20/4/17	do	Trans. to 3rd Aux.Hosp.	Dartford	20/4/17	"
25/4/17	3rd Aux.Hosp.	Furlough	"	25/4/17	"
		Report to Training Dep.	PerhamDowns	10/5/17	
14/5/17	No.1 Com Dep.	Pte - Marched in from furlough Class "43"	"	11/5/17	LR2746
22/5/17	Inf.Draft.Dep.	Proceeded O/Seas, France, ex Inf. Draft Depot via	Southampton	22/5/17	LR3111 AX8709 D.O.38/E 2/6/17.
2/6/17	5th A.D.B.D.	Marched in from England	Havre	23/5/17	B213 E57/22
16/6/17	"	Marched out to 57th Bn.	"	11/6/17	B213 E57/24
22/6/17	C.O.57th Bn.	Taken on strength "In the field"	"	21/6/17	B213 E20/25 DO.27/4083
16/8/17	"	Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, attempting to steal money 10/8/17. Awarded 28 days F.P.No.2 by C.O.57th Bn.	do	11/8/17	B2069 H130/33 D.O. 34/4855
25/9/17	"	Appointed Lance/Corporal	do	22/9/17	B213 E20/39 DO.41/5385
25/9/17	"	KILLED IN ACTION	"In the field"	27/9/17	B213 E20/39 DO.41/5588 H. E. F. V.L.494.

ANZAC SECTION 3rd BCHRON G.H.Q.  
British Expeditionary Force.

G.G.D. H. L. FERNB

.....Captain,  
O. i/c Records.



No. 92062.

Estate sworn under £3800.

*Andrew Watt FATHER OF*  
This will was annexed to Probate of No. 2554, J. WATT. 5/55th Batt.,  
received at this office 25/7/19. *A*

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ME Andrew Watt of Wyanbene, Krawaree nr Braidwood in the Country of St. Vincent I HEREBY revoke all Wills by me at any time heretofore made, and declare this to be my last Will and Testament. I appoint Andrew David Watt of Wyanbene Krawaree aforesaid and Percy Nicholas Byrne also of Krawaree to be Executors of this my Will and direct that all my just Debts and Funeral and Testamentary Expenses shall be paid as soon as conveniently may be after my decease

*92*  
I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto my two sons John Edward Watt and Andrew David Watt the whole of my personal and real estate with the exception of four hundred acres of land Situated in Cagicomar and fronting the Moodong Creek being three hundred acres Conditional Lease and One-hundred acres Original Conditional purchase which four hundred acres Constituted the original Selection of my Son James Watt to whom I bequeath the Said land in the event of his returning from active service with the Australian Imperial Forces

In the event of the decease of either of the principal beneficiaries aforesaid I bequeath and give the Surviving Son the whole of my estate Conditionally as expressed

Dated this Twenty fifth day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand Nine hundred and Seventeen.

Signed Andrew Watt.

Signed and declared by the said Andrew Watt }  
the Testator as and for his last Will, in }  
the presence of us, present at the same time }  
who at his request in his presence and in }  
the presence of each other, have subscribed }  
our names as witnesses.

Thomas Dayton Pritchard  
Carlingford Road,  
Epping.

Richard Connell  
Carlingford Road  
Epping  
Sydney.

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the type-written matter contained above is a true copy of what purports to be the original will of A. WATT such having been carefully examined therewith by us.

*James Watt*  
NAME.....

*L. Alcock*  
NAME.....  
28. 7. 19





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART02270

1917: Back at the waggon lines after Polygon Wood, by Will Dyson: Depicts men of either 1st or 2nd Division, Australian Infantry, at waggon lines behind the Front, eating, resting and being served food in a war damaged landscape. Discarded webbing with a bayonet and entrenching tools are depicted in the foreground. This images was one of several by Dyson that reflected his appreciation of the basic importance to the soldiers of food and he noted of the work; 'The cooks had worked with an energy that is explained by the fact that love and kindness are best expressed in the primitive world by food...[The returning men] were weary to exhaustion, eager for food and for rest, but for a while content with the negative joys of being merely out of it'. Will Dyson was the first Australian artist to visit the front during the First World War, travelling to France in December 1916, remaining there until May 1917, making records of the Australian involvement in the war. He was appointed an Official War Artist, attached to the AIF, in May 1917, working in France and London throughout the war.

**FIELD SERVICE** 233618 Army Form B. 2690A.

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: 57th BATTALION, A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company  
 OR COMP: \_\_\_\_\_

Regimental No. 2554 Rank Lance Corporal

Surname WATT. Christian Name JAMES.

Died { Date 27th SEPTEMBER 1917 Place "In the field" B.E.F.  
 Cause of Death KILLED IN ACTION

Nature and Date of Report Army Form B213 dated 28th September 1917

By whom made C.O. 57th Battalion.

\* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from disease 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 44) Will not received (b) in Small Book (if at home) ---  
 (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.

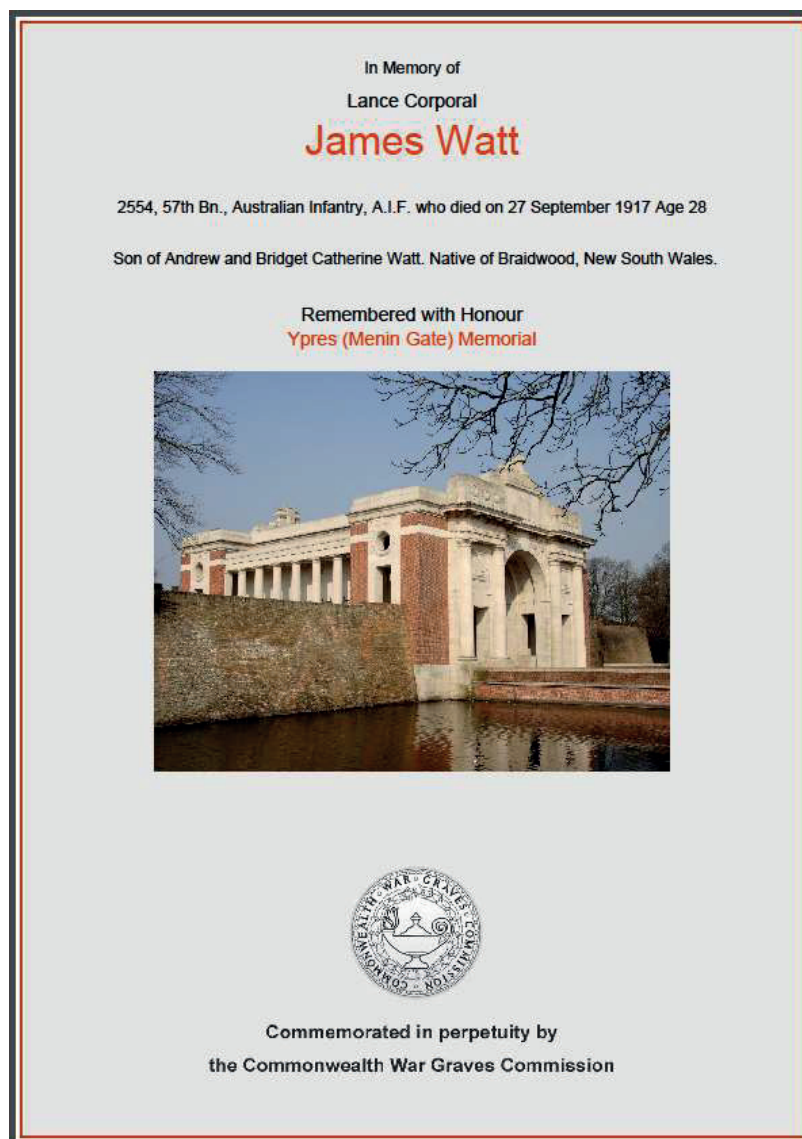
Any information received as to verbal expression by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

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 Paymaster, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (unless withheld of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the front, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

ANZAC SECTION 3rd WHEELER B.H.S. Captain.  
 (Station and) British Expeditionary Force  
 Date 21st November 1917  
 O. i/c Records.

W2000 M1108-100/00-4. A. & Co. - 417 - (1916) - Printed in Great Britain





## 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