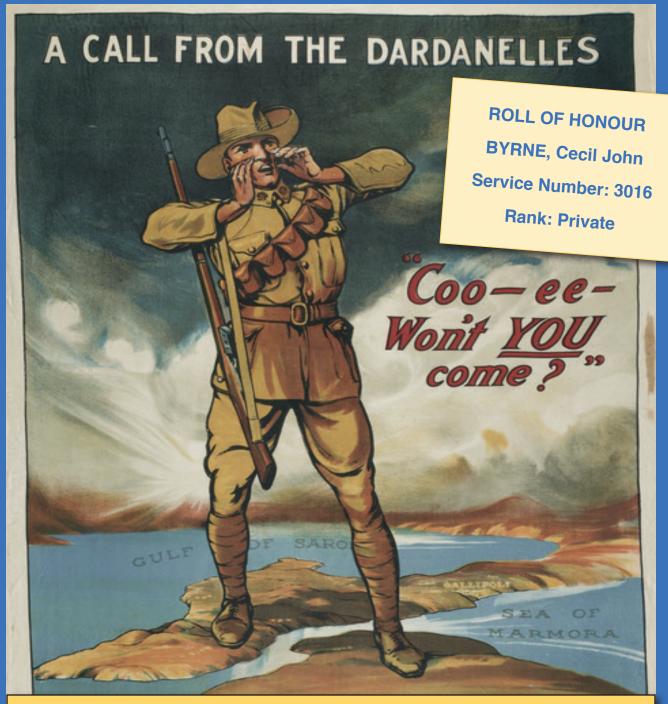
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 **Cecil John Byrne**, 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.

Cecil John Byrne 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.

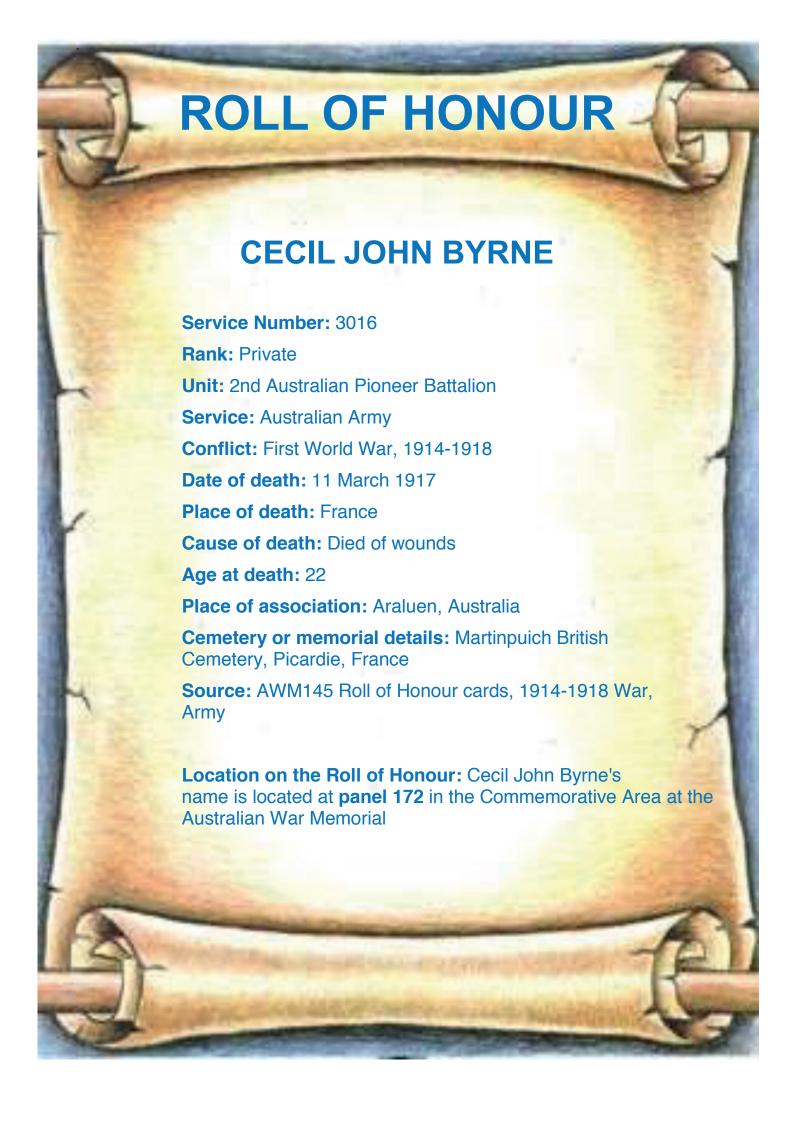
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





A selection of correspondence and articles published in *The Braidwood Dispatch*, about Cecil John Byrne, published in "Braidwood Letters from the Front", By Roslyn Maddrell.



Captain J Donnelly writing to Major U. Alley from "somewhere in France", 3 August.1915

Gallipoli was hard fighting, but this is beyond description. Artillery is the main branch of service, and without it nothing can be done.

Cecil Byrnes has turned out trumps here, he was out with a party in "No Man's Land" recently and did good work, the officer in charge of the party reported very well on his work there. Will write more later.

These H.E. shells come too close for my liking. One thing the Germans know how to do and that is to build dug-outs. Some of them are 40 feet below the surface, and it takes a lot of fighting to win many of them.

(The Cecil Byrnes referred to is the son of J. Byrnes jun., Araluen. He was awarded a military medal for the action mentioned in Captain Donnell's letter.)



Corporal Cecil Byrne, writing to his mother, Mrs Byrne, Araluen, under the date France, November 17th 1916.

The weather is dreadful here now, heavy frosts every night, and still plenty of mud, but is frozen hard. The ice remains on the water all day, although the sun is shining. I have great work to get my boots on when I take them off. We had a charge the other morning, and took a number of prisoners and advanced – yards (distance censored), this is the first time I have been in a hop in daylight. It was a glorious and awesome experience.

I had some more of my mates knocked out and had some narrow escapes myself, three bullets and a piece of shell striking my steel helmet but they glanced off it again, had a piece of skin knocked off my knuckles, but did not say anything about it, as they would have reported me wounded, and I don't want that.

I have had nearly nine months active service in France now without a hit, so that I must have some luck. I met George Batty the other day, he is a linesman in the artillery, and was out mending a broken telephone wire when I met him, just imagine our surprise at meeting in such a place. We were both smothered in mud, and shells were screaming and bursting all around. I must have looked a guy with a bit of a beard and Capt. Donnelly's revolver in my belt. It was handy, too, as a man finds a few good targets for practice.

I have met a few of old college friends over here, and we had a bit of a 'jollo' before we came in here, and intend to have another if we have the luck to get out ok. It snowed during the night, everything is white this morning, and oh! It is cold!



Xmas with the troops, from France 30th December 1916

Corporal Cecil Byrne, son of Mrs J Byrne, Redbank Araluen, writing to give a description of how he spent Xmas there.

To begin with, I am at a signal school some considerable distance away from my battalion, which is in the line. We had leave to visit a fine city on Xmas Eve, and we made the most of it, and having had a jolly good time there we started for home, and found to our dismay that all the cars had gone, so we had to do 14 kilometres per boot.

We did not receive anything form the Red Cross, so we decided to make a Xmas pudding of our own, and we did it. I caused a fair amount of amusement, as everyone wanted to have a hand in it.

Eventually the puddings were mixed, and then the question was what to tie them up in. Well I can't exactly tell you what they were rolled in but one was an old singlet.

We had no pots to boil them in, but as several of our number were on good terms with a few neighbouring mademoiselles, there were easily persuaded to have them boiled.

During the process one of the pots became cracked, with the result that when they took the lid off we found the pudding stuck to the pot. Old madam went crook and we had to pay 7 francs for damaging the pot. However, the three other puddings were tre bonne, and with the help of a few bottles of wine they went ok.

Of course, I had a pudding and two cakes of my own.

In the afternoon we walked to a neighbouring village and visited some very historic caves. Among the names of the visitors on the walls we sighted that of John Norton (Australia).

On arriving home again we stood up to our frugal meal of bread and jam and tea. One consolation the (?) were opened that night, so we gladdened each other with toasts to the people at home and everyone else with long draughts of champagne, wine and cognac. Several French soldiers joined us, and we began to sing, altogether we spent a very enjoyable evening.

When it all was over we betook ourselves to our billet, and ended up by putting each other to bed, during the intervals between the songs we gradually dropped off to sleep, and so ended our Xmas Day.



The Telegram

A wire was received from the Defence Department announcing that Corporal Cecil Byrnes, of Araluen, had died from wounds in France.

The deceased will be remembered as the soldier whose letters from the front have appeared in the Review (Braidwood newspaper). The last one gave a description of Christmastide in the trenches, it was written in a humorous and optimistic strain.

The deceased was a school teacher by profession, and a fine manly young fellow who made a host of friends wherever he went.

He died the death of a soldier, fighting for his country, and all that we hold dear.

British Red Cross Convalescent Hospital No. 10 Ibrahimieh – Alexandria, Egypt



Araluen News: March 1917

A gloom cast over the Valley when it became known that Cecil Byrne and Charles Knight had lost their lives in recent fighting on the western front. Cecil Byrne was very popular in Araluen and he had been in action for some months without receiving injuries; he hoped his luck would see him through. But fate decreed otherwise. Mr and Mrs J Knight of Crown Flat, were informed that their son Private Charles Knight, was killed in action, he enlisted in Sydney. Much sympathy is felt for the parents of both the young men.



ROLL OF HONOR.

A tribute to the memory of PRIVATE CECIL JOHN BYRNE, who died of wounds in France on March 11th, 1917, aged 22 years and 10 months.

This gallant here was the beloved eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Byrne, junr., and the dearly loved grandson of the late Mr. Patrick McCarron, of Araluen.

He received his early education at St. Joseph's Convent School, Araluen, and, under the able tuition of the good Sisters, passed examinations in music, typewriting, and shorthand. When about 16 years old he left school, and was employed in various occupations; amongst others, for a short period he was assistant in the local post office. With the intention of becoming a school teacher he went to school to Mr. and Mrs. A. McGuinness, and under their careful instruction, at the age of 18 years, he sat for examination in August, 1912, and, being successful, was appointed in September to his first school at Ned's Creek, near Crookwell. The next year he was received to the public school at Frogmore, near Cowra, and in the following October was called from there to Hereford College, Sydney. During his term there he joined the citizen forces, and went through all military training. From the College he was appointed to the Public school at Thule, and at length was sent to the public school at Moama to relieve the headmaster, who was ill in Sydney. He came to Araluen for the September holidays, and enlisted, going on to Sydney to hand in his resignation, and having put in his course of training in camp, he sailed for Egypt on the 23rd December, 1915, with the 17th Battalion. From Egypt he was sent to France, having there joined the Signallers in the 2nd Australian Pioneers. He took part in the great battle of Pozieres. His bright and intelligent descriptions of the many adventures he came through were very interesting. He gained the esteem and admiration of his captain and officers, and was much loved by his comrades.

On two occasions he was mentioned in despatches, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the battlefield, the only medal awarded in this district. His modest bearing and unassuming manner endeared him to everyone, and his parents must find great consolation in the many expressions of genuine regret sent to them from near and far when it became known of the loss of their hero son who gave his life for his country.

On the 27th December last his mother, Mrs. Byrne, received a letter from Major McLean, Major in charge of base records, in which he says:—"It is with feelings of admiration at the gallantry of a brave Australian soldier who nobly laid down his life in



try of a brave Australian soldier who nobly laid down his life in the service of our King and country that I am directed by the Hon. Minister for Defence to forward to you, as the next of kin of the late Private C. J. Byrne, 2nd Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F., the Military Medal which His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award to that gallant officer for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty while serving with the A.I.E.F. I am also to ask you to accept his deep personal sympathy in the loss which not only you but the Australian army has sustained by the loss of Pte. C. J. Byrne, whose magnificent conduct on the field of battle helped to earn for our Australian soldiers a fame that will endure as long as memory lasts."

Above is the latest photo of the late Private Byrne, together with one of his grave in France and the Military Medal which he

had the honor of winning. R.I.P.



61275

BASE RECORDS OFFICE, A.I.F. 27th December, 1917.

Dear Mader,

It is with feelings of admiration at the gallantry of a brave Australian soldier who nobly laid down his life in the service of our King and Country that I am directed by the Honourable The Minister to forward to you, as the next-of-kin of the late No. 3016 Private C.J. Byrne, 2nd Pioneer Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, the Military Medal which His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award to that gallant soldier for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty while serving with the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Porce.

I am also to ask you to accept his deep personal sympathy in the loss which, not only you, but the Australian Army has sustained by the death of Private C.J. Byrne, who se magnificent conduct on the field of battle helped to earn for our Australian soldiers a fame which will endure as long as nemory lasts.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly let me know whether it comes safely to hand by signing and returning the attached receipt slip.

Yours faithfully,

Wrs. M. Byrne, Araluen, Via Braidwood, N.S.W. Major,

Officer i/c Base Records.



MILITARY FORCES

..... Cecil John . Byrne,

7th, Battallon

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 3016

Name BYRNE. C. J.
Unit 7th Reinfo 17th Battin.
Joined on 3. 10.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

des	What is your Name!	94011 9 0411 19
		2. In the Parish of Araluen in or
2.	In or near what Parish or Town well you sorn	near the Town of Aralush
		in the County of st. Vincent
3.	Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject! (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	8Yes
4.	What is your age?	4 01 years
5.	What is your trade or calling?	5 School teacher
6.	Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, } where, to whom, and for what period?	
7.	Are you married !	No. Progle
8.	Who is your next of kin† (Address to be stated)	8. John Byrns, father, Aralusa. Mary Byrns, mother, ralusa. M. S. W.
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 Servi tude, 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	Yes, Malitia Reserves for 6 months. In exempt area.
12	Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	} 12
13.	Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service 1 If so, on what grounds?	13
14.	Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service boyend an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day	ia
15	Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enterio forer?	15. Yes.

Cecil John Byrne

I. ... 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 further agree to allot not less than the time of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife mother three-fiths from date of safting.

Date 28/9/13

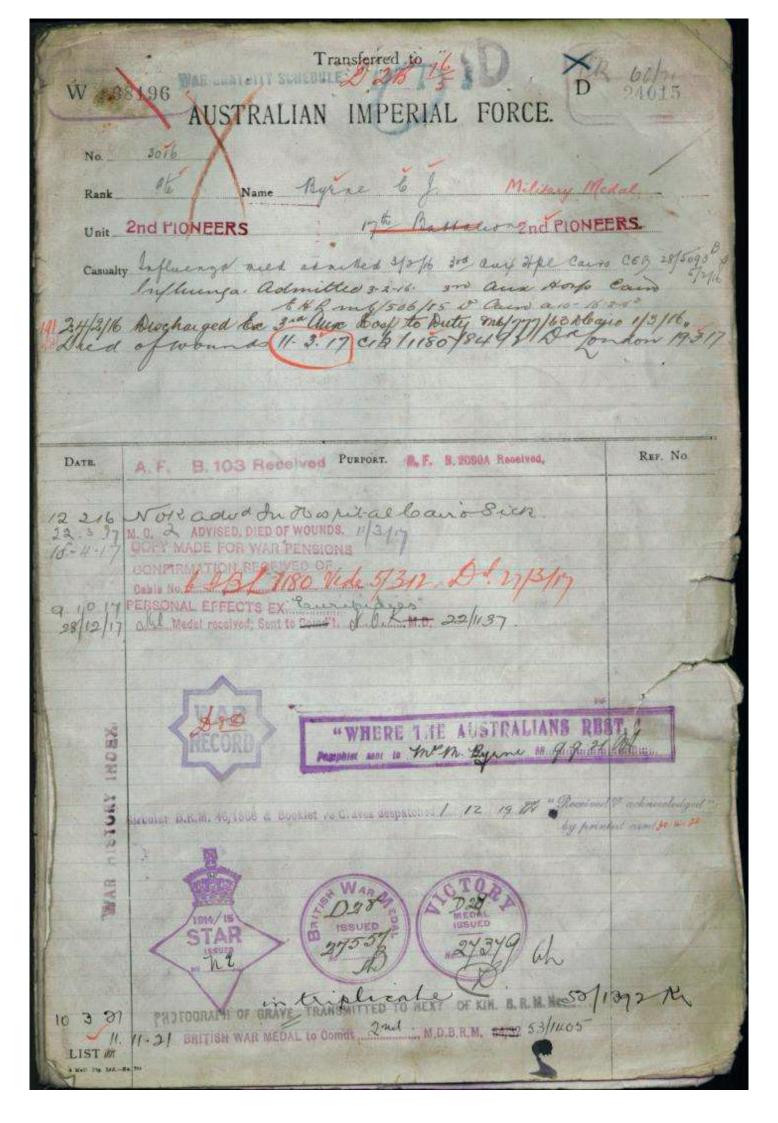
[&]quot;This clause to be assended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age-

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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.

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* reportally state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from idness due to ficht scillary duty, or from inpury while on military du	d operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on uty.
Particulars not yet to hand.	Date
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a Will or not (c) as a separate document	Account was a property of the control of the contro
All ashers decompose and effects received from the front or hospital, as well	as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any
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reported to the War Office as soon as possible.	or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force.
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Signature of Officer.

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Note.—Extras may be ordered without, at the same time, ordering a Diet. After Diets or Extras have been entered on the Diet Sheet, no further entry need be made until a change is considered necessary. When any change is made, the Date and Extras are always to be rewritten in full, but the Diet may be abbreviated unless it has itself been changed, when it must be rewritten in full.

MEDICAL CASE SHEET.

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BASE RECORDS OFFICE, A.I.F. 5th January, 1947.

Dear Madam,

I have much pleasure in forwarding herewith copy of extract from Third Supplement No. 29758 50 the London Gazette of 19th September, 1916, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, No. 3016, Private C. J. Byrne, 2nd Pioneer Battalion.

X

X

30

Y

AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL.

" HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the field to the undermentioned soldier :-

No. 3016, Private CECIL JOHN BYRNE.

X

X

Y

the.

The above has been promulated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 184 of 14th December, 1916.

Yours faithfully,

Major.

Officer 1/o Page Records.

Mrs. M. Byrne, Araluen, M.S.W. Mundal

WJM/HNB

Kmachin

81377

BASE BECORDS OFFICE, A.I.E. 22nd June 1917.

Dear Madam,

I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from 1st Ansac Corps Rout ine Orders, dated 21st December, 1916; relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your late son, No.3016 Private C. J. Byrne, 2nd Pioneer Battalion.

X

X

×

---- COMPLIMENTARY ----

* The name of the undermentioned soldier has been brought to the notice of the Army Corps Commander for his gallant conduct. In publishing his name the Army corps Commander wishes to record his appreciation of his services:-

No.3016 Private CHCTL JOHN BYRNE

x

- X

X

*

The above has been promulgated in Military Order No.247 of 16th June 1917.

Yours faithfully,

JUN 24 1917

Mrs. M. Byrne, Araluen, N.S.W. Major.

Officer i/c Base Records.

Hed Bank just a few lines to ask, Syou could get me a copy of the Will my late son The. C. J. Byrne (3016) under stand that all soldiers make a Will in a form on the back of Their Pay Book I know he made no other Well) If There is none, would you Kindly write a few lines to show that I am entitled to his pay and effects. as I want something to show to The Educational Department to get his pa made up, (as he was a school Teacher before he enlisted) I got word from the Inspector of Schools, to say they are ready pay me, on shouring the Leem it a great favor if you can help

26th October, 1917.

west

Dear Madam,

32381

In reply to your communication of the 15th instant. I have to state there is no record of a Will of your son, the late No. 3016, Private C.J. Byrne, 2nd Pioneer Battalion, having passed through this Office to date It is noted that the Field Service report dated France, 28/3/17, states "Will not received".

You are the registered next-of-kin in this instante and his personal effects were forwarded to you on the 9th instant.

As all matters in connection with pay will be dealt with by the District Paymaster, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, N.S.W., I have to suggest you communicate with that Officer who will decide who is to receive the deferred pay.

Yours faithfully.

Officer i/c Base Records

Mrs. M. Byrne,
Red Bank,
Araluen,
Via Braidwood. N.S.W.

Red Bank Ollow Alue 1/0 Analuen Officer in Charge Base Records. Dear Sir that the father of the late no. 3016

Private C. J. Byrne, M. M. 2nd Pioneer

Battalion. is still alive, his Arabuen OCT 20 1921 Via Braidwood, N.S.W. War medates to to I remain
father W yours Faithfully
Officer to Track
Mary Byrne

Mo. 3016,

Private Cecil John Byrne ,

2nd Pioneer Battalion,

Australian Imperie

Australian Imperial Force.

wounds received in action, TOHET

5th Australian Field) Ambulance, France,

11 th March

17

Cable Mo. C. I. B. L.

1180, from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 19th March, 1917, confirmed by Mail from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 27th March, 1917, and Army Form B2090A.

21st December 17

Major.

In Memory of

Private

Cecil John Byrne

M M

3016, 2nd, Australian Pioneers who died on 11 March 1917 Age 22

Son of John and Mary Byrne, of Redbank, Araluen, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour

Martinpuich British Cemetery





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



"Red Bank" Araluen (Photo from Braidwood Letters from the Front, By Rosslyn Maddrell)

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

AERROWN