

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

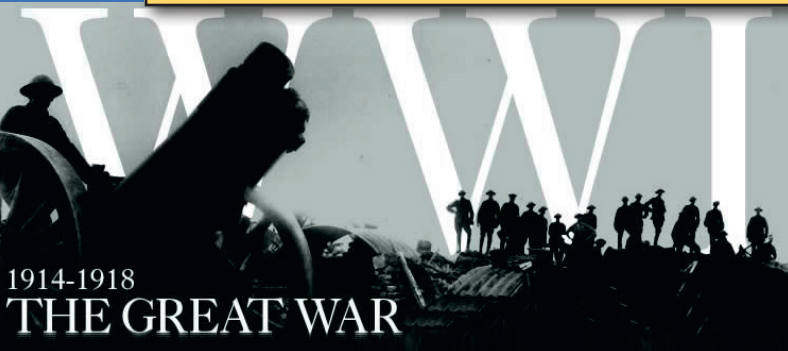
CATLIN, Robert Henry

Service Number: 1113

Rank: Private

*"Coo-ee-
Wont 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.



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 **Robert Henry Catlin**, 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.

Robert Henry Catlin 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

ROBERT HENRY CATLIN

Service Number: 1113

Rank: Private

Unit: 11th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 25 April 1915

Place of death: Gallipoli, Ottoman Empire

Cause of death: Killed in action

Place of association: Reidsdale, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Lone Pine Memorial,
Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: Robert Henry Catlin's name is located at **panel 61** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

Robert Henry Catlin

“Robert Henry Catlin enlisted in Western Australia in 1914. He had spent the few years previous to this working in Fiji, New Zealand and the Northern Territory before he travelled to WA to work on the railway. Robert was a member of the famous 11th Battalion who was trained in Cairo and had been shipped to Lemnos before embarking on the landing at Gallipoli. He was killed on the 25th April 1915 on the first day of the landing. His grave is marked at the Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey.”

“Reidsdale Remembered The History of Irish Corner: A Rural Community” by Jill A. Clarke.

11th Australian Infantry Battalion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ROBERT HENRY CATLIN #1113

Home at Reidsdale

Robert's parents Richard and Paulina Catlin purchased the "Gullies" on 23rd July 1901 and on the 1st October 1907, Richard Catlin purchased Tyler's holding (adjacent to Browns) for 200 pounds. Richard Catlin's demise was rather a dramatic one. He was working in the cattle yards when one of their poddy bulls gored him and he died of internal injuries a couple of days after, on 1st June, 1912.

Robert's Mother, Paulina and her family ran the family farm throughout the First World War with great success, even though they had to deal with drought and bush fires throughout this time. Another son, Phil and his wife, purchased a farm in the centre of Reidsdale, and two other siblings, Charles and Mary, were school teachers. Dick and Robert were policemen. Alice married Reg Lee from another Reidsdale family. Elizabeth, who married Bill Greenwood, managed the property until the 1940s when Robert's niece, Paulina, married James Clarke and took ownership of it soon after.

"Reidsdale Remembered The History of Irish Corner: A Rural Community" by Jill A. Clarke

D

6444

D.6444

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 1113 Name Ballin: Robert Henry Unit 11th Maltin Joined on 22. 9. 14

D6444

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- 1. What is your Name? Ballin: Robert Henry
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? Shadwood in the County of N.S.W.
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? Yes
4. What is your age? 26 yrs 23/9/14/1888
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Labourer
6. Are you, or have you been an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No
7. Are you married? No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Note: Mrs Robert Ballin Shadwood N.S.W.
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 No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service? No 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? No

I, Robert Henry Ballin 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- (a) Not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife. (b) Not less than three-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date 22/9/14 R.H. Ballin Signature of Person Enlisted.

h3623/14. * This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

WAR GRATUITY SCHEDULE

D. 5/10/33

W

DEFENCE
D 2425 ✓

Transferred to

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 1113

Rank Private Name Catlin, R. H.

Unit 11th Battalion

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

Misc. No. 25/4/15 Killed in action Gallipoli Peninsula

A. F. B. 2090A Received.

| DATE. | PURPORT. | REF. No. |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>30.6.15</u> | <u>Copy made for war pension</u> | |
| <u>24.6.15</u> | <u>No 5 advised</u> | <u>BR 4162.</u> |
| <u>25.6.15</u> | <u>No 2 advised</u> | <u>BR 4159.</u> |

CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF

Cat's No. M.F.C. 5626/609

NO PERSONAL EFFECTS IN KIT - B.R.M. No. 18447

Regular B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched 1.12.19 21.30.14.20



"WHERE THE AUSTRALIAN"
Photostat sent to Mrs P. Catlin on 11-12 Dms

23
16/7/20

1 SEP 1922

Issued B.R.M. 49/1099/ 4111 408 5341.

To Comdt 2nd M.D. B.R.M. 51/100 = 23.

VICTORY MEDAL to Mrs P. Catlin B.R.P.F. 42.

Registered Post 3231 G. P. O. Melbourne.



MEDICAL
SCROLL
To
Mother
Mrs P. Catlin
306442
13/7/21

8.4.21 BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt 2nd M.D.B.R.M. 53/173

LIST 46

2425

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 } 11th Battalion,
 or } 3rd Infantry Brigade. Squadron,
 CORPS } AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL F-R-E. Troop, Battery } "C"
 or Company }

Regtl. No. 1113 Rank Private.

Name M OATLIN, Robert Henry

Died { Date 25-4-1915.
 Place Dardanelles,
 Cause of Death* Killed in action.

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation, or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

State whether he leaves a will or not { (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Pay book not yet received.
 (b) in Small Book (if at Base) _____
 (c) as a separate document _____

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

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

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Paymaster at the Base (see Field Service Regulations, Part II.), together with the deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Signature of Officer in charge of Section Adjutant-General's Office at the Base } V. S. G. Hall

Station and Date Alexandria, EGYPT.

22/6/1915.

GR

Casualty Form—Active Service.

11th Battalion,
3rd Infantry Brigade,
A. I. FORCE.

Regiment or Corps _____
Regimental No. 1113 Rank Private Name Catlin, Robert Henry
Enlisted (a) 22/9/14 Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) 22/9/14
Date of promotion to } _____ Date of appointment } _____ Numerical position on } _____
present rank } to lance rank } roll of N.C.Os. }
Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

| Report | | Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., 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 | Date | Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents. |
|---------|------------------------------|--|-------------|---------|--|
| Date | From whom received | | | | |
| 21/6/15 | O/C., 11 th Bn | Killed in action. | Dardanelles | 25/4/15 | List from O/C., 11 th Bn, H.I.F. dated 9/6/15 (C 1558). |

A. G. Hael
O.C. Records Section Australia
for A. A. G.
C. H. Q. And. Echelon M. E. I.

(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) e.g., Signaller, Shoehorn Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. (P.T.O.)

DUPLICATE

Casualty Form—Active Service.

11th Bn., 3rd Infy Brigade

Regimental No. 1113 Rank Private Name Catlin, Robert Henry
Enlisted (a) 22/9/14 Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) 22.9.14
Date of promotion to } _____ Date of appointment } _____ Numerical position on } _____
present rank } to lance rank } roll of N.C.Os. }
Extended Coffin Re-engaged found on 25/4/15 Qualification (b) None

| Report | | Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., 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 | Date | Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents. |
|---------|------------------------------|--|-------------|---------|---|
| Date | From whom received | | | | |
| 21/6/15 | O/C., 11 th Bn | Killed in action. | Dardanelles | 25/4/15 | List from O/C., 11 th Bn, H.I.F. dated 9/6/15 (C 1558). MFC 5620 Part 11 Orders. 10/8/16 |

(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) e.g., Signaller, Shoehorn Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. (P.T.O.)

51417

15th April

16.

Dear Madam,

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 1113, Private R. H. Catlin, 11th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he was killed in action at Gallipoli Peninsula, on the 25th April 1915.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mrs P. Catlin,
BRAIDWOOD. N.S.W.

Officer i/o Base Records.

Capt.



Reidsdale
near Braidwood
3rd July 1920

Dear Sir.

In reply to yours which
I received last mail day.
My husband Richard George Gattin
died 1st June 1912, at Reidsdale.
My son Robert Henry Gattin No. 1113
11th Batt. was unmarried

Faithfully yours

(Mrs) Paulina Gattin



DECEASED
SECTION
JUL 8 1920
RECEIVED

Miss [unclear]

61 Bourke Street
Redfern Sydney
July 2nd 1915

Dear Mother

Your sad letter dated 24th June, I received tonight, and very sorry to see that brother Bob has been killed in action. Well dear Mother I love you, and all my brothers, and sisters, and there's nothing ever broke me up so much as your letter, to see that Bob has left us. When we think of all the Australians killed, well Mother there must be hundreds of Australian mothers mourning ^{over} the loss of their dearest children, and we must take our loss likewise. Although brother Bob has left us, I'm proud to think he died as a man fighting at the front. When I came down from Helensburgh

tonight, my girl made me a present
of a silver mounted brush & and
comb for my birthday, and then
handed me your letter, and when
I commenced to read it, I really can't
explain how I felt & I started crying.
Well mother you don't want to fret
too much about dear Bob, it's very hard
to think you will never see him alive
again, but he died fighting for his
country, and if Australia never took
a hand in this war, ~~and~~ no doubt
we would have to meet the Germans
here, and then we would have no
chance of beating them, so the best
wish mother is, that no more of our
brothers will lose their ~~lives~~ lives
fighting in this present war.
Well dear mother I will write again, next
week, and tell you more news. Your loving
son R. J. Catlin.

In Memory of

Private

Robert Henry Catlin

1113, 11th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 25 April 1915

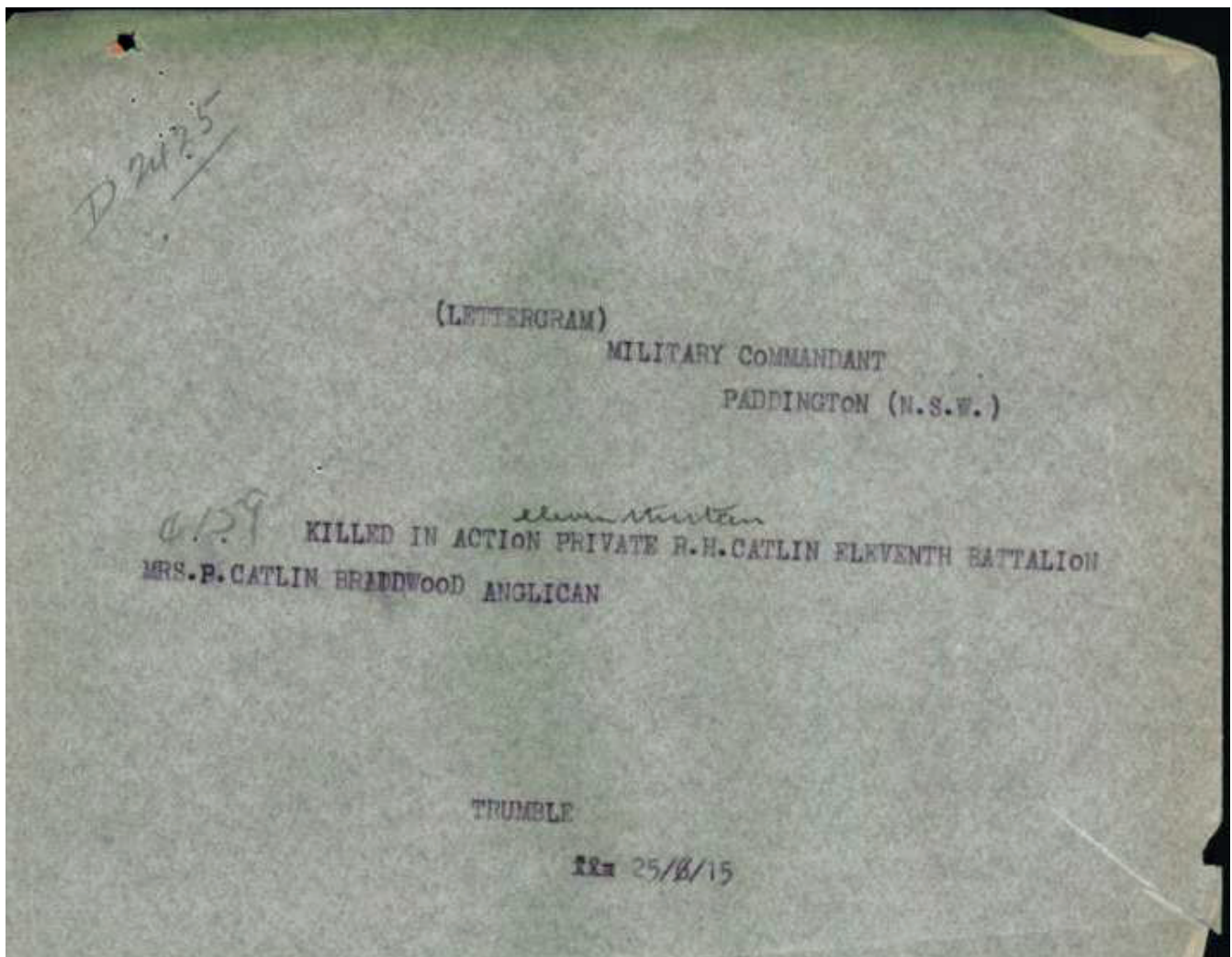
Son of Richard George and Paulina Catlin. Native of Reidsdale, Braidwood, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour

Lone Pine Memorial



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