

# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

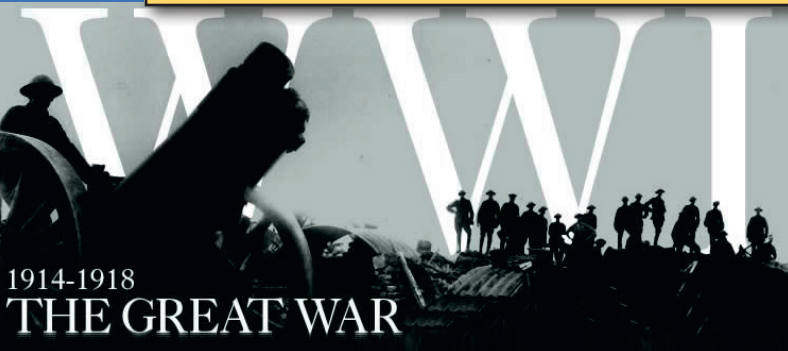
CLARKE, Lester Thomas

Service Number: 27186

Rank: Driver

*"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 **Lester Thomas Clarke**, 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.

**Lester Thomas Clarke** 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

## LESTER THOMAS CLARKE

**Service Number:** 27186

**Rank:** Driver

**Unit:** 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade

**Service:** Australian Army

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

**Date of death:** 21 April 1917

**Place of death:** France

**Cause of death:** Illness (Pneumonia)

**Age at death:** 20

**Place of association:** Kogarah, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Achiet-le-Gr  
and Communal Cemetery Extension, Achiet-le-Grand,  
Arras, Nord Pas de Calais, France

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

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** Lester Thomas Clarke's  
name is located at **panel 11** in the Commemorative Area at the  
Australian War Memorial



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0004

*Troops boarding HMAT Aeneas (A60). Lester Thomas Clarke left Sydney on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1916, aboard this ship bound for Plymouth, UK, disembarking on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1916.*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0001

*HMAT Aeneas (A60) is farewelled by well-wishers on the wharf in Sydney on.*



D

21016

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

D 21016

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 32056  
27186 Name CLARKE L.T  
 Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Joined on 11.5.16

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

1. What is your name? Lester Thomas CLARKE
2. In the Parish of Nanara in or near the Town of Major's Creek in the County of N.S.W.
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B. If the latter, papers to be shown.) Natural Born
4. What is your age? 19 1/2 yrs
5. What is your trade or calling? Commercial Traveller
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) Father Thomas Clarke Selwyn Clarke Rd Nanara 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 Militia 1 1/2 yrs
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? yes Phisique below standard
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which, together with Pay, would reach eight shillings per day? yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small-pox and enteric fever? yes

I, Lester Thomas Clarke 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 three-fifths wife and children

Date June 1/1916

Lester Thomas Clarke  
Signature of person enlisted.

\*This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.



WAR GRATUITY SCHEM... 2716/27

Transferred to

D 25964

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 27186  
Rank Driver Name CLARKE, I. T.  
Unit 2nd Coy, 1st A B'de

Casualty Died 16.4.17 Pneumonia at 49th Casualty Clearing Station  
6932 13891 8743 dated London 27.4.17

LIST  
294



DATE

PURPORT

REF. NO.

26.4.17  
3.5.17

M. O. 2 Did Advised 21/4/17

NOTY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS

CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF

Cable No. 4932 1389 8743/100 2.5.17

12.3.18 PERSONAL EFFECTS EX Disposition

25.9.18 C. M. Forms 7 & 8 Returned to Unit C.O. 38 Infantry

roular B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched 1/10/17 by printed card 21.4.20



HISTORY INDEX

1/3/21

In triplicate  
PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TRANSMITTED TO NEXT OF KIN. B. R. M. No. 458/151 Kw

14/1/21

BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt 2nd M.D.B.R.M. 03/53 AWO

"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."  
Pamphlet sent to Mr. I. Clarke on 3.5.21



**Casualty Form—Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps **20th Refts. 1st F.A. Brigade**  
 Rank **Driver** Surname **CLARK** Christian Name **Lester Thomas**  
 Religion ..... Age on Enlistment ..... years ..... months  
 Enlisted (a) **1/6/16.** 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 .....

Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.211, 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.211, Army Form A.36, or other official documents.	
			Embarked ... Disembarked ...	<b>Sydney</b> <b>Plymouth</b>	<b>30/9/16</b> <b>19/11/16</b>	<b>E.R. 8648</b>
<b>26/11/16</b>	<b>AATD. Park-house.</b>	<b>Marched in from Australia.</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>ER 8730 DOI/e</b>	<b>13/1/17.</b>
<b>26/12/16.</b>	<b>AATD Bulford</b>	<b>Marched in from Larkhill.</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>18/12/16</b>	<b>ER 7129</b>	
<b>20/12/16</b>	<b>REBA Larkhill</b>	<b>Marched out to Bulford.</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>19/12/16</b>	<b>ER 7119</b>	
<b>11/3/17</b>	<b>REBA Camps 20 and 21 Larkhill.</b>	<b>Proceeded overseas to France ex REBA Larkhill.</b>	<b>Folkestone.</b>	<b>15/3/17</b>	<b>B 231 IR 640</b>	<b>DO 13E 7/4/17.</b>
<b>24/3/17</b>	<b>A G B D</b>	<b>Marched in ex England.</b>	<b>Etaples</b>	<b>16/3/17</b>	<b>B 213 B 60/12</b>	
<b>do</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>Trans. to 1st Div. Arty.</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>23/3/17</b>	<b>B 213 B 60/12</b>	
<b>30/3/17</b>	<b>OC 1st DAC</b>	<b>Taken on strength.</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>24/3/17</b>	<b>B 213 A 30/13</b>	<b>DO 20/2236</b>

(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) Smoller, Shoeing-Smith, &c. W.13863—M.1477 (1930) 1/12 (2613) S.P. & Co. Ltd. Form B./03/14 E./354.

P.T.O.

Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.211, 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.211, Army Form A.36, or other official documents.
<b>30/3/17</b>	<b>OC 1st DAC</b>	<b>Trans. to 1st A.F.A. Brigade</b>	<b>France.</b>	<b>26/3/17</b>	<b>B 213 A 30/13</b> <b>DO 20/2314</b>
<b>29/3/17</b>	<b>CO 1st FAB</b>	<b>Taken on strength 1st FAB posted to 2nd Battery.</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>B 213 A 26/13</b> <b>DO 17/1116</b>
<b>26/4/17</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>To Hospital Sick.</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>15/4/17</b>	<b>B 223 A 26/17</b> <b>DO 21/1613</b>
<b>22/4/17</b>	<b>6 F. Amb.</b>	<b>P.U.O. Adm. and Tsfd to C.C.Stn.</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>A.K. 1158/8</b>
<b>26/4/17</b>	<b>DAAG 2</b> <b>49 C.C.S.</b>	<b>Died of disease(Pneumonia)</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>21/4/17.</b>	<b>AT 11350 V.L. 330</b> <b>A.K. 1055/127 A/S.</b> <b>D.O. 21/1620</b>

**ANZAC SECTION, 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q. British Expeditionary Force.**  
 (688) H.E. WAWN Captain.  
 Officer i/c Records.



MP/OEM  
7186/1st FAB.

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

B.R. Form No. 11.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE,  
VICTORIA BARRACKS,  
MELBOURNE,

To Commanding Officer,  
38th Infantry.  
Drill Hall,  
KOGARAH, NSW.

25th September, 1918.

Forwarded under separate cover are Record Books, C.M. Forms M. 7 and M. 8, relating to No. 27186, Dvr. Lester Thomas CLARKE, 1st Field Art. Bde., Australian Imperial Force, formerly of your Command, and who is reported Died of Pneumonia, 21st April, 1917.

Service with Australian Imperial Force has been entered.

Please acknowledge receipt hereon.



OFFICER IN CHARGE, BASE RECORDS.

Received.

Date— OCT 2 1918

*W. J. ...* Major, Capt.  
for Officer in Charge, Base Records.

*Quezanne*  
Adjutant, 38th Infantry.

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 (OR CORPS) 1ST A.P.A. BRIGADE. Squadron, Troop, or Battery or Company 2ND BATTERY.

Regimental No. 27186 Rank Driver.

Surname CLARKE Christian Names Lester Thomas.

Date 21st April 1917. Place 49 Cas. Clg. Station, FRANCE.

Cause of Death Died of disease. (PNEUMONIA.)

Nature and Date of Report Army Form A. 36 dated 26/4/17.

By whom made O.C. 49 Casualty Clearing Station.

\* 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.

Place Not yet to hand. Date -

By whom reported -

State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) - (b) in Small Book (if at Base) -  
a Will or not (c) as a separate document Will not 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.P.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Office, 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.

Station and Date ANZAC SECTION, 3rd Division, in Trenches of Sector B.F. 17th August 1917. Adjutant-General's Office at the Base. Captain. Officer i/c Records.



TELEPHONE:  
CENTRAL 4780.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

B.R.P.F. No. 28.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE.  
VICTORIA BARRACKS

Melbourne,

Always state Regimental Number, Rank, Full Name, and Unit of Soldier in your Communications.

Next of Kin should always notify Change of Address to Base Records, Melbourne.

Dear

May I invite your attention to the fact that a communication from the Defence Department in connexion with the erection of a permanent headstone on the last resting place of

has, as far as I am able to trace, not yet been replied to or returned.

I am enclosing another blank and an addressed envelope in case the original has been lost or mislaid, and shall be much obliged if you will have this filled in and returned to me in the course of the next few days. The information is urgently needed to enable the work in connexion with the Cemetery to be completed. At present it is suspended on account of the lack of the above particulars.

The non-receipt of your reply within the next 21 days will, it is regretted, have to be accepted as indicating that you do not desire any further action taken.

Yours faithfully,

*W. Mackintosh*

Captain,

Officer in Charge, Base Records.

D. 5785/11.22.—C.18/33.

JR/15W

XXXX 4780

M.55/404.

RECEIVED 20 NOV 1925

DEPARTMENT

Dear Sir,

With further reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No.27186 Driver L.T. CLARKE, 1st Field Artillery Brigade, I have to inform you that arrangements are now being made by the Imperial War Graves Commission to proceed with the erection of permanent headstones in the ACHIET LE GRAND COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, and in order to conform with the uniform layout of graves, the following official registration has been allotted to the site of the late soldier's final resting place, viz :-

Plot 1. Row C. Grave 29.

It is the practice of the Commission to notify relatives direct when the headstones are finally in position, and at a later date, the opportunity will be afforded you of obtaining a copy of the printed Register containing full particulars of all British and Dominion burials in this Cemetery.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. T. Clarke,  
"Selwyn"  
Clark Street,  
KOGARAH, NSW.

Captain,  
Officer i/c Base Records.



In Memory of

Driver

## Lester Thomas Clarke

27186, 1st Bde., Australian Field Artillery who died on 21 April 1917 Age 20

Son of Thomas and Annie Clarke, of "Selwyn," Clark St., Kogarah, New South Wales. Native of Braidwood,  
New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour

*Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension*



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



We the undersigned hereby  
consent to our Son Lester  
Thomas Clarke joining the  
Expeditionary Forces

Father, Thomas Clarke  
Mother, Annie Clarke

20/7/16

## 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