

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

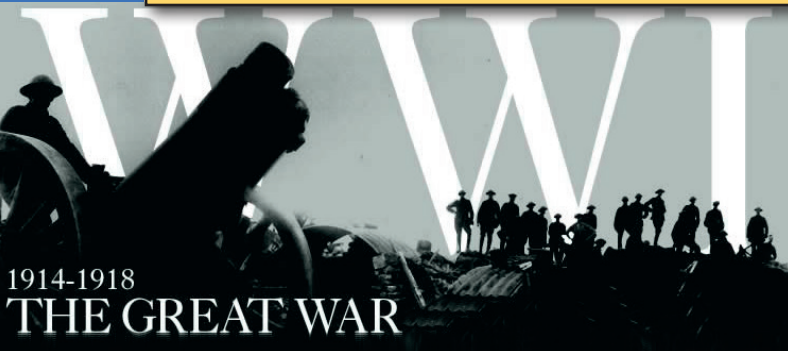
DEMPSEY, Charles

Service Number: 694

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.



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 **Charles Dempsey**, 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.

Charles Dempsey 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

CHARLES DEMPSEY

Service Number: 694

Rank: Private

Unit: 1st Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 20 May 1915

Place of death: Egypt

Cause of death: Died of wounds

Age at death: 33

Place of association: Araluen, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: Charles Dempsey's name is located at **panel 28** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

1st Australian Infantry Battalion

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. *The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and served there until the evacuation in December.* Its most notable engagement at Gallipoli was the battle of Lone Pine in August. Two members of the battalion, Captain A. J. Shout and Lieutenant L.M. Keysor were awarded Victoria Crosses for their valour at Lone Pine, Captain Shout posthumously.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. At Bullecourt in May 1917, Corporal G. J. Howell became the third member of the battalion to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the battle 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 battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November, 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919. Between November 1918 and May 1919 the men of the 1st Battalion returned to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P51488

Ottoman Empire: Turkey, Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Anzac Area (Gallipoli), Anzac Beach looking south, Clearing Station (Lieutenant Colonel Giblin) within the first days of the landing at Anzac Cove.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J05120

1915: Anzac Beach photographed in the early days after the landing.



Charles Dempsey, pictured standing with the broom in a shearing shed. A whole world away from where his young life ended after being wounded in the days following the Gallipoli landing on 25th April 1915. Charles died in Egypt on 22nd May from wounds he received in Gallipoli on 2 May 1915.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H02316

Anzac Beach, Gallipoli, 1915: Looking north along Anzac Cove after Anzac Corps had landed and members were settling in on the slopes of the hills.

D

160

EASED

1st Bn

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 694

Name Sharker Dempsey

Unit 1st BATT. 1st INF. BDE.

Joined on 24 August 1914.

1st Bn

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What is your Name? | 1. <u>Sharker Dempsey</u> |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? | 2. In the Parish of <u>Arakun</u> in or near the Town of <u>Arakun</u> in the County of _____ |
| 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) | 3. <u>British</u> |
| 4. What is your age? | 4. <u>31 yrs.</u> |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? | 5. <u>Labourer</u> |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? | 6. <u>No</u> |
| 7. Are you married? | 7. <u>No</u> |
| 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) | 8. <u>Emma Dempsey</u>
<u>10. Brunell St.</u>
<u>Falls Point Sydney</u> |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? | 9. <u>No</u> |
| 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? | 10. <u>No</u> |
| 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. <u>Yes, 1st Aust H. (Incorporated)</u> |
| 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? | 12. <u>Yes</u> |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? | 13. <u>No</u> |
| 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? | 14. _____ |

I, Sharker Dempsey, 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 and children.*

Date 24. 8. 14

S. Dempsey
Signature of person enlisted.

D. 377/2.14—G. 10220. *This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.

Transferred to

W

D
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

DEFENCE
D.P.R.
D
X 885

No. 694

WAR GRATUITY SCHEDULE 2/2/13/23

Rank Private Name Dempsey G.

Unit 1st Battalion

Casualty Wounded in action, Bardanelles M.F.C. 1861/148 Dated 9.5.14.
Dangerously ill M.F.C. 2126/206. Dated 13/5/15.
Died of wounds rec'd in action, of the Bardanelles M.F.C. 369/26. Dated 25.5.15
20.5.15 Died of wounds in 17th General Hospital Alexandria E.S.
Buried at Alexandria (Grave No 286 2/5/15) A.F. B. 2090A REQUISUM

BURIAL REPORT RECEIVED

DATE	CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF	PURPORT	REF. No.
	Cable No. <u>No 36 2126</u> <u>Vide 3417</u>	A.F. B. 103 Received	
19. 5. 15	3rd Echelon for Confirmation of M.F.C. 1861/148	Vide 409/20/3	
	Confirmation Recd of Cable No. M.F.C. 369	Vide 120/24	
22. 7. 15	Supt. Commwth Bank (Sydney) asking for official notification of death.		
2. 9. 15	Cert. of death issued & fwd'd to Supt. Com. Bank (Sydney)		
30. 8. 15	Mrs. G. M. Dempsey, asking if Brother is buried in Egypt or England		
29. 9. 15	Reply sent to letter of the 30/8/15.		
14. 12. 15	Not informed of further particulars re. Death of above		
15. 1. 16	"Will" to D.P.M. 35354 M.D.		M 3/401
5. 2. 16	Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B.R.M.	5/2/16	
5. 3. 16	Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B.R.M.	6/1/16	
30. 3. 16	Advice of despatch of Personal effects received - B.R.M.	6/4/16	
14. 4. 16	Personal effects ex 'Argyllshire'		M 6/493
9. 8. 20	Copy of S.M. file re. latter burial &		



Circular B.R.M. 48/1955 & Booklet re Graves despatched 5.12.19

WAR HISTORY INDEX

1. 4. 20 { 1914/15 Star Issued B.R.M. 42/1229/154/mf
To Comdt. 2nd M.D. B.R.M. 48/1155
in duplicate

20. 2. 20 { 1914/15 Star Issued B.R.M. 48/598/15



1914/5
 Checked
 Sign

Statement of Service of No. 694 Name Dempsey C.

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
1st Batta A. S. F.	Posted as Private.	24/8/15	24/8/15 20.5.15	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Died 24/8/15 20.5.15 from wounds received in action Buried at Alexandria by Royal Engineers 21-5-15 Grave No 286 Ho^r 6567. 21.10.15</p> </div>				
	Wounded R. Thighs Tract.	25/30.4.15		Ho 4-96 1-5-15
	" L. Forearm, Head.			
	Wounded Gallipoli	25 29/1/15		5519 10/10/15
	Died of wounds Ho 17 Gen. Hos. Alexandria 30/5/15			Ho 5520 10/10/15

I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.

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 } 1st BATTALION A.I.F. Squadron, }
 or } Troop, Battery }
 CORPS } or Company }

Regtl. No. 694 Rank Private.

Name Dorsey G.

Died { Date 20/5/15.

{ Place 17th Gen Hosp. Alexandria.

{ Cause of Death * Died of wounds received in action.

Nature and Date of Report A. 36. 22/5/15.

By whom made S.M.O. 17th Gen Hosp.

* 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.

Burial { Place Alexandria. Grace # 286

{ Date 21/5/15.

{ By whom reported O.C. Royal Engineers. Alexandria.

State whether he leaves a will or not { (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) YES.
 (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 Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Signature of Officer in charge of Section Adjutant-General's Office at the Base M. Cyril S. Griffiths Major.

Station and Date Alexandria. 19/10/15.

COPY.

W I L L .

IN THE EVENT OF MY DEATH I GIVE THE WHOLE OF MY MONEY AND EFFECTS TO MY MOTHER, MRS. E. DEMPSEY. IN THE EVENT OF HER DEATH I GIVE ALL TO MY SISTER MISS A. M. DEMPSEY, 10 ORWELL STREET, PTS POINT, SYDNEY.

DATE, 22ND. APRIL, 1915.

(SIGNED)

CHARLIE DEMPSEY,

PRIVATE NO. 694,

1ST. BATTALION,

AUST. EXP. FORCE.

Embarked S.M.T. 'Anzawaska' to join M.E.F. Gallipoli Peninsula ex Alexandria 5.4.15.

9178.-W.C. W12165-2146.-1,350,000.-2-15.-C & G. Forms B. 1031.

Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 1st Battalion A.I.F.
Regimental No. 694 Rank Private Name Dempsey, C
Enlisted (a) 24.8.14 Terms of Service (a) 12 months Service reckons from (a) 24.8.14
Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.
Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

694

Table with 5 columns: Date, From whom received, Report, Place, Date, Remarks. Contains handwritten entries for medical events: Wounded Gallipoli, Admitted hospital Alexandria, Died of wounds, Buried in grave.

Released

(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, Shoehing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. [P.T.O.]



D 885

3/9/15

Orwell Street
Potts Point

30 Aug 1915

Out for
South Coast

Secretary of Defence Department
Melbourne.

Sir

Is it possible for you to find out for
me & when my dear brother who fell at the
Wardammes has been buried? Whether it is
at Egypt England or at Sea & if he
died from wounds received about three months
ago. We did hear indirectly that he was
made King Corporal & sent across to
England which would also like to
know if it is true. Private Dempsey No 694
1st Battalion F. Company Expeditionary
Force. Any information you might be
able to give me I shall be very thankful
Thanking you in anticipation
Yrs etc

Miss Dempsey
Orwell Street
Potts Point
Sydney



A. M. Dempsey

BASE RECORDS OFFICE, A.I.M.F.,
MELBOURNE, 14th December, 1915.

32909

Dear Madam,

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of the late No. 694 Private C. Deppsey, 1st Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died of wounds in 17th General Hospital, Alexandria, on the 20th May, 1915, and was buried at Alexandria, grave No. 286.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. E. Dempsey,
10 Orwell Street,
Potts Point, N.S.W.

Capt.
Officer i/c Base Records.

0885

Statement No. 34.

Date 1.10.15.

(This statement contains 3 sheets.)

Statement of WAR PENSION CLAIMS (MILITARY) which have been determined.

State of NEW SOUTH WALES.

1. Full name of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed	Dempsey, Charles
2. Member's number, rank, and unit	694 Priv., 1st Batt.
3. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed	Dempsey, Emma: 10 Orwell St., PADDINGTON.
4. Relationship of such person to Member of Forces	Mother
5. Result of Claim	£13 p.a. granted from 25.7.15.
6. Name and address of Trustee (if any)	
1. Full name of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed	Wilkinson, Charles
2. Member's number, rank, and unit	1845 Priv., 2nd Batt.
3. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed	Wilkinson, Florence: "Niagara" Lenthall St., KENSINGTON-TON.
4. Relationship of such person to Member of Forces	Widow
5. Result of Claim	£52 p.a. granted from 31.10.15.
6. Name and address of Trustee (if any)	
1. Full name of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed) as above
2. Member's number, rank, and unit)
3. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed	Wilkinson, Ruby Eileen: as above
4. Relationship of such person to Member of Forces	Child
5. Result of Claim	£13 p.a. granted from 31.10.15.
6. Name and address of Trustee (if any)	Florence Wilkinson - as above
1. Full name of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed	Shout, Alfred John
2. Member's number, rank, and unit	Lieut. 1st Batt.
3. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed	Shout, Rose Alice: 116 Darlington Rd., DARLINGTON
4. Relationship of such person to Member of Forces	Widow
5. Result of Claim	£91 p.a. granted from 18.10.15.
6. Name and address of Trustee (if any)	
1. Full name of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed) as above
2. Member's number, rank, and unit)
3. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed	Shout, Florence Agnes Maud: as above
4. Relationship of such person to Member of Forces	Child
5. Result of Claim	£13 p.a. granted from 18.10.15.
6. Name and address of Trustee (if any)	Rose Alice Shout: as above

C.9766.

T.W.

at

Deputy Commissioner of Pensions
SYDNEY.

In Memory of

Private

Charles Dempsey

694, 1st Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 20 May 1915 Age 33

Son of Cornelius and Emma Dempsey, of 10, Orwell St., Potts Point, New South Wales. Born at Araluen,
New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour

Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



A peaceful afternoon scene in Wallace Street, Braidwood, early 1900s.

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