

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

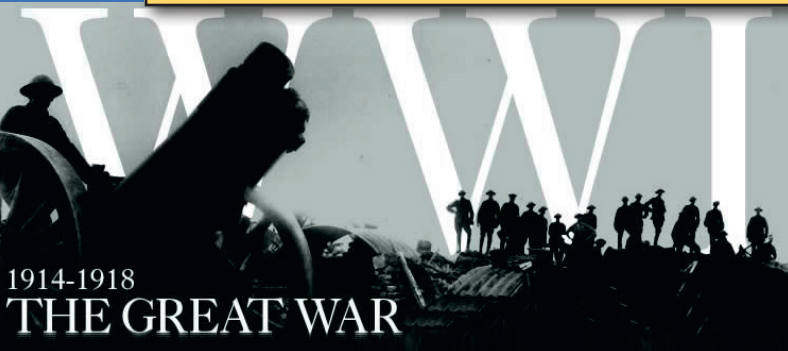
FLACK, John Foster

Service Number: 6543

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 **John Foster Flack**, 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.

John Foster Flack 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

JOHN FOSTER FLACK

Service Number: 6543

Rank: Private

Unit: 18th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 05 October 1917

Place of death: Belgium

Cause of death: Killed in action

Place of association: Braidwood, Australia

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

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: John Foster Flack's
name is located at **panel 85** in the Commemorative Area
at the Australian War Memorial

excuse the writing
the spelling for give
but love the writer
as long as you live
when years and months have glided by
and on this page you cast your eye
remember it was a friend sincere
who left this kind remembrance here by
a little tribute which I send
I hope you will receive
and keep for the sake of one
who never will deceive

FOSTER FLACK

John Foster Flack (known to his family as Foster) was born at Majors Creek, New South Wales, Australia, 11 May 1894, the sixth of eight children born to Walter Flack, a labourer and gold miner and Annie Flack (nee Heazlett). After completing basic schooling Foster, like his father, also worked as a miner and a labourer as well as assisting his uncle run a small grazing property and orchard.

When Foster enlisted in Goulburn, New South Wales with the Australian Imperial Forces on 16th December, 1916, he was the only one of his surviving siblings unmarried. Two brothers had already died in infancy, his eldest brother and four sisters had all started families of their own. Foster considered it his duty as the only unattached member of his family to enlist. Subsequent letters written by him to members of his family from overseas confirmed this.

Foster's time representing his Family, Country and King was not to be a long one. Following his enlistment in December 1916 he embarked on the "Wiltshire" from Sydney on 7th February 1917, finally disembarking at Devonport on 11th April 1917. A period of time spent at "Rollestone" followed before he proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 10 September that year.

20th September 1917 saw Foster join his Battalion in Belgium. His family treasures a letter written by Foster from the trenches dated 6th October 1917. Official records show him as KILLED IN ACTION Friday 5th October 1917.

Private John Foster Flack was awarded the Victory Medal. His parents received a Memorial Plaque along with a Memorial Scroll and a message from the King.

Apart from Foster's memorial on the Menin gates his name is also recorded on the Braidwood War Memorial and on a Memorial Board within the Braidwood Services Club. A marble tablet donated by his family hangs on the wall in St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Majors Creek.

Another remaining tribute is a Memorial Scroll presented to his family by the Tallaganda Shire, the Braidwood Municipality and the

Welcome Home Committee "in grateful recognition of the sacrifice he made for the maintenance of a Righteous Cause".

Towards the latter part of 1917, the list of the district boys who have lost their lives fighting for the Empire continues to increase and multiply.

The local clergy of all denominations quite often received from the Defence Department the sad news, and then communicated to the parents their loss or news of a wounded son.

The small community all rallied around and families all helped out with shearing, lamb marking, cattle work etc. The very young men, older men, their women folk and younger girls foregoing working in the cities to stay home and help; praying for the war to end and all the family to be as one again.

Braidwood Letters from the Front, by Roslyn Maddrell.



Private John Foster Flack No. 6543 –
19th Reinforcement – 18th Battalion
1914-18

March 1917

Monday morning ready to sail on Tuesday they gave us a send off in Sydney Thursday night about 1000 of us marched down George Street they presented us with our flag colours are purple and green and gold trimmed you can get a couple of pieces of ribbon and were then purple over the green and you will have my colours 19th reinforcement of the 18 Battalion ADA and I are out at batties to day ADA said Millie will get a letter from her on Wednesday I cant find no news the

the only thing I have to say I would like to be back home again but I suppose that will never be I hope none of the rest of family takes my fool steps one fool is enough how is Elsie tell them all I will write to them when I get on the water the boat we are going on will be 60 days going over and only stopping once that is at Durben so I will only be able to send you one letter until I get over I have got a bad cold I was on guard one night and it rained all night it made me wish I never was born give my love to siners this is all from Foster

Monday morning ready to sail on Tuesday they gave a send off in Sydney Thursday night about 1000 of us marched down George Street they presented us with our flag our colours are purple and green and gold trimmed you can get a couple of pieces of ribbon and were then the purple over the green and you will have my colours 19th reinforcement of the 18 Battalion ADA and I are out at batties to day ADA said Millie will get a letter from her on Wednesday I cant find no news the

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JOHN FOSTER FLACK #6543

Some where in France
Oct 6th 1919

Dear mother

just a few lines to let you know I am
all right Hoping you are the same and all the rest
well mother I have just been through one big battle
and came out all right it is great fun in a big
battle with shells bursting all round you you get
so excited that you see no danger I am going into
another one in a few days time I hope I am as lucky
next time the battle was a great success took 500 prisoners
well mother I am writing this in the trenches with
bullets singing home sweet home round our ~~par~~ hole
so it is not very pleasant for writing I have received
a couple of letters from you and Gladys and Uncle Sam
some from Ben or Alma or Jess but living in ~~Ypres~~
you said dad was in hospital what for well mother
I have not much time to write now as a fellow has to
look out for his shell here as much as possible
write to you later on we can't give much news here
only just let you know we are quite well this is all

I remain your loving
son Foster

they called it the battle of Ypres

I am sending with some cigarettes ~~cards~~ flags I got a letter
from W. H. Gadd

D

33992

STRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

6543 Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. ~~N 7006~~

Name FLACK, JOHN, FOSTER
Unit 19 Rpt 18th Battrn
Joined on ~~16. 12. 16~~ 13 Jan 1917

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What is your Name? | 1. <u>John Foster Flack</u> |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? | 2. In the Parish of <u>Majors Creek</u> in or near the Town of <u>Braidwood</u> in the County of <u>Went</u> |
| 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown) | 3. <u>yes Natural Born</u> |
| 4. What is your age? | 4. <u>22 years 7 mos</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) (The answer to this question shall not be constructed as in the nature of a will.) | 8. (Father) <u>Walter Flack</u>
<u>Majors Creek</u>
<u>Braidwood</u>
<u>N.S.W.</u> |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? | 9. <u>yes</u> <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>no</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>yes</u> (<u>eyes</u>) |
| 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? | 14. <u>yes</u> |
| 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small-pox and enteric fever? | 15. <u>yes</u> |

I, John Foster Flack 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 16. 12. 16

J. F. Flack
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.

Transferred to

D C

D 0775

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

WAR GRATUITY SCHEDULE

21 7 13 / 23

No. 6543

Rank Private Name FLACK J.F.

Unit 18th Bn

LIST.

Casualty Killed in action 5/10/17. 8592 1931/94? dated London 18/10/17

"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."
Panphlet sent to M. J. Flack on 13.6.21

DATE

A.F. B.103 Received

PURPORT

A.F. B.2090A Received

REF. NO.

16.11.17
7.1.18
5.9.18

M.O. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION, 5.10.17
COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS
"Will" to D.P.M. 2.....M.D. 25/10/16
PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. Sutgen

NO EFFECTS IN KIT M: 24/1197

FIBAL NOTICE

10/6/21 M. 161908 & 80514 re Graves despatched 8.1.24.19 30
BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt. 2nd M.D.B.R.M. 53/534

WAR HISTORY INDEMNITY



3/7/21 COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS - M. 54/958

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 19th.Reinf.18th.Battalion, A.I.F.

Rank ~~1st Lt.~~ Surname FLACK Christian Name John Foster

Religion Age on Enlistment years months

Enlisted (a) 15.12.16 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

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks <small>Take from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 26, or other official documents.</small>
Date	From whom received <small>Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc. during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 26, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.</small>			
	O.C. Troops. A18" Wiltshire". Embarked	Sydney.	7.2.17.	L.R. 1579.
		Disembarked	Devonport.	12.4.17.
14.4.17.	O.C. 5th. T. Bn. Pte. W/In from Aust.	Rollestone.	11.4.17	L.R. 1871 B213.
				D.O. 35/E./4016.
20.5.17.	do. Pte. Sick to Fargo Hosp.	do.	19.5.17.	B.R. 3001 B213.
17.5.17.	O.C. Hosp. Pte. Adm. Milty. Hosp. P.U.C.	Fargo.	17.5.17.	
25.5.17.	O.C. Fargo, Mil. Hosp. Pte. Disch. to duty.	do.	25.5.17.	B.R. 1481.
27.5.17.	O.C. 5th. Tng. Bn. Pte. W/In from Fargo Hosp.	Rollestone.	25.5.17.	L.R. 3509 B213.
				P.R. No. 287332.
10.9.17.	O.C. 5th. Tng. Bn. Pte. Proceeded O/Sess France via Southampton.		10.9.17.	L.R. 8004.
				D.O. 70/E.
11.9.17.	2 ADDED. Marched in ex England.	Havre.	11.9.17.	16.9.17.
				AY 11336.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into British or Empire Forces, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered on original, showing Serial No. N. 502-4282 (2/16) 1917 (2/20) C.P.S. & L. Form 2.12 2/1914 (P.T.O.)

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks <small>Take from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 26, or other official documents.</small>
Date	From whom received <small>Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc. during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 26, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.</small>			
22.9.17.	C.D. 18 Bn. JOINED BATTALION.	BELGIUM.	20.9.17.	B213 B7/38. D.O. 70/8781.
6.10.17.	do. KILLED IN ACTION.	Do.	6.10.17.	B213 B7/40. D.O. 72/7045.
				V.L. 497.
				Licut.,
				Officer i/o Records.
ANZAC SECTION, 3rd. ECHELON, G.H.Q., British Expeditionary Force.				

WILL.

Name in full. I, John Foster FLACK:

Unit. Regimental Number 6543 serving in 19 Reif. 18 Battn
of the Australian Imperial Force do hereby revoke all former Wills made by me and declare this to be my last Will.

Name and Address of person or persons to whom it is to go I DEVISE and BEQUEATH all my real estate unto.....

Name and Address of person or persons to receive personal estate (See Note) absolutely, and my personal estate I bequeath to Walter Flack
Magors Creek, Via Braidwood
N. S. Wales. Australia

Fill in Date. IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd
day of June A.D. 1917.

John Foster FLACK (Signature).

All alterations to be initialled by Testator and Witnesses. Signed by the said Testator as his last Will and Testament the same having been read over and explained to him, in the presence of us both present at the same time who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses

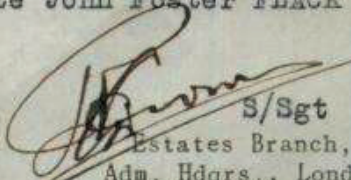
FIRST WITNESS. Signature of Witness Ernest Ellis 228 Alfred St.
Address and Occupation Laborer-North Sydney.N.S.Wales.
Australia

SECOND WITNESS Signature of Witness A. McNiven
Address and Occupation Raymond Terrace. Farmer.
N.S.Wales.

N.B.-Personal Estate includes Pay, Effects, Money in Bank, Insurance Policy, in fact everything except Real Estate.

Certified to be a true copy of the Will of No.6543 Private John Foster FLACK
18th Battalion A.I.F.

Checked Je Hunter Cpl.


S/Sgt
Estates Branch,
Adm. Hdqrs., London.

22/1474

Braidwood.

Major's Quarters.

To Head of Victoria Barracks.
Sydney.

Nov 31st 17.

Dear Sir.

I sent 3 parcels addressed to my son. Private John Foster Slack. (No 6543) 19th Reinforcements B Coy. 18th Battalion. On Active Service. Abroad. During to having received information of my son being killed in France. I would like the parcels to be sent to. Pte W. A. Roberts (No 7346) A Company 62nd Battalion. On Active Service. Some where in France. or any other Australian Soldier. also. if possible to procure any belongings of my son. such as a wristlet watch etc I would like them forwarded on to me. Please reply.

BASE HEAD QRS
29 NOV 17M.
RECEIVED

SECOND MILITARY DISTRICT
RECEIVED
NOV 23 1917
HEADQUARTERS

Formal Acknowledgment
23 NOV 1917

Sent
A.A.G.

I Remain.

Yours respectfully.

Mr. Walter Slack.

Major's Quarters.

Braidwood.



In Memory of

Private

John Foster Flack

6543, 18th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 05 October 1917

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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