

# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

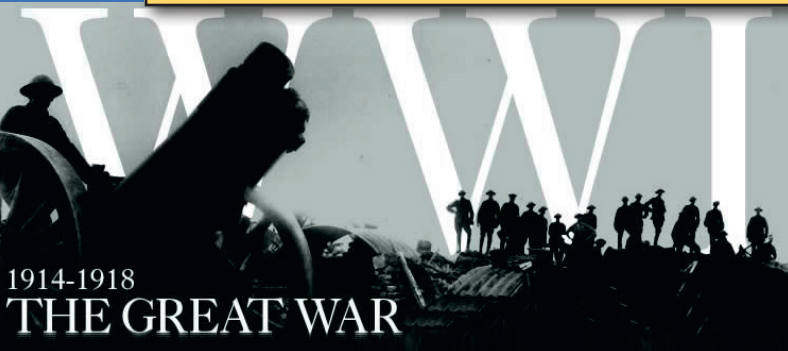
HEALY, Myrtle James

Service Number: 17148

Rank: Gunner

*"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 **Myrtle James Healy**, 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.

**Myrtle James Healy** 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

## MYRTLE JAMES HEALY

**Service Number:** 17148

**Rank:** Gunner

**Unit:** 10th Australian Field Artillery Brigade

**Service:** Australian Army

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

**Date of death:** 25 September 1917

**Place of death:** Belgium

**Cause of death:** Killed in action

**Place of association:** Smithfield, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Hooge Crater Cemetery,  
Passchendaele, Flanders, Belgium

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

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** Myrtle James Healy's  
name is located at **panel 16** in the Commemorative Area  
at the Australian War Memorial

*Dup*  
AUST. F.A. 10 Bde. 39 Batty.

FRANCE.  
HEALY. M.J. 17148.

K. Sept <sup>25</sup> 1917. Det.

He was a signaller and he and another signaller had left their tunics in a dug-out when a shell landed close to it. As their pay-books and papers were in their tunics they thought that they had better go and get them out of the dug-out in case it was destroyed. They had gone into the dug-out when a shell landed right onto the top of it and blew the whole place to bits. Their remains were left there. It was by Chateau Woods.

7SI

Ref ---Pte Kinghorn. 27850.  
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. Jan 5th. 1918

10th Bgde.  
A.F.A.

Healy.  
M.J. 17148

"Killed 25.9.17"

His name was Jim. He was a signaller to my Bty. 39th. I helped to bury him with his mate Sig. Williams of same Bty. in separate graves, in front of Chateau Wood to the right of Idiot Corner. Lieut. Parkes of same Bty. was present at the burial. Healy was killed at the observation post in No Man's Land.

Witness:-

L. Offley-Court 2001  
10th Bgde.  
Dartford.

S. L. P. J.

London.  
10.12.17.

Note Written Lt. Parkes 4.12.17.

S.

39th Batty  
10th Bgde.  
A.F.A.

M HEALY.  
M.J. 17148

"Killed in Action 25.9.17."

The battery was in action (Ypres sector). On the morning of the 25.9.17. The signaller's dug-out received a direct hit with a 5.9. knocking it completely in. No. 17148 Signaller M.J. Healy with another signaller, were both killed instantaneously. He was buried in small soldiers' cemetery in front of "Chateau Wood" (Ypres) but not a registered cemetery. Padre Stevenson of our Bgde conducted the service, and might be able to give fuller particulars, as to location of his grave.

Letter from:- R.P. Parkes, Lt.  
39th Batty A.F.A.  
12.1.18.

<sup>q</sup>  
NOTE We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

London  
28.2.18.

S.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08624.447

### MYRTLE JAMES HEALY # 17148

Studio portrait of 17148 Gunner Myrtle James Healy, 11th (later 10th) Field Artillery Brigade of Smithfield, NSW. A hospital attendant prior to enlisting, he embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT Borda (A30) on 5 June 1916. On 25 September 1917, he was killed in action, aged 24, when a shell exploded in his dugout, near Hell Fire Corner, Polygon Wood, Belgium. He is buried in the Hooze Crater Cemetery, Belgium.

Noted on the Roll of Honour Circular form for Myrtle James Healy: "Lt Salsby Plains Camp. He rose to the rank of Sergeant Instructor, but asked to be allowed to revert to his old position of Gunner and proceed to the front and this was granted. Major Forrest's letter herewith, shows that a short time before his death, he did a very gallant action for which he would have been recommended for a suitable award." To date, there is no record of Major Forrest's letter or of an award being given post- posthumously.

3R, 11th. F. A. B.

CERTIFIED COPY  
LIEUT. F.A.

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

MYRTLE JAMES.

No. MPA 38 17148.

Name HEALY Myrtle James

Unit 11th Brigade 3rd Rct.

Joined on 17th Jan'y 1916.

3R, 11th. F. A. B.

*Myrtle James*

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

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. What is your Name? .....   | 1. <u>Myrtle James Healy</u>        |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? .....  | 2. In the Parish of .....           |
|   | near the Town of <u>Braidwood</u>   |
|   | in the County of <u>N. S. WALES</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</u>                       |
| 4. What is your age? .....  | 4. <u>24 years</u>                  |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? .....   | 5. <u>Hospital attendant</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>Father James Healy</u>        |
|   | <u>90 C. DOWNEY</u>                 |
|   | <u>THE FARM</u>                     |
|   | <u>SMITHFIELD. N.S.W.</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>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>no</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, Myrtle James Healy 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 affor 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

Date 17th Jan'y 1916 (290) M. J. Healy  
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 38469

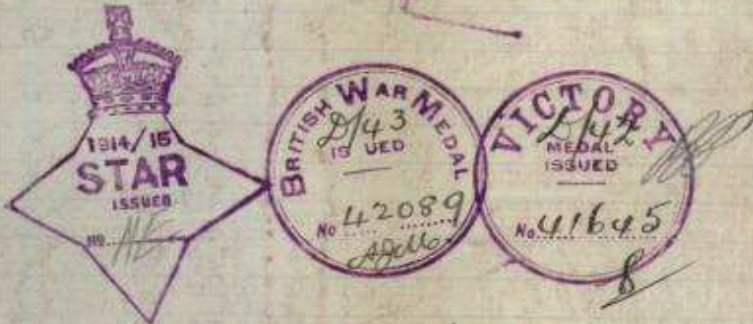
# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 17148

Rank *Gun* Name HEALY M. J.

Unit *Company 10<sup>th</sup> A Bde late 11<sup>th</sup> A. Bde.*

Casualty *Killed in Action* 25.9.17 *8.9.1919/48* dated London 11.10.17



BURIAL REPORT RECEIVED

DATE	PURPORT	REF. NO.
	A.F. E. 103 Received	A.F. B. 2090A Received,
12/11/17	M.O. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION, 25/9/17	
30/12/17	COPY MADE FOR...	
30-7-19	"Will" to D.P.M. 2 M.D. Location of will M23/1039	
27-6-19	CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF Cable No. <i>to D.P.M. 1917/1039</i> D-15/10/17	
	PERSONAL EFFECTS <i>in file</i>	
	"Will" Extract in file.	
	<i>Articles B.R.M. 46, 3268 &amp; Booklet re Graves despatched 17.7.20</i>	
14/3/21	<i>in duplicate</i> TRANSMITTED TO NEXT OF KIN - B.R.M. No.	58/1392 14
10/3/22	BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt <i>2nd</i> M.D.B.R.M. 54/359	

WAR HISTORY INDEX

32593 Substitute

17148  
Army Form B. 178.

To be used for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army only.  
Army Form B. 178<sup>a</sup> to be used for Special Reserve recruits  
and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

### MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Healy Healey Christian Name Myrtle Sano

TABLE I.—GENERAL TABLE.

Birthplace ... Parish Braidwood County N. S. W.

Examined ... { on 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1916  
at Park House Salisbury England

Declared Age ... 24 years 300 days.

Trade or Occupation ... Surveyor Assistant

Height ... 6 feet, — inches.

Weight ... 158 lbs.

Chest Measurement { Girth when fully Expanded. 37" inches.  
Range of Expansion 4" inches.

Physical Development ...

Vaccination Marks { Arm ... — Right Left Left  
Number 1

When Vaccinated ... 17/1/16

Vision ... { R.E.—V— 6/6  
L.E.—V— 6/6

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease ... Scar on left temple

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection ... —

Approved by (Signature) J. Kelly  
(Rank) Capt. Medical Officer.

Enlisted ... { at Sydney N. S. W.  
on 17 day of January 1916.

Joined on Enlistment ...	Corps.	Regt. No.
Transferred to ...	<u>3/11 F.A.B.</u>	<u>17148.</u>
	<u>was 10 F.A.B.</u>	

Became non-effective by Deceased 32958 32598

on — day of — 191—

(Signature) —  
(Rank) of Capt. Signt



Lt. R. G. Parkes,  
39th Battery, A.F.A.  
Australian Imperial Force  
B. E. F.

January 24th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

17148 Signaller M. J. HEALY, 39th Battery.

The information and details you have supplied will be of much assistance to us, and of value to our enquirers. Thank you very much also for supplying Chaplain Stevenson's name as one who can probably give us further information.

Your reply to our enquiry concerning :-

4641 Dvr. J. H. WALKER, 39th Battery.

for which we also thank you. <sup>has just come to hand.</sup> This information also will be of much assistance to us. It will be a comfort to the relatives to learn that this soldier's death at least was instantaneous.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

*O.S.*

M.S.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

*Rm*

BASE RECORDS OFFICE

No. 17148.

Private Myrtle James Healy,  
10th Field Artillery Brigade,  
Australian Imperial Force.

~~XXXXX~~ was killed in action -----

(No record available) 25th September 17

Cable No. C.I.B.L.

1909, from the Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London,  
11th October 1917, confirmed by Mail from the Commandant A.I.F.  
Headquarters, dated London, 15th October 1917.-----

7th March 18 Major.

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 10th FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE A.I.F.

Regimental No. 17148 Rank Gunner

Surname HEALY Christian Name Myrtle James

Date 25th September 1917 Place Belgium

Cause of Death Killed in Action

Nature and Date of Report Army Form B 213 dated 29th September 1917  
Field

By whom made Commanding Officer 10th Artillery Brigade

\* 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.

Will not received

State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) (b) in Small Book (if at Base) (c) as a separate document. -FOR BURIAL REPORT SEE B 103.

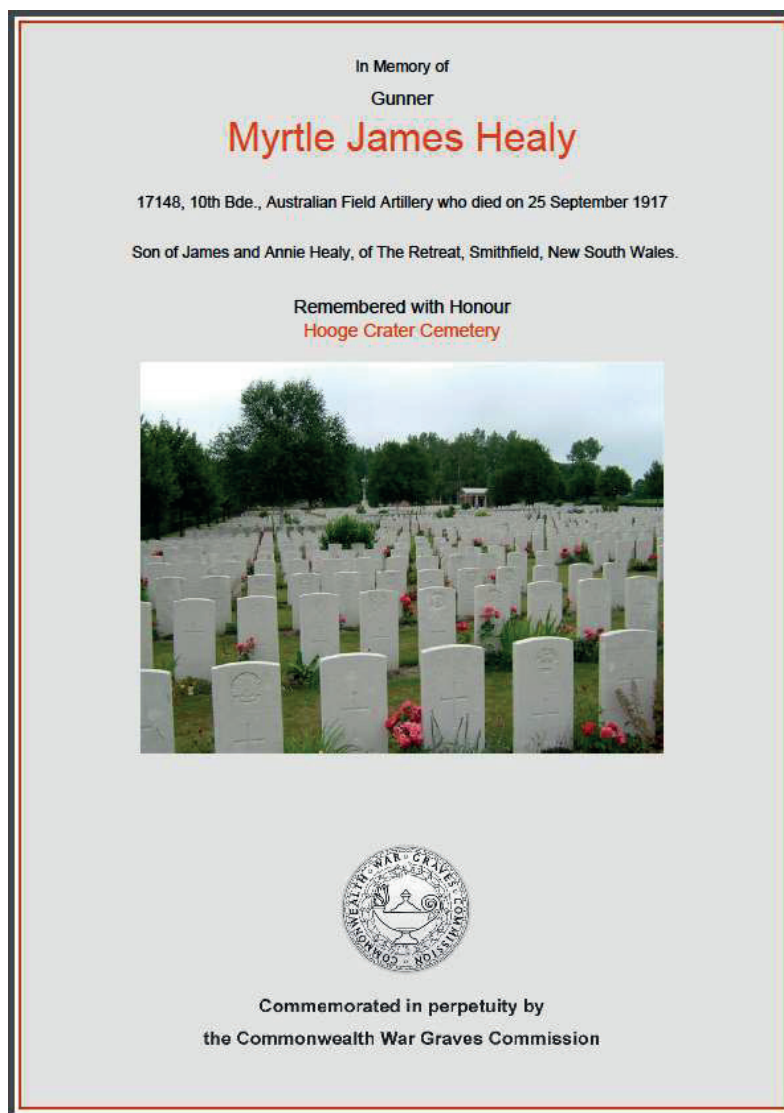
All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

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.

Station and Date Anzac Section 3rd Echelon 25.11.17  
Signature of Officer in charge of Section [Signature]  
Adjutant-General's Office at the Base

Lieut. Officer i/c records.



## 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