

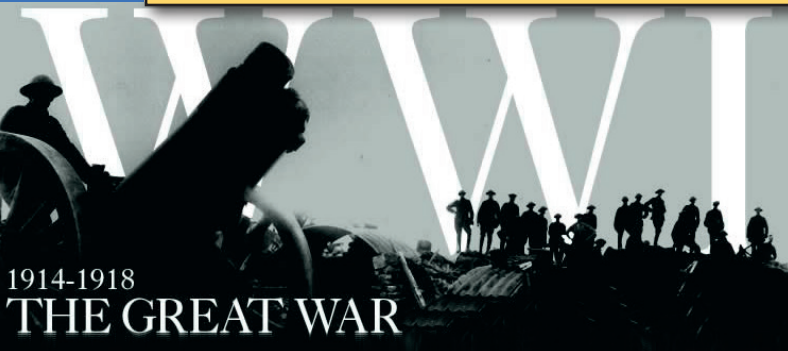
# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



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 **Leslie Smith Kemp**, 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.

**Leslie Smith Kemp** 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

## LESLIE SMITH KEMP

**Service Number:** 600

**Rank:** Sergeant

**Unit:** 17th Australian Infantry Battalion

**Service:** Australian Army

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

**Date of death:** 26 August 1916

**Place of death:** France

**Cause of death:** Killed in action

**Age at death:** 24

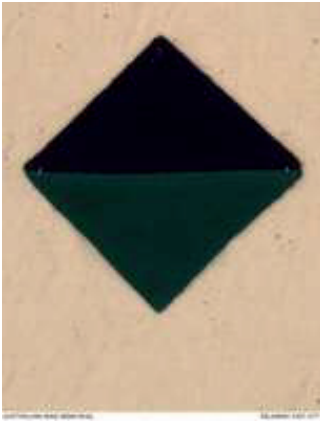
**Place of association:** Deniliquin, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Sunken Road Cemetery,  
Contalmaison, Picardie, France

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

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** Leslie Smith Kemp's name is located at **panel 83** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

## 17th Australian Infantry Battalion



17<sup>th</sup> Colour Patch

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 20 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. For a short period part of the 17th garrisoned Pope's Hill, but for most of its time on the peninsular the Battalion was responsible for the defence of Quinn's Post, one of the most contested positions along the entire ANZAC front. The Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915.

After further training in Egypt, the 17th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 22 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The Battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time, although in a reserve role, between 18 and 28 August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 17th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

In 1917 the 17th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost four times as strong, at Lagincourt. The battalion took part in three

major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

After another winter of trench duty, 17th Battalion helped to thwart the German Spring Offensive of 1918. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the Allied armies turned to the offensive and the 17th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaurevoir Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle. It was training out of the line when the armistice was declared in November 1918, and was disbanded in April 1919.



*Private Leslie Kemp, son of Mr Kemp C.P.S. of this town, writes from the Dardanelles.*

*We all appreciate the efforts and work that our women folk of Australia are doing for the comfort of our wounded and sick and those in the firing line. We hope ere long to repay it by returning home victorious, and retaining the liberty we have so long possessed. We are fighting for a cause that is right, with a steady determination, and an optimistic spirit that we are going to win. It is nice to know that even when we are so far away our home folks have not forgotten us.*



*Private Leslie Kemp, son of Mr B. P. Kemp, C.P.S. Braidwood has received news of his death, killed in France. Mr and Mrs Kemp have two other sons, Charles C. Kemp in artillery, and Lloyd Kemp still at the front.*

*From Braidwood Letters from the Front by Roslyn Maddrell.*



## ANOTHER SOLDIER HERO GONE.

The community received another shock on Friday last, when a cable was received that Private Leslie Smith Kemp, son of Mr. B. P. Kemp, C.P.S., Braidwood, had been killed in France. The news came through by cable from Private Lloyd Kemp, deceased's brother, who was in the same company. It was sent from London on 30th August, and did not reach here till Friday night. The deceased, who was 24 years of age, and a fine type of Australian manhood, left in August last year. He enlisted at Nowra, where he occupied a position in the Bank of Australasia. Mr. Kemp received a letter from him yesterday from France, dated July 20, in which he stated that he was feeling fit and well. He says: "We are now a mobile force, so we are constantly on the move, and get plenty of marching. We are having an exciting time over here; in fact, too lively." It is probable that the soldier met his death in the stubborn fighting which was reported on the 29th August. Mr. Kemp has two other sons at the front—Private Charles Campbell Kemp, who is attached to the artillery section, and Private Lloyd Kemp. The news necessarily came as a severe shock to him and his wife, and particularly to Mrs. Kemp.





D

10124

DECEASED

TRALIAN

MILITARY FORCES.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No.

600 51

Name

Leslie Smith Kemp

Unit

B Co 7th Batt

Joined on

5/3/19

14th Battalion

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? .....
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? .....
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) .....
4. What is your age? .....
5. What is your trade or calling? .....
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? .....
7. Are you married? .....
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) .....
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? .....
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? .....
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 .....
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? .....
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? .....
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? .....

Leslie Smith Kemp  
 Laura  
 Laura  
 M. S. W.  
 yes  
 22 yrs 11 months  
 Bank Clerk  
 no  
 no  
 Mr Peilby Porticus Kemp  
 Bradwood  
 M. S. W.  
 no  
 Leslie Kemp  
 15 Gas Lane  
 Haberfield N.S.W.  
 no  
 yes  
 no  
 no

Leslie Smith Kemp 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 three-fifths

Date 10<sup>th</sup> March 1919

L. Kemp  
Signature of person enlisted.

\* This clause to be inserted 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 1796

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 600

Rank

a/sergt.

Name

Kemp L S.

Unit

17th Battalion

Casualty

Killed in action 26 Aug 1916 B.L. 399/7014A Dated London 19/9/16  
624

"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST"  
Kemp L S. 26.8.16

DATE	A.F. B. 103 Received	PURPORT.	A.F. B. 2090A Received.	REF. NO.
1-9 SEP 1916	M.C. 2	ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION, 26.8.16		
2-10-16		COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS		
3-10-16		WOK asking for D. Cert.		1370
7-10-16		Reply sent 21.10.16		
10-12-16		WOK asking for D. Cert.		1412
18-12-16		D. Cert sent 18/12/16		
		CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF		
		Cable No. 119.6.		
8-2-17		Pub. Trust, Sydney asking for D. Cert		187
13-2-17		"Will" to D.P.M. M.D. 11/1007		
17-4-17		D. Cert forwarded Pub. Trust		
2-9-17		Pub. Trust, Sydney asking for D. Cert ad prior to enlistment none sent of WOK		
		PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. 1500		
		Special P.O. 46/1385 & Booklet re G.I.		
10/9/20		2nd B.L.M. 43/1270 1175		
		16442		
		12407		
		12466		
22 10 20		PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TRANSMITTED TO NEXT OF KIN 31.10.20		51/1253 12
		BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comd 2nd M.D.B.R.M. 50 932		

WAR HISTORY INDEX

"Statement of administrative" by printed card



**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 } 17TH. BATTALION A.I.F. Squadron, }  
or Troop, Battery }  
CORPS } or Company }

Regtl. No. 600 Rank Corporal (Temporary Sergeant)

Name KEMP, L. S.

Died { Date 26th August 1916,  
Place FRANCE,  
Cause of Death \* Killed in action.

Nature and Date of Report Army Form B. 213 dated 26.8.16

By whom made Commanding Officer, 17th. Battalion A.I.F.

\* 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
By whom reported \_\_\_\_\_

State whether he leaves a will or not { (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Not yet to hand.  
(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

*W. J. ...* Lieut.  
For O.C. Australian Records Section,  
3rd. Echelon, G.H.Q., B.E.F.

Station and Date ROUEN, 9.9.16



Court House  
Braidwood, N.S.W.  
3 Oct 1916

The Officer in Charge  
Base Board Office  
Victoria Barracks  
Melbourne

Sir

Having received a telegram  
(through the Postmaster here) signed  
Col. Lucombe dated 20th OCT 1916  
ultimus at Sydney stating,  
"Officially reported that 2nd Co  
acting Sergeant L. S. Kemp 17th  
Batt killed in action 26th August,  
please inform P. B. Kemp" (should have  
been B. P. P. Kemp) Braidwood convey &  
kindly supply me B. P. P. KEMP  
Clark of Petty Sessions & Braidwood  
N.S.W. (I am father of deceased &  
sole revised executor under will)  
with Military Certificate of death to enable  
me to apply for Probate of his will

I am yours obediently  
B. P. P. Kemp

Ernest Kemp  
9/10



C O P Y.

2528

W I L L

In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to my father Beilby Porteous Pell Kemp Clerk of Petty Sessions of Braidwood in the State of New South Wales

(Signed) L.S.KEMP

Private No.600

B.Company

17th.Battalion,

10th.June 1915

A.I.F.

Certified to be a true copy of the Will extracted from the Pay Book of No.600 Sergeant Leslie Smith Kemp of the 17th.Battalion A.I.F.

*W. Murphy*  
17th.Bn. A.I.F.

O.R.Sgt

*A. Pardon* S.Sgt.

19th.Bn.A.I.F.



RM

No. 600,

Corporal (Temporary Sergeant) Leslie Smith Kemp,  
17th Battalion,  
Australian Imperial Force.

~~XXXXX~~ was killed in action,

xx In France.

26th August, 16.

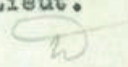
Cable No. C.I.B.L.

399, from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London,  
9th September, 1916, confirmed by Mail from the Commandant, A.I.F.  
Headquarters, dated London, 11th September, 1916, and Army Form  
B 2090A.

20th April, 17.

Lieut.

for



M.M.

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**  
**KIT STORE.**



**110, GREYHOUND ROAD,**  
**FULHAM, LONDON.**  
**S.W.**

Telephone:—HAMMERSMITH, 1899.

Inventory of Effects of ~~the~~ Late 600 T/Sgt. Kemp L.S. 17th Bn. A.I.F.

Forwarded to—

Next of Kin.  
(Father)

Mr. Beilby P. Kemp  
Braidwood  
New South Wales.

*Boorara*

Effects.

Ex. Kit Stores.) 2 Military Books. Gospel, Testament, Spectacles in \$  
Case (Damaged) Silk Handkf. 2 Knee Protectors  
2 Scarves, 8 Stamps, Playing Cards, Wristlet Watch  
Damaged.

No. of Package

*509*  
*509*

Checked by



Memorandum 13 Dec 1916

From B. P. P. Kemp C.P.S.  
By Braidwood

To Major A. M. Keane

Officer in Base Records

Victoria Barracks  
Melbourne

Re memo of 3.10.16  
+ yours of 17.10.16 in reply

Kindly say if official  
confirming documents death  
of Acty Sergeant L. S. Keane  
17th Battalion No 600  
has yet been received so  
I can go to apply for Probate  
of his will



RECORDED  
13 DEC 1916  
RECORDED  
L. G. Gill  
Morgan 10/7/12

In Memory of

Sergeant

# Leslie Smith Kemp

600, 17th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 26 August 1916 Age 24

Son of Beilby Porteus Pell Kemp and Mary Elizabeth Kemp (nee Millbank) of Leslie-Dene, Crane Avenue, Haberfield, New South Wales. Native of Cowra.

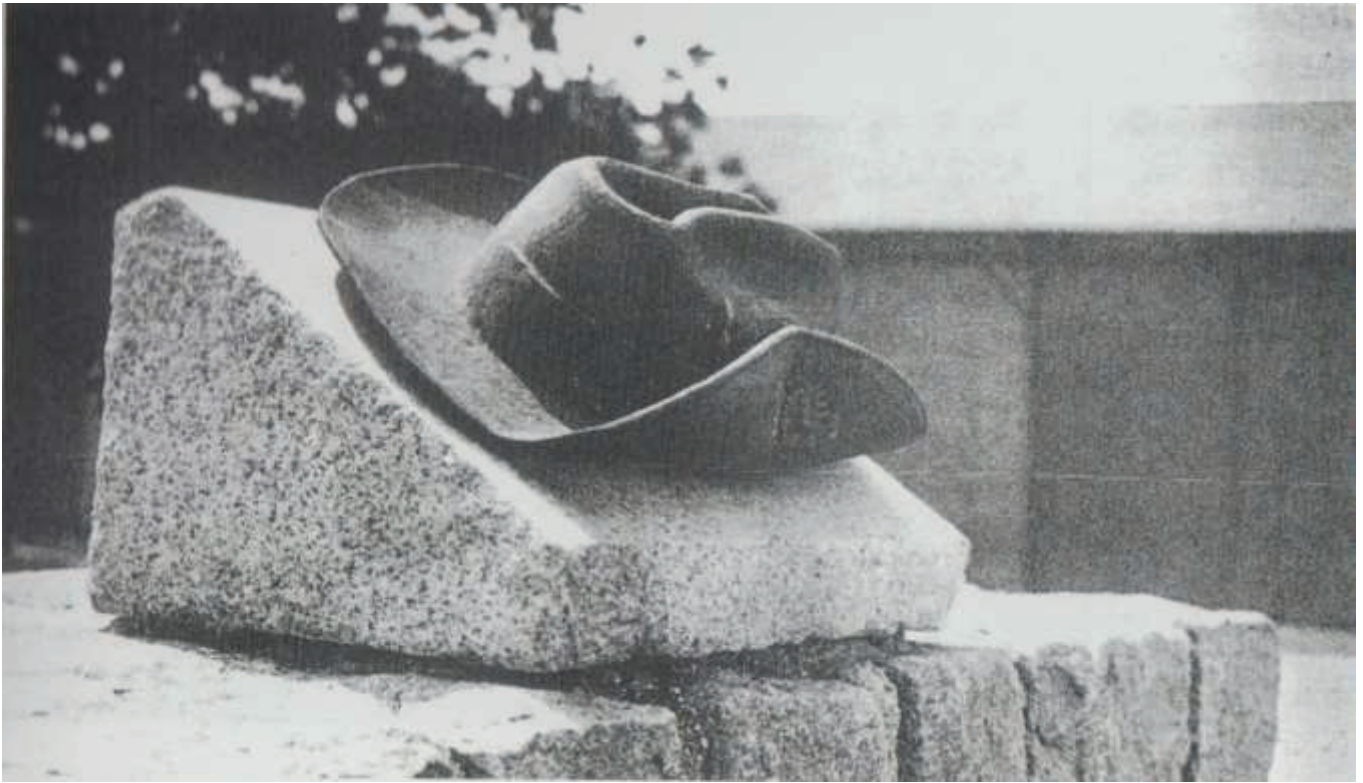
Remembered with Honour

Sunken Road Cemetery, Contalmaison



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission





*One of the most unusual memorials on the Western Front. An original digger hat was bronzed and attached to a stone above a plaque at the village of Bellecourt, east of Bapaume, where the AIF fought two battles in April and May 1917. Braidwood Letters from the Front, by Rosslyn Maddrell.*

## **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