

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

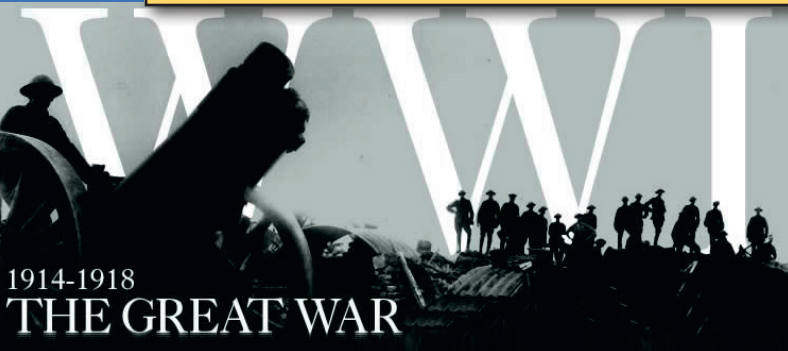
McRAE, Finley Arnold

Service Number: 3658A

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 **Finley Arnold McRae** 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.

Finley Arnold McRae 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

FINLEY ARNOLD McRAE

Service Number: 3658A

Rank: Private

Unit: 54th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 15 May 1917

Place of death: France

Age at death: 27

Place of association: Annandale, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: Finley Arnold McRae's name is located at **panel 159** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

54th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 54th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 2nd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 2nd, the 54th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

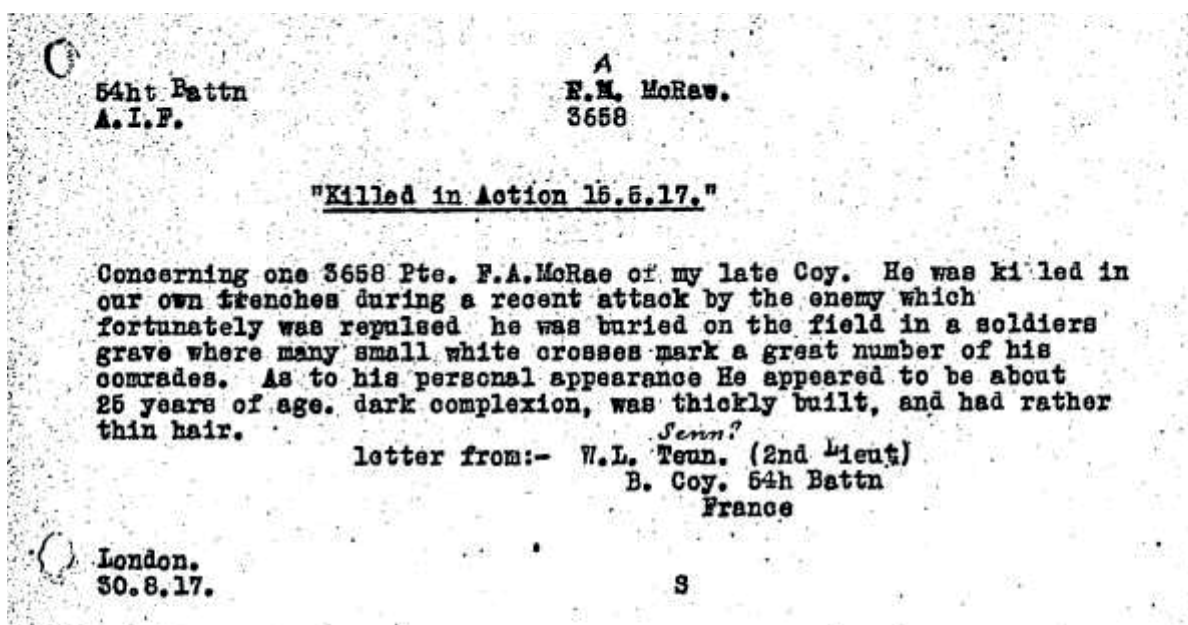
Moving to France in June 1916, the 54th fought its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles, on 19 July. It was a disaster. The 54th was part of the initial assault and suffered casualties equivalent to 65 per cent of its fighting strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

After a freezing winter manning trenches in the Somme Valley, in early 1917 the 54th Battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. It was spared the assault but did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 54th's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. The 14th Brigade took up positions to the north of Villers-Bretonneux and held these even when the village fell, threatening their flanks.

Once the German offensive had been defeated, the Allies launched their own offensive in August 1918. The 14th Brigade did not play a major role in these operations until late in the month, but its actions, including those of the 54th Battalion at Anvil Wood, were critical to the capture of Peronne, which fell on 2 September.

Heavy casualties throughout 1918 and declining enlistments in Australia resulted in a decision in mid-September 1918 to disband several Australian battalions to reinforce others; in the 14th Brigade this battalion was to be the 54th. The men mutinied in response, which resulted in a temporary postponement of the order. The 54th fought its last major battle of the war, St Quentin Canal, between 29 September and 2 October 1918. On 11 October it ceased to exist as a separate entity when it was merged with the 56th Battalion to form the 54/56th Battalion.



Have

30th August. 1917.

54th AUSTRALIANS

McRAE, F.A. 3658

K. May 15th. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in C. Co., I believe IX. Pltn. He came from N.S.W. I had known him about a year, but did not know him well. The number given is correct. He came over with the 8th reinforcement of the 18th Battalion, and was transferred from the 18th to the 54th Battalion in Sqpty. He was about 23 years of age, thick set, about 5ft. 8 or 9" in height, fair, and clean shaven. I saw his grave in the front line opposite to Bullecourt, and about 2 miles in front of Hercul. There is an unfinished dugout left by the Germans close to it. There is a cross with his name, number and Battalion on it. I could point out the place.

Informant: Pte. H. Hepinstall, 4808
54th Australians, C.Co., XII. Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

CMR.

S.

54th A.I.F.

F. A. McRAE. 3658.

K. 15.5.17. Det. D & B.

McRae wrote the address of his mother and gave it to Informant asking him to write to her if he should be killed. He showed me this paper. The Address: Mrs. J. McRae, Police Station, Annandale, Sydney. He made enquiries as to McRae's fate from his mates, but became ill and was sent down before he heard anything definite except that McRae was killed. He thinks McRae is certain to have been buried on the ridge to the south of Bullecourt. He also thinks that Sgt. Maj. Senn of C Co. will be the best authority as to details, which he hopes to get soon when he rejoins.

Reference: Pte. J. J. Strachan, 5447, C Co.
No. 11 Stationary, Rouen. ~~19.7.17.~~

VME.

Written SM, Senn 2.8.17
Written Pte. S. Chann - King

S.

54th Batt. A.I.F.

McRae, F.A. Pte. NO. 3658.
C. Coy.

Killed May 15th 1917, Det. D.B.

I saw him killed by a bullet as we were going over the top at Bullecourt. He was buried in a shell hole where he lay, right close to our trench. A Lieut who knew him well, made a cross with his name and number on it, and placed it on the grave. The Lieut took all his belongings, as he and McRae were great Coy friends in Australia. McRae was on the Lewis Gun in the Coy.

Description: Height. 5-4. Complexion. Fair. Nuggety Build.

Witness. Pte. Martin. L. NO. 4541. C. Coy. 54th. Batt.

Taken At.
14th. T. B. Hurdcoot.
5-9-17.
S.W.

S. Whitmee.
NO. 4. Command Depot.
Codford.

(ad)
S. Whit



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01302

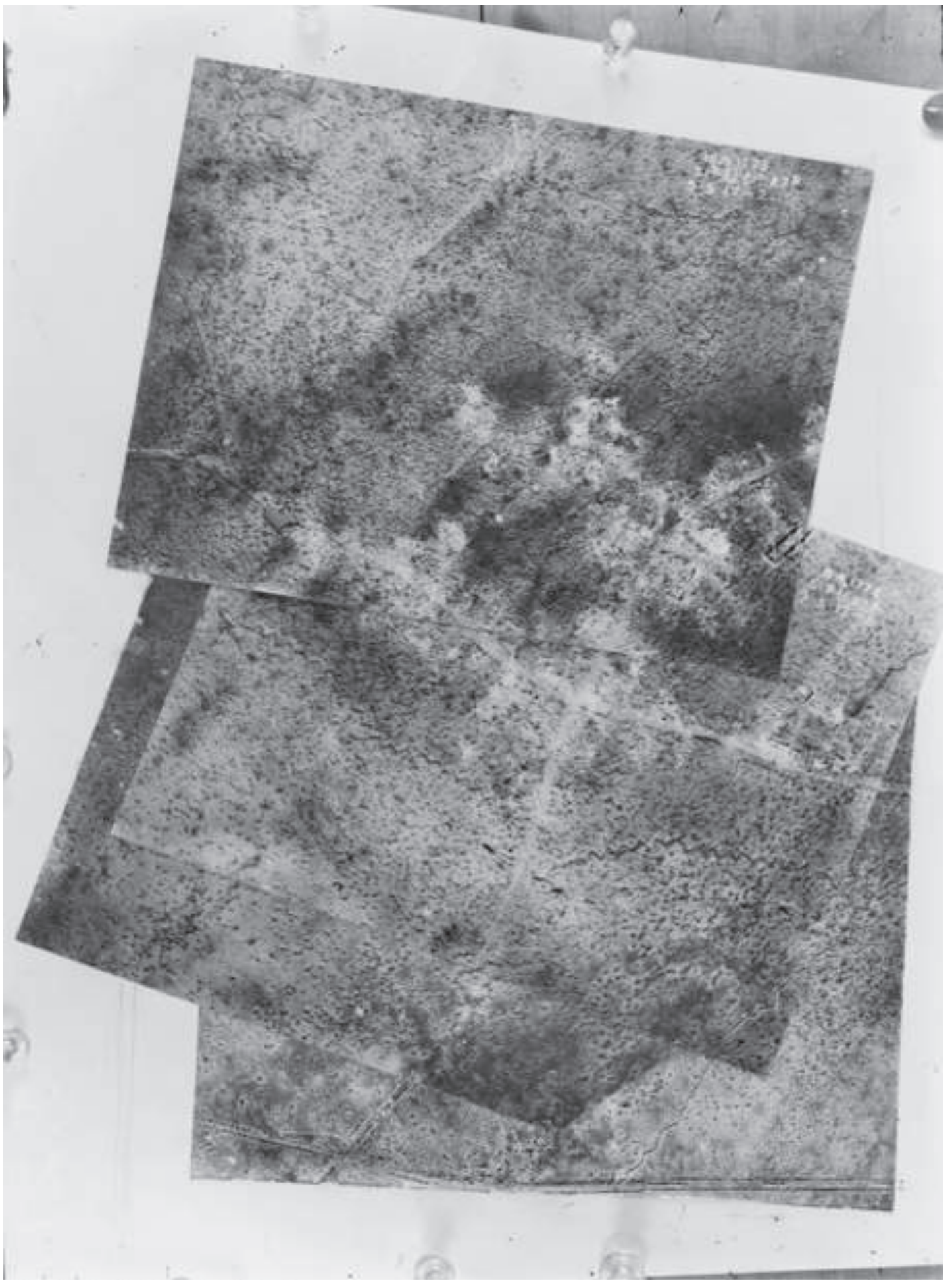
April 1917: France: Picardie, Somme, Bapaume Cambrai Area, Bullecourt: The fallen trees and tangled undergrowth through which the Australians advanced on Louveval Chateau, during the fighting in the Bullecourt sector, in France, in April 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00497

14 May 1917: France: Picardie, Somme, Bapaume Cambrai Area: A view across a wheat field, to the village of Longatte where some time previously the ground had been fought over in the attacks on Bullecourt. At the time the battle for control of Bullecourt continued.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00277

France: Picardie, Somme, Bapaume Cambrai Area, Bullecourt: Aerial view of Bullecourt, May 1917.

2) AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 3658 A.

Name McRAE Juley Arnold

54th BATTALION

Unit 8th Rec. 18 Batts

Joined on 12-8-15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What is your Name? | 1. <u>Juley Arnold McRae</u> |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? | 2. In the Parish of <u>Monga</u> in or near the Town of <u>Madwood</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>NO</u> |
| 4. What is your age? | 4. <u>25 yrs five months</u> |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? | 5. <u>Clerk</u> |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? | 6. <u>No</u> <u>Father T. McRae</u> |
| 7. Are you married? | 7. <u>No</u> <u>Mother (same as above)</u> |
| 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) | 8. <u>Mother Mrs. J. McRae</u> |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? | 9. <u>No</u> <u>45 Bropley of Rhodes NSW.</u> |
| 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurrigible 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> <u>0.70m m/s 18/2/15</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 no previous service</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 smallpox and enteric fever? | 15. <u>Yes</u> |

I, Juley Arnold McRae 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 2 Sept. 1915

J. A. McRae
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.

Enlisted 6/9/15
M. J. ...

J. A. McRae

for Madwood
Officer in Charge
Resident

Statement of Service of No. 3658 Name: Frederick Arnold McKee

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
8th. of the 18th. TAKEN ON STRENGTH	<p>Adm. No. 2. Cas. by Stat. Ferry boat Influenza. 6/5/16.</p> <p>Adm. to Field Ambulance Discharged to Unit for duty from No. 1. Aust. Station Hosp. Ismailia 29/5/16</p>	<p>3/4/16.</p>	<p>P2 1926. 17/4/16</p> <p>P2 2515. 20/5/16</p> <p>P2/0 2579 24/5/16.</p> <p>P2/0 14/3188 11/6/16.</p>	
54th Batt.	TAKEN ON STRENGTH FROM	2nd Bn. 38th		P2/0 11111 11.8.16
	Accidentally Injured. (Injury to Foot.) Franch. 20. 10. 16 Court of Inquiry states "that the Soldier was on Duty and at the time was not to blame." To Hospital Sick		10. 11. 16	Pt II 44/ 5756. 26. 11. 16.
	TAKEN ON STRENGTH of 5th Div. Base Depot	Staples	9. 11. 16	P2. 46/ 6002 11.12.16
	REJOINED UNIT FROM Hosp. 5th D.B.D.	Hosp. 5th D.B.D.	8. 12. 16	Pt. II 47/ 614 11.12.16
				COF R REFERENCE 459 B114.
54th Bn	KILLED IN ACTION.	France	15/7/17	10025/3280 30/5/17 CIBL 1451

SEE COPY A.F. B103 ENCLOSED

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

Transferred to

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

D 29234

No. 3658

Rank

Name

McRAE, F A

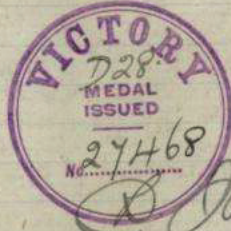
Unit

54th Batt

Casualty

Killed in action 15/5/17

898 21251 2160 A



DATE

A.F. B. 103 Received

PURPORT.

A.F. B. 2090A Received.

REF. NO.

4 JUN 1917

M.O. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION. 15/5/17

14 6-17

COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS

29. 1. 18

D.P.M. 2 M.D. asking District of Enlistment 24/945

12-4-18

PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. ...

4/9/18

"VIII" to D.P.M. 2 M.D. M33/769

WAR HISTORY INDEX

Circular B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched 12/12/19

20 NOV 1922

BRITISH WAR MEDAL and VICTORY MEDAL to Father B. R. P. F. 42

Registered Post No. 8199 G. P. O. Melbourne.

FINAL NOTICE 9/2/1922

"WIRE" LIANS REST.
 Pamphlet sent to Mr J McRae, P. 12. 22

MEMORIAL SCROLL
 To
 Father
 Mr J McRae
 324817
 P. 12. 22

MEMORIAL PLAQUE
 Father (ser 27MD)
 Mr J McRae
 324817
 27. H. 22
 @ 29/11/35

Prop. 19. 12 22
 29/11/35
 REGISTER ORDER FORM despatched
 PS VBM

GEMETERY REGISTER
 m26
 DESPATCHED. 19/12/35

WAR GRATUITY SCHEDULE	PURPOSE.	Regimental No.	AUTHORITY.
McRAE	Finley Arnold	3658	8/18th Bn.
	Other		Unit.
	Emb. at Sydney on H.M.A.T. A.60 "Aeneas", 20/12/15.		
	Pte.		
	3/8/16 Joined 54th Bn from 17/2		BEFO 24/4-16
	3/4/16. Rein. Taken on strength from 8th of 18th		MEFO 7/5-16
	Allotted the Letter "A" to follow their Regt. No.		MEFO 11/1-16
	6/5/16. Adm. to No. 2. Aust Cas. Ctg. Atn. Ferry Post. Influenza		MEFO 12/3-16
	6/5/16. Adm. to Field Amb. from Unit		MEFO 13/2-16
	29/5/16. Disc. to Unit for duty from No. 1. Aust Stat. Hosp.		MEFO 17/2-16
	3/4/16. Tfd to 54th Bn at "oscar". (GD)		MEFO Dtl 84/2-16
	23/10/16. Sent to Hospital sick.	VG.	BEFO 44/6-16
	3/11/16 T.O.S. of 5th Div. base Depot Etaples ex hosp.	VG.	BEFO 46/2-16
	8/12/16. Rejoined unit from hospital ex 5th Div. base Depot	VG.	BEFO 47/1-16
	15.5.17 KILLED IN ACTION		BEFO 25/4-17
	Acc. Injured Scalped foot France 20.10.16. Court of Enquiry states		
	This soldier was on Duty at the time and was not to blame		
	10.11.16.		BEFO 443/-16

54th BATTALION.
Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps ~~54th of 1914-18-attache-Infy~~

Rank PRIVATE Surname Mc R A E Christian Name F. A.

Religion Age on Enlistment years months

Enlisted (a) 12.3.15. 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, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.103, Army Form A. 24, 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.103, Army Form A.24, or other official documents.
4.4.16	O.C. 5th Bde. Details	Transferred to 54th Battalion	MOASCAR	3.4.16	AL 185 B 213
7/4/16	CO 54th Battn	Joined 54th Battalion	FERRY POST	3/4/16	AL 470 01/276
12/5/16	do	Sent to F.A. X Unit	St KATOomba	6/5/16	AL 1917 DO 13/2579
15/5/16	CO. HOSPITAL	Admitted to 14th Field Amb and transferred to No. 2 cC.C.S. "INFLUENZA"	FERRY POST	6/5/16	C 6292
16/5/16	CO HOSPITAL	Adm. No. 2 Q.C.S. Influenza	do.	6/5/16	C.6296
24/5/16	do.	Trans. No. 1 A.S.H. (Infl.)	ISMALIA	6/5/16	R.6395
24/5/17	do.	Adm. No.1 ASH. INFLUENZA	ISMALIA	6/5/16	R.7499
21/6/16	Mem. Roll	Embarked "Ivernia" to join B.B.F.	ALEXANDRIA	21/6/16	AF.9193
17.11.16	CO. 54th Battn.	Joined Unit from England	FRANCE	2/3/16	AQ.10792 DO 24/4143

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged in, or enlisted from Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) Signature, Missing Death, etc.

P.T.O.

Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.103, Army Form A. 24, 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.103, Army Form A.24, or other official documents.
17.11.16	CO. 54th Bn.	Sent to F.A. X Unit	FRANCE	21.10.16	AQ.10792 B.213 DO.44/5802
29.10.16	CO. 14th F Amb	Admitted Injury to Foot	FRANCE	21.10.16	AK 420/46
do.	do.	Trans. to 13th G.C.S.	do.	21.10.16	AK.420/46
27.10.16	CO. 13th CCS	Admitted and transferred to Ambulance Train Injury to Foot	FRANCE	21.10.16	AQ 420/43
27/10/16	No. 12 G.H. (Gen. Hpl)	Admitted Injury to Foot	ROUEN	22.10.16	AK.420/44
24.10.16	No. 9 G.H. (Gen. Hpl)	Admitted ---	ROUEN	24.10.16	AK.420/49
24.10.16	No. 12 G.H. (Gen. Hpl)	Trans. to G. Depot Injury to left foot.	ROUEN	24.10.16	AK.420/48
1/11/16	CO. 2nd C.D. (Gen. Depot)	To Base Depot.	ROUEN	1/11/16	AK 818/28
5/11/16	CO. 5th ABSD	Marched in from Hospital	STAPLES	3/11/16	AQ.9747 B.213 DO.46/6002
21.11.16	CO. 54th Bn.	REPORT OF ACCIDENTAL INJURY; Injury to foot whilst on March to BELLANCOURT, no. blame attached to soldier.	FRANCE	20.10.16	AT.6428 DO.44/5756 A.F.B.117
9/12/16	CO. 5th ABSD	Marched out to join Unit	STAPLES	8/12/16	AQ.12273 B.213 DO.46/6141
8/12/16	CO. 54th Bn.	Rejoined Unit from Hospital	FRANCE	8/12/16	AQ.12301 B.213 DO/28 2389 47/6141
20/5/17	do.	KILLED IN ACTION	FIELD	15/5/17	E/14/20 B.213 VL.358 DO.25/3380

AMBAC SECTION, 3rd BRENCHON G.H.Q.,
British Expeditionary Force.

(SGD) H. L. FERNS
O. i/c Records.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

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

BASE RECORDS OFFICE,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,

MELBOURNE. 12th April 1918.

V.P.

Dear Major,

Forwarded herewith, per separate registered post, one package containing personal effects of the late No. 3658A, Private F. A. McRae, 54th Battalion, received ex "Barambah", as per inventory attached.

(Enclosure.)

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly let me know whether same come safely to hand, by signing and returning the enclosed printed receipt slip.

Yours faithfully,

Registered Packet No. 54471 B. P. O. Melbourne.

J. M. LEAN, Major,
Officer in Charge, Base Records.

D 1827.17.—C.2408.

National Archives of Australia

NAA: B2455, MCRAE F A

D 24839

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 } 54th INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, }
Battery or Company } _____

Regimental No. 3658 a Rank PRIVATE

Surname McRAE Christian Names F.A.

Died { Date 15th May, 1917 Place In the Field FRANCE
Cause of Death* KILLED IN ACTION

Nature and Date of Report Army Form B. 213 dated 20th May, 1917.

By whom made Commanding Officer 54th Infantry 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 (particulars not yet to hand) Date -
By whom reported _____

State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Will not (b) in Small Book (if at Base) _____
a Will or not (c) as a separate document 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.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 G.H.Q.
BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Signature of Officer in charge of Section }
Adjutant-General's Office at the Base }
20th June, 1917.

[Signature] Captain,
O. i/c Records

SHORT FORM OF WILL

A Will in this form has no effect on freehold property in land.

If, while on active service, a Soldier over the age of 14 years wishes to make a short will, he may do so on the opposite page. It must be in his own handwriting and must be signed and dated. It WILL APPLY ONLY TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN FREEHOLD LAND. * The full names and addresses of the persons whom he desires to benefit, and the sum of money or the articles or property he desires to leave to them, must be clearly stated.

The following is a specimen of such a will leaving all to one person:-

In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to _____

(Signature) JOHN SMITH.

Private No. 1658.

Australian Commonwealth Horse.

Date _____

The following is a specimen of such a Will leaving legacies to more than one person:-

In the event of my death I give £10 to _____
and I give £5 to _____
and I give the remaining part of my property to _____

(Signature) JOHN SMITH.

Private No. 1658.

Australian Commonwealth Horse.

Date _____

* Note - If a soldier, being over the age of 21 years desires to make a Will of freehold land, he must do so not in the above form, but in the ordinary way. A Will of freehold land must be signed by the Soldier in the presence of two witnesses, who must also sign the Will as witnesses in the Soldier's presence.

In the event of my death I give the whole of property & effects to _____

my mother Fanny McRae F A McRae Pte No. 3658.

The above certified to be a true copy of page 14 extracted from old form Pay Book of No. 3658. Pte. McRAE, Finlay Arnold. 18th Battalion. A.I.F. the words and figures " In the event of my death I give the whole of

my property & effects to my mother Fanny McRae F A McRae Pte No. 3658 "

being written in indelible pencil the remainder being printed form.

Checked _____ Cpl.

J. E. Hanks
Estates Branch.

Cpl.

A.I.F. Admin. Hdqrs. London.

AGB.

12/6/18.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE.

VICTORIA BARRACKS.

MH

MELBOURNE.

7th October, 1921.

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

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

20 OCT 1921 ATTACHED

Dear Madam,

It is noted that you are registered on the records of the late No. 3658 A Private F.A. McRae, 54th Battalion, as next of kin, but, in order that the instructions under the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" may be properly complied with when disposing of War Medals, &c., I shall be glad to learn whether there are any nearer blood relations than yourself to the above-named, for instance,

XX

XXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX is his father still alive, if so I shall be much obliged for his name and address at your earliest convenience.

The provisions of a Will have no bearing upon the distribution of Medals unless they are specifically mentioned therein, such mementos being handed over in the following order of relationship, unless good and sufficient reasons for varying the procedure are stated:—

- Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister, eldest surviving half-brother, eldest surviving half-sister.

Thanking you in anticipation of the favour of an early reply.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. F. McRae,
Police Station,
ANNANDALE, N.S.W.

Major,
Officer in Charge, Base Records.

D.1562/10.21.—118078—5M.

WK

22nd September, 1922

HEADQUARTERS,
2nd District Base.

22 SEP 1922

On the 7th October 1921, a communication was forwarded to Mrs. F. McRae, of Police Station, Annandale, N.S.W., asking whether the father of the late No. 3658A Private P.A. McRAS, 54th Battalion, is still living and if so, his present address.

So far no reply has been received, and I shall be glad therefore of any action you may be able to take that will obtain the desired information.

The favour of early attention is requested in order that War Medals, etc. may be properly disposed of.

Major,
Officer i/c Base Records.

PEND 21 DAYS.

National Archives of Australia

NAA B2455 MCRAE FA

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier McRae, Finlay Arnold
2. Unit and Number (if known) 3658A 54 BATTN
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial) —
Town (if any) Spanned District Annandale State N.S.W.
4. What was his Birthplace Bradwood N.S.W.
5. Date of Death 15/5/17
6. Place where Killed or Wounded Bullcourt

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling clerk
2. Age at time of Death 27
3. What was his School Annandale
4. What was his other Training nil
5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia. _____
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars) _____
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment— _____
8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship)— brother of Finlay McRae 1st Lt. H. file Rec. D.C.M.
9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information—
Name Janet McRae
Relationship to Soldier Mother
Address 6 Avell av. Rhodes
10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information—
Name Capt. R. Morris 53 BATTN
Address St. Albans

NOTE.—This Folder is Addressed to the Officer in Charge, Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. Please fold in face, and stick down gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.

V



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I (1)

Thomas McRae
Carroll Avenue Rhodes, do solemnly
 and sincerely declare (2) that the answers as given by me hereunder
 regarding 3658a Pte. F.A. McRAE, 54th Bn. are true to the best of my
 knowledge and belief.

1. (Q)—Was the soldier a married man? If so, is his widow still alive—and what is her name and address?
 (A)— No
2. (Q)—If not, are there any children? If so, what is the name, age, and address of the eldest living son?
 (A)— No
3. (Q)—If not, what is the name, age, and address of the eldest living daughter?
 (A)— No
4. (Q)—If there are no relations as aforementioned, is the soldier's father alive, and what is his full name and address?
 (A)— Yes Thomas McRae Carroll Av. Rhodes
5. (Q)—If not, is his mother alive, and what is her full name and address?
 (A)—
6. (Q)—If not, has he any brothers living—if so, what is the name and address of the eldest?
 (A)—
- (Q)—If not, has he any sister living—if so, what is the name and address of the eldest?
 (A)—

And I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1911, conscientiously believing the statements contained therein to be true in every particular.

(3) x Thomas McRae
 Declared at Rhodes the fourteenth
 day of October 1912.

Before me,

(4)

Chas. V. McSwaine

(5)

Justice of Peace

1. Here insert name, address and occupation of person making the declaration.
2. Here insert matter declared to. Where the matter is long it should be set out in numbered paragraphs.
3. Signature of person making the declaration.
4. Signature of person before whom the declaration is made.
5. Here insert title of person before whom the declaration is made.

NOTE.—(1) Any person who wilfully makes a false statement in a Statutory Declaration is guilty of an indictable offence, and is liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for four years.

(2) A Statutory Declaration may be made before:—

- (a) A Police Stipendiary or Special Magistrate or a Justice of the Peace, or
- (b) A Commissioner for Affidavits, or
- (c) A Commissioner for Declarations.

19

War Medal etc to Father
 Office of Page Recorder
 10/10/12

DECEASED
 SECTION
 OCT 20 1922
 RECEIVED

In Memory of

Private

Finley Arnold McRae

3658A, 54th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 15 May 1917 Age 27

Son of Thomas and Fanny McRae, of Cavell Avenue, Rhodes, New South Wales. Born at Sydney.

Remembered with Honour
Villers-Bretonneux Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Clyde Road, Monga early 1900s McRae's homestead and bullock team.

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