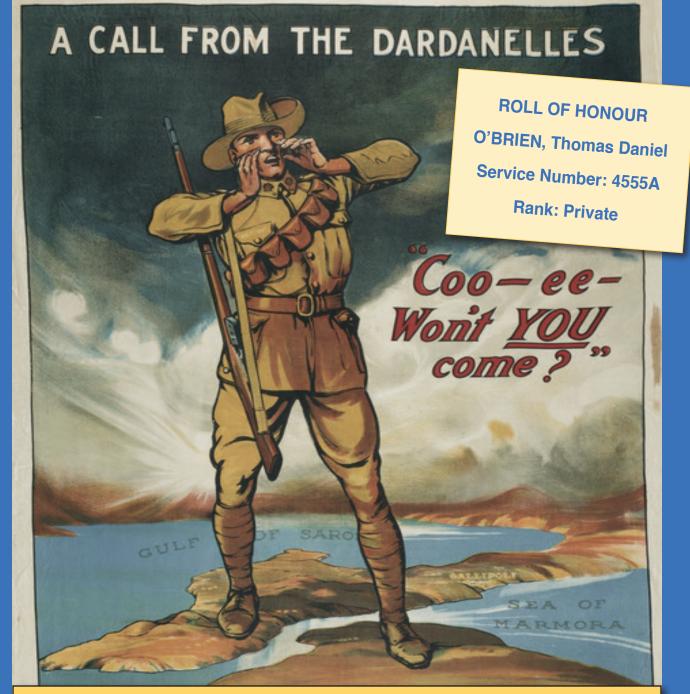
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"



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.





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 **Thomas Daniel O'Brien**, 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.

Thomas Daniel O'Brien died for his country, for you and for me. Please pause a moment to remember him.

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.



Lest We Forget.

ROLL OF HONOUR

THOMAS DANIEL O'BRIEN

Service Number: 4555A Rank: Private Unit: 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion Service: Australian Army Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918 Date of death: 25 July 1916 Place of death: France Age at death: 26 Place of association: Braidwood, 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: Thomas Daniel O'Brien's name is located at panel 172 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

Bombardment of Pozieres, July 1916 by Frank, Crozier



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

1918 France: Picardie, Somme, Albert Bapaume Area, Pozieres Area, Pozieres: Depicts soldiers standing in the right foreground, watching the artillery bombardment of Pozieres, France. The war damaged landscape contains barbed wire, shell holes and debris while shell bursts and explosions can be seen on the horizon. Of this work the original accompanying text noted; 'The village of Pozieres held up the left flank of the Anglo-French offensive in the first battle of the Somme in July 1916. After being attacked several times without success it became a major objective. The subsequent fighting, in which the 1st and 2nd Divisions were involved, was notable for massive artillery bombardments from both sides, the ferocity of which had never before been experienced by Australians. On no part of the front in France were German bombardments more severe than at Pozieres. The village guickly disappeared into rubble; the surrounding ground was churned and tortured until it resembled a choppy sea; men, weapons, equipment and defence positions were literally buried; approach routes were lined with dead'. Frank Crozier (1883-1948) worked as a decorator and clerk and attended the National Gallery of Victoria School in Melbourne from 1905 to 1907. In March 1915 he enlisted with the 22nd Battalion AIF, serving in Egypt and at Gallipoli. In France he served under Brigadier- General Gellibrand

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who asked Crozier to make sketches of the Battle of Pozieres. He was trained in camouflage work in London in 1918 and in September the same year was appointed Official War Artist. Following the First World War he worked for the Australian War Records Section in London. He returned to Australia in 1919 and his commission was terminated in 1920. In 1936 he was appointed to the Australian War Memorial for 6 months and during the Second World War he worked in a munitions factory at Maribyrnong in Victoria.

Recruiting August 1915

Messrs. A. Ritchie, R. Sharpe, S. Lupton, G. Callan (Ballalaba), G. A. Batty, M. Kain, E. Rogers, a gathering of friends at H. J. Stephens of Manar to farewell Len Taylor, Allan Stephens and Robert Bopping, Messrs. T. O'Brien jun., R.A. Crandell, T. Keyte, Gordon Fisher and A. Watt jun.

The districts all had farewell get togethers for the departing recruits and a small gift with local dignitaries there to do the honours and the local band playing as the bus left for Goulburn with the new recruits off to fight, in countries far different to the country they represent and learned to be proud of being an "Aussie", and the respect other countries have of them as soldiers.

From The Braidwood Dispatch and published in Braidwood Letters from the Front, by Rosslyn Maddrell.

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7-11 Company van Pal Tiones Fr 21809 STRALIAN MILITARY FORCES. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL. Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad. O'BRIEN THOMAS DANIEL No. 4533 Name REIN-2-BAILIN =14 Unit 1915 Joined on Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation. 1 Thomas Daniel O. Brier L What is your Name? 2. In the Parish of in or near the Town of adelong what Parish or Town were you born ! . . . in the County of . you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.-If the latter, papers to be shown.) S. Are natural leas 4. What is your age! 5. What is your trade or calling ! tecle 6 Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, Jean where, to whom, and for what period ? 7. Are you married? 8 Who is your next of kinY (Address to be stated) ... raidure 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Powert ... no School Cadeto 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous 110. 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's 12. Service! If so, on what grounds? 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 -Jes. 24. eight shillings per day. 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and outerin fever? J. Post. 1. Thomas Dance O'Fren 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 Fornes of the Commonwealth of Australia within or bey ond the limits of the Commonwealth. - And I further agree to allot not loss than two fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during three fithe my securing for the support of my wife Date Quy 2.4th 1915 FLOOTEN Signature of person enlisted. * This share to be anomial where escenary and should be strick on in the case of samarial new is widowers without children ander 18 years of age

DEVE OK Transferred to 10911 D AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE The state of the 4.5552 No. O'Brien y Ple Name Rank 1st Pioneuro late 200 Balt Unit Casualty 25 7 16 / Celled in action Cell London 259/8429 327-50 A.F. B. 2080A Racelved. A.F. B. 103 Received PURPORT. DATE BEF. NO. COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS 164 - 5 - M_ H. C 5-16 Not asking for Aftert Tarchanglette for AMP. 8 16 25 248 31. Mal Socy acting for &/ Cart 10 16 12/20 sit-OONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF 16 31 10 8.816 Oable Ho wet. find NON -1 25/8/18 31 10 16 Non aske apprets Sec. 241/4 11 achtme 26 201 11/16 11 Smit R AMP Swy asking sal. 17 1 2012 Sectarce 276 REGNAL EFFECTS EX Girmalar B.R.M. 46,1363 & Boulist ra Gravas dospatched PL 12 19K SIASI wer 1.180 WAR HISTORY INDE "WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST." 1994/15 TAR na 28.16 BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Boundt MED. B. R. M. 53/881 LIST.

Army Form B. 2090a.

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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.

CORPS (late 14	th. Reinforcements Company
Regtl. No. 6555a	Rank Private
Name	N. Thomas Daniel.
Date 20th.	July 1916.
Died Place FRANC	E.
Cause of Death*	ETLLED IN ACTION.
Nature and Date of	Report Army Form B213, 28th, July 1926.
* Specially state if killed in action, m	Commanding Officer 1st. Australian Divisional Fioneer Battalion. r died from wounds mentured in action, or from Manase day to field operations or to fallgue, privation or some while on military daty, or from injury while on military daty.
Place Not ;	yet to hand.
Burial Date	ie in the second se
By whom reporter	1 -
	(a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Not yet to hand.
State whether he leaves a will or not	(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 Epeditionary 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.

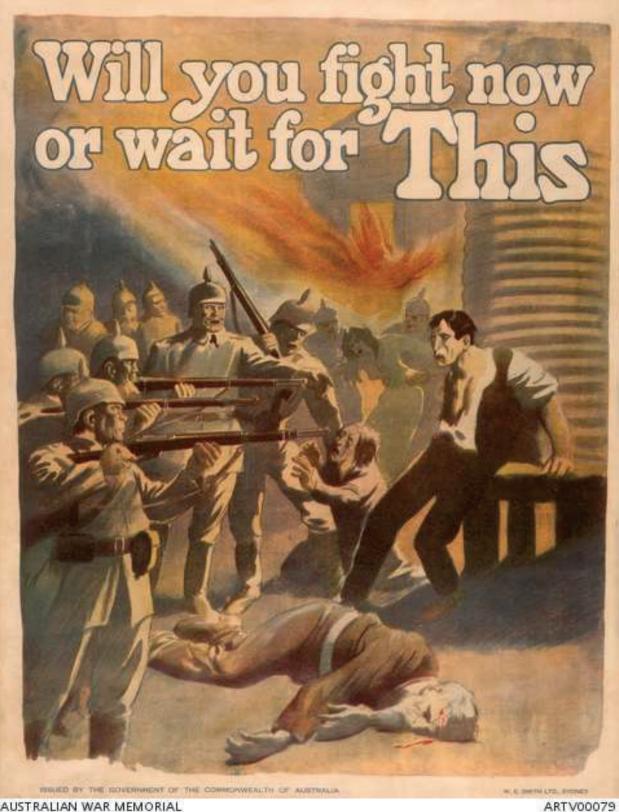
Signature of Officer in charge of Section Adjutant-General's Office at the Base

Angale Captain, Of Officer 1/s. Records.

Station and Date ROUEN, FRANCE. 27.9.1916, ANZAG SECTION and Echelon, G.H.Q. S.E.F.

15 Roneer Im . a. 1459-15-6, Army Form B. 103. 4555 Casualty Form - Active Service, Regiment or Corps 14th. Rein, 2nd. Batt'n. Regimental No. 4555 Rank The. Name reen Enlisted (a) 24/ 1/2 Terms of Service (a)_ Service reckous from (a). Date of promotion to ? Date of appointment Numerical position on roll of N.C.O's. present rank to lance rank Extended Re-engaged_ Qualification (b) Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case. REPORT Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213. Army Form A. 36 or other official documents From whom received Pince Date Date Proceededte jo join B.E.F. Alexandria 29/3/16 A.P.694 4/4/Is C.C. Trps "Transylvani Marseilles 4/4/16 11. Disembarked at 8/6/16 lat Au Proceeded to Reinford D.H.Bep Mo.1 Pioneer Battalio Staples 8/6/16 A.D. 70 0.35/ 524-00 1 ARS List 4/19/16 allod 5/1/16 well Cherry do B213 enal orwarded leadquar. ourde Captan (a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into St
(b) e.g., Signaller, Shosing Smith, &c., &c., also special qualification D. A will be entered M. S. No. 4555A Private Thomas Daniel O'Brien, 1st Pioneer (late 2nd) Battalion. Australian Imperial Force. XXXXX was killed in action in Trance XXX 25th July 16 Cable No. C.I.E.L. 259, from the Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 9th August 1916, confirmed by Mail from the Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 18th August 1916, and Army Form B 2090A. 22nd January 17 Lieut., for Majo

Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society. WEST AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT N. S. TELEPHONE 2008 AGLE CHAMBERS. PERTH OUT 14 1916 m Charge Base Records Weltona Barracks PISOCIAEN Melbourne an you advise me whether 4555 private I. D. Marien First Owneers late second battalion has been killed in action in France . I cannot get the Information from the focal military officed cutates to \$ 50 have been signed by Ron & murphy Captain and a Selegram signed bol furcombe 63 Victoria Danack melbourne which indecates that the soldies was killed in France in Sul, last tomed you please forward Death Certificale to this Office by return ma So as to enable us to discharge our obligation to the relatives of the deceased he was a Unancial member of our Society and Obelonged to Al many Branch Kalgoorlie We feel proud of him as he died a most glorioris death Jighting for his King and Country S Mortan 19/10



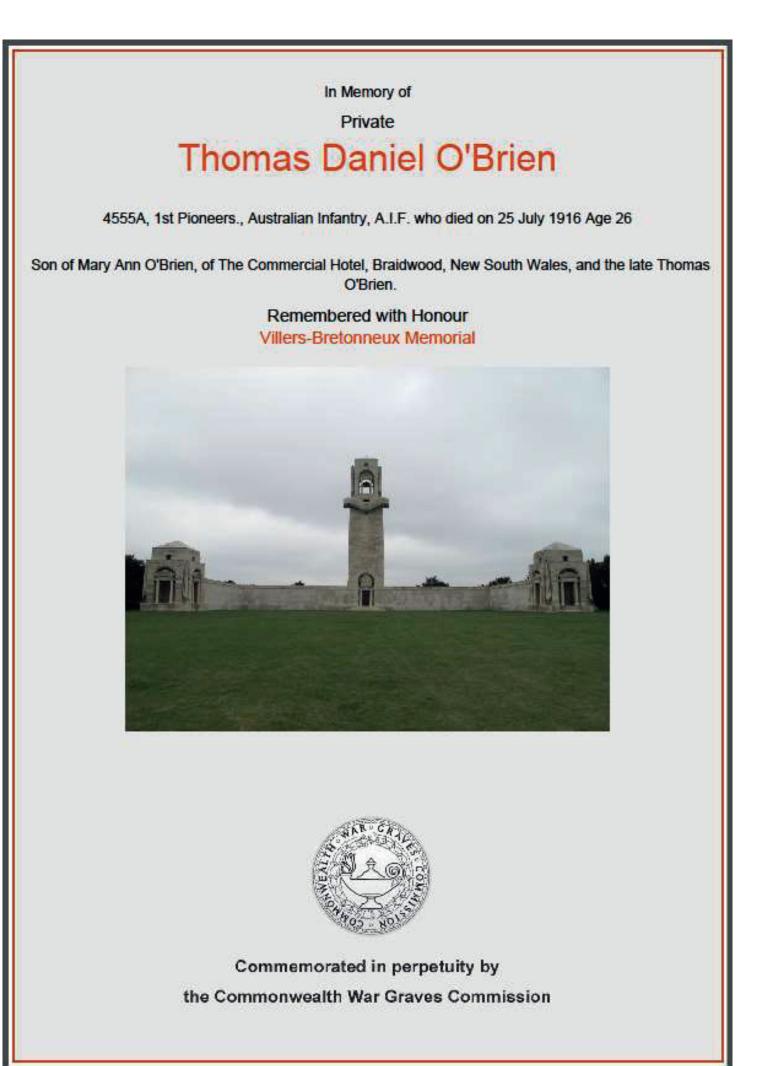
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Australian First World War recruitment poster. This poster was part of the First World War Australian Government Recruiting Kit. Depicts a group of armed German soldiers threatening a young man pinned against a corrugated iron water tank. The other victims in this scene include an elderly man in the foreground. who has been shot, an elderly woman on her knees pleading with their captors, and a young woman in a state of half-undress who is being restrained by two German soldiers in the background. Recruitment posters were prolific in Australia throughout the First World War. Australia relied solely on voluntary recruits to serve in the AIF. Compulsory military service, or conscription, for eligible men was in force in Australia from 1911, however, these forces were for home defence and could not be used to serve in a war overseas. Norman Lindsay (1879-1970) was a painter, draughtsman, illustrator, cartoonist, printmaker, writer and sculptor. He joined the Sydney 'Bulletin' magazine as a staff artist, 1901-09, 1910-23 and 1932-58. During the First World War he produced jingoistic cartoons and pro-conscription posters. The fourth of the series of six posters by Lindsay constituting the last nation-wide Australian recruiting campaign. This poster in particular illustrates how desperate the recruiting authorities were - the suggestion that Australia herself was threatened by an invading

German army was ludicrous.

COMMERCIAL * HOTEL, BRAIDWOOD, 20th Oclober 1916 The Afreer in Charge " 1 Spill Base Records Melbourse. Dear liv, Referring to your communication T. O'BRIEN PROPRIETOR. of the 31° august lash relative to the official notification of death also military artificate (9. D. O'Brisn Nº 11555), I have to state that so far I have received no further reply. It may be that this matter has been merlooked, particularly as I have received information, regarding the death of my low, from the Officer commanding his required - also from the Chaptain (Res. R. a Marris) An early reply. Therefore will be appreciated, as business mathers warrant Sams. Your of fully isa 23.06T.18M

COMMERCIAL * HOTEL, TELEPHONE IN. BRAIDWOOD 20 Mor 1916 The Officer in Charge asy & cords T. O'BRIEN. PROPRIETOR. Dear Sir ome time previously I received letter from Chaptan R. a Maria (Trance) stating that he had received from the peaches property of lake T. D Marin (M. 4555) and was forwarding Same to Head quarters. of his belongings, and if you have received any word of them I would he pleased of you will communicate with me perhaps you may not have heard of these articles yet but it Such matters are reported to your and afterwards forwarded, you might gheat Thanking you Young fully in





The Commercial Hotel, Wallace Street, Braidwood (Photo: National Library of Australia).

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 RROWN 14 8 **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