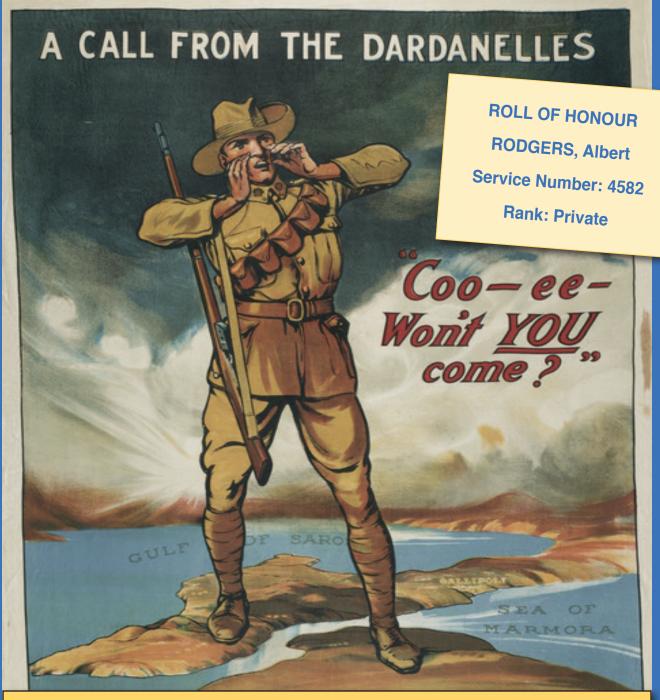
# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 **Albert Rodgers**, 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.

**Albert Rodgers** 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.

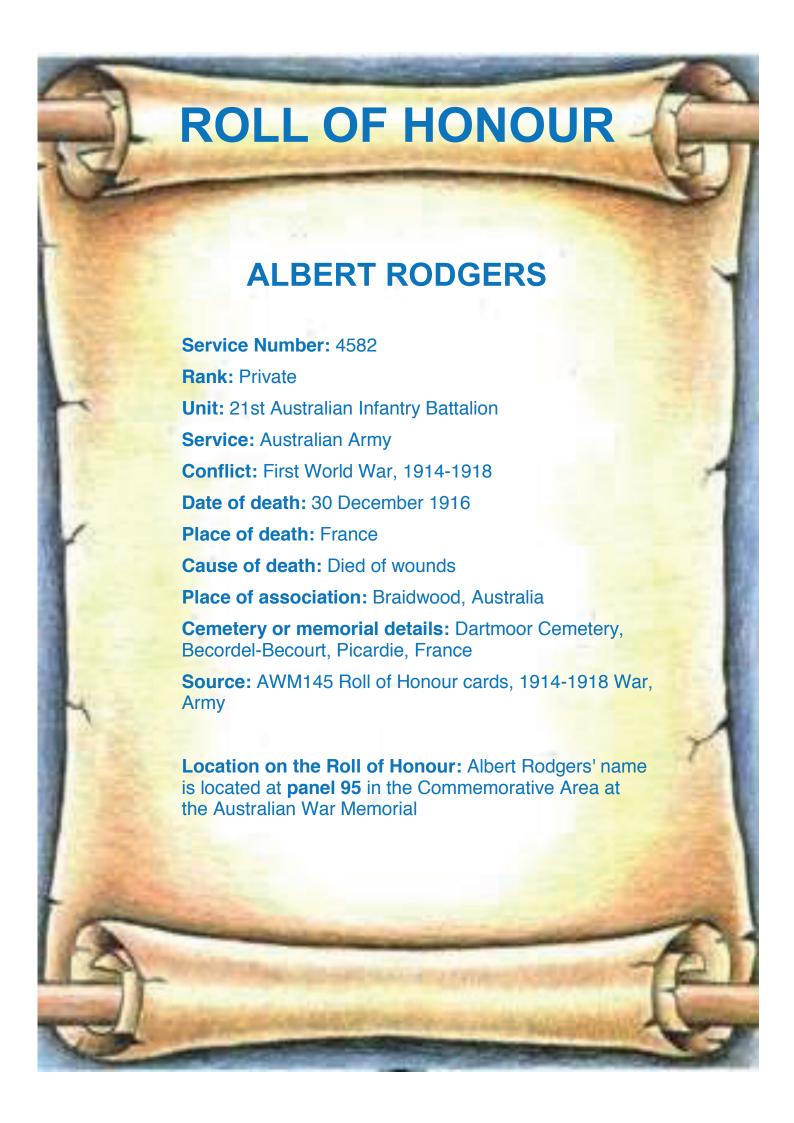
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





## 21st Australian Infantry Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.

The 21st Battalion arrived in Egypt in June 1915. As part of the newly raised 2nd Australian Division, it proceeded to Gallipoli in late August. It was an eventful trip, the battalion's transport was torpedoed near the island of Lemnos and had to be abandoned. The battalion finally landed at ANZAC Cove on 7 September. It had a relatively quiet time at Gallipoli, as the last major Allied offensives had been defeated in August.

After evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the 21st Battalion arrived in France in March 1916. In April, it was the first Australian battalion to commence active operations on the Western Front. During the battle of Pozieres it was engaged mainly on carrying duties, but suffered its heaviest casualties of the war during the fighting around Mouquet Farm.

In early May 1917, the battalion fought at Bullecourt, and then in October participated in the 3-kilometre advance that captured Broodseinde Ridge, east of Ypres. Like the rest of the AIF the battalion saw out the year recuperating from the trials of the Ypres sector.

After helping to blunt the German spring offensive of April 1918, the 21st battalion participated in the battles that would mark the beginning of Germany's defeat ' Hamel, Amiens and Mont St. Quentin. The fighting for Mont St Quentin resulted in the battalion's only Victoria Cross, awarded to Sergeant Albert Lowerson.

Like many Australian battalions, the 21st could barely muster a company after the 1918 offensive. It was ordered to disband and reinforce its sister battalions. In response, the men of the 21st mutinied on 25 September 1918. By the end of that day, the order was withdrawn, and the battalion fought its last battle at Montbrehain on 5 October. The following day it became the last Australian battalion to withdraw from active operations on the Western Front.

The 21st Battalion was disbanded on 13 October 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

00564

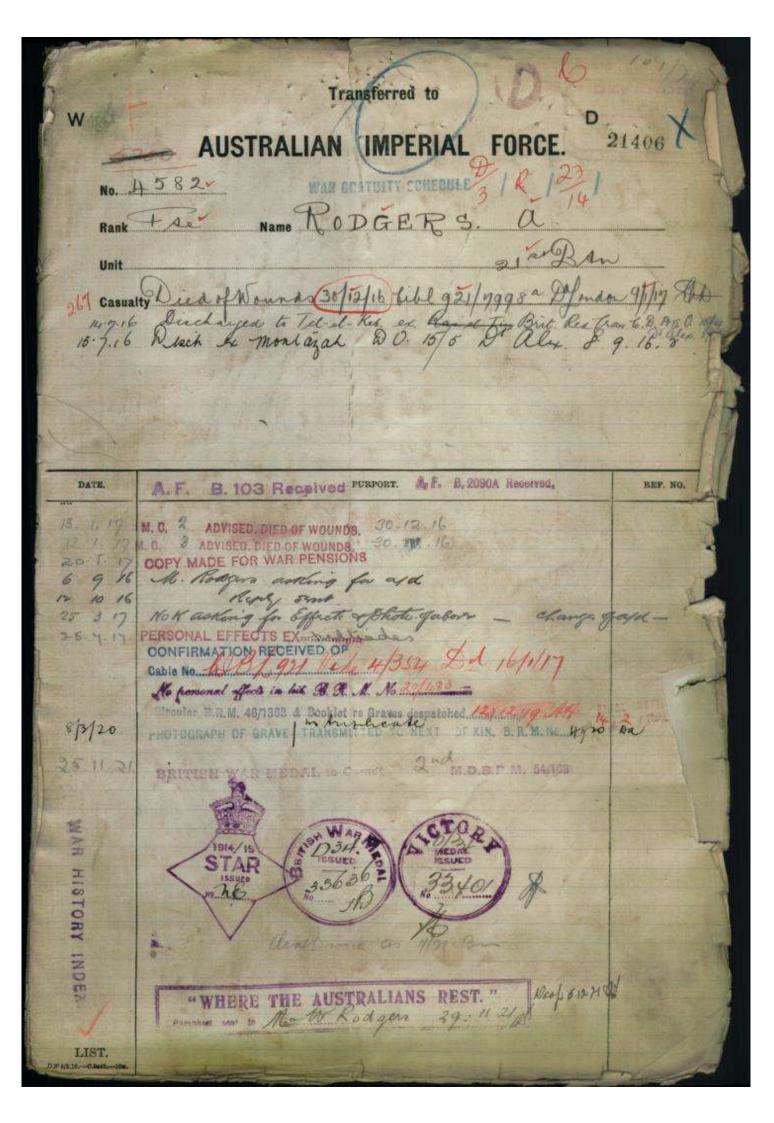
December 1916: France: Picardie, Somme, Albert Bapaume Area, Pozieres Area, Mouquet Farm: A view of the old battlefield of Mouquet Farm, in December 1916, looking from Kay Trench. Visible in the foreground is a sandbagged dugout.



MILITARY FORCES.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Name RODGERS	S albert
4582 Unit 10/14	7 11-1212 POW
Questions to be put to the Pers	on Enlisting before Attestation.
What is your Name!	, Rodgus albert
	2. In the Parish of in
In or near what Parish or Town were you born!	near the Town of Purdused
	in the County of h. Lwales
Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject! (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. hatural bonn British su
What is your Age!	e 3 et yro 8 mos
What is your Trade or Calling !	5 Laborer
Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6 %o
Are you married!	7. 20
Father (	8. William Rodgers
Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	wallace &
	Braidwood.
Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	. ho helwar
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. ho
Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, 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. ho:
Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12 ys.
Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service 1 If so, on what grounds 1	13. No
For married men, soldowers with children, and soldiers who	
are the sole support of heidened moder.  Do you inderstand that no separation allowance usil be issued in respect of your survice beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day?	14.
Are you propared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enterio fever?	15. Yes
a albert dodgers	
3,	do solemnly declare that the above answers made
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ne support of my wife and children.	and any out to
n. 21 1. 16	1.01
Date	Signature of person enlisted.



Sheet 1

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Regiment or Corps	21st BA	TTAL IONE	11th Rfts.

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Religion		Age on Enli	stment	years	months.
Enlisted (d	a) 18/1/16 T	erms of Service (e) 1 & 4 months S	Service reckons fro	om (a) 18	/1/16
Date of pr	romotion to present r	ank Date of appe	ointment to lance	rank	
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Extended		ite	to		
				Sign	ature of Officer.
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		Disembarked			
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17/6/16	do	To No.5 Hospital train	Canal Zone	16/6/16	R.9316
7/6/16	3rd Aust Gen	Sprained Ankle .Admitted	Heliopolis	16/6/16	R.9314
25/6/16	Hosp	Pransferred to Montaza	Alexandria	24/6/16	R.9642.
5/6/16	Brit_Red Cros	s Sprained ankle Admitted	Montazah	24/6/16	R.9543
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3/8/16 Nom.Roll Proceeded to join B.E.F.

per H.E.T.Franconia

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(b) Signalier, Sheeing-Scatth, fac. ament or enforment will be canared.

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8/8/16 Nom.Roll

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[P.T.O.

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## FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090a.

Lieut,

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REGIMENT 21st Ba	ttalion A.I.F Squadron, Troop, 11th Reinforcements	
Regimental No. 4582		-
Surname R O D G E	R S Christian Names A	
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All private document will is found it should be at Any Information receive reported to the War Office as A duplicate of this Re or Field Disbursing Office.	a and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if once forwarded to the War Office.  Note as to verbal expressions by a deceased solution of his wishes as to the disporal of his estate shoul soon as possible.  Specially, the Fixed Centre Paymanter at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Ladian Expeditionary F as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from tall Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.  ECHELON, G. H.Q. B. E.F.	Id be
Date Date	Adjunat-General's Office at the Pase ) Officer 1/c Records.	Lieu



# WARRANT.

No. Trooper Rodgers, albert engaged to serve in the australian Imperial Torces

under the Defence Act, 1903-11, having deserted from the said Corps of

the 20th Decr. 1915 I hereby direct that the be apprehended

and conveyed to the Kead Q. a . I to be dealt with according

to law.

GIVEN under my hand this

the year of our Lord One

thousand nine hundred and as select

Wellan Colonel

Ear Secrit March 20 19 have been adversed by the sed fass Locally Sallon Kouse 115 Kett IT Lydien to write to for se my Boor Son pruste allet Stores who died of wounds on the 30 or Dep. M An Haidly goracerd on to me two mother Mary Hogers' sug thur Selong to him so hay nothing in the hoold & hold as a Reep Dalle. In for how a Shoto a him & would be so Bleased to have it so I never Lad a Shoto of him Tatter here

Mes Etlest Son William Stofers has been to to Oront asunded & From the See me or gone back speen taking ho Efdest Low with him had a shots on termseld of Son Sent do see to day or 21 of only could get one They other Door. Col adill de Do glad. Dopeng to hear Land earliest o tours Mespeols Mary 870a Stralicen by Draidus

Draidwood Aufurt 1 4 1914 Lo Offices in Charge Enclosed recept for package that articles stated on the recept enclosed it is a sad momento of any dear long 48 am lex trencely thankful or receiving Them Yours Gratefally " Polly Gragers



Dear Madam,

8503

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No.4582, Private A. Rodgers, 21st Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died at 1st Anzac M.A.C. Dressing Station, France, on 30th December, 1916, of wounds received in action, and was buried in Dartmore Cemetery, near Becordel, 12 miles South East of Albert, France, on 31st December, 1916.

These additionalseetails are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connection with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Yours faithfully.

Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. P. Rodgers, Araluen Road, BRAIDWOOD: N.S.W.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. KIT STORE.



110, GREYHOUND ROAD, FULHAM, LONDON.

Telephone :- HAMMERSMITH 1899.

SW

W.6.

Inventory of Effects of The Late 4562 Pto Rodgers.A. 21st Btn A. I.F.

Forwarded to— MOTHER.

Ars P.Redgers.
Wallen Street.
Braidwood.
J.S.W.

Effects.

3rd Echelon ) No. 7364 ) Identity disc, Comb. Steel mirror, Cotton bag.

No. of Package D/S.

9614

Checked by

---- 4790.

MK/AS.

21st March, 1923

The Deputy Commissioner of Pensions,
Department of hepatriation,
Chalmers Street,
SYDNA, MSW.

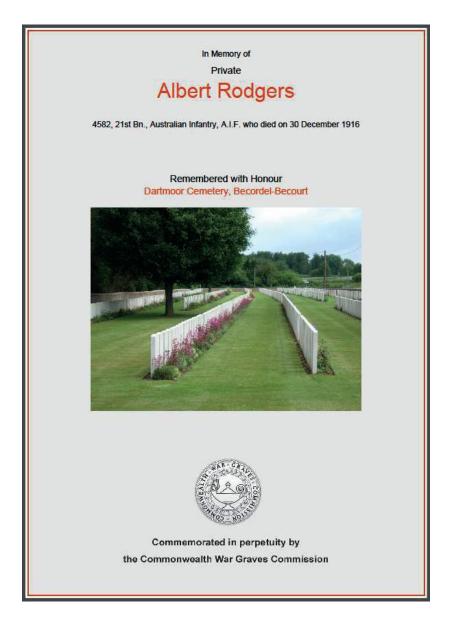
I shall be glad to learn whether any war pension has been granted to Mrs. Polly Rodgers, widowed mother of the late No. 4582 Private A. HODGERS, 21st Battalion, if so, have you any later address for her than:-

Areduen load, Braidwood, New South Wales.

as communications so addressed have been returned to this office unclaimed. Failing anything later, kindly state at what Post Office the pension (if any) is being paid, in order that I may get into truch with the Postmaster there on the subject.

The favor of early attention is requested in order that war medals, etc., may be disposed of as early as possible.

Officer i/c Base 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

AERROWN