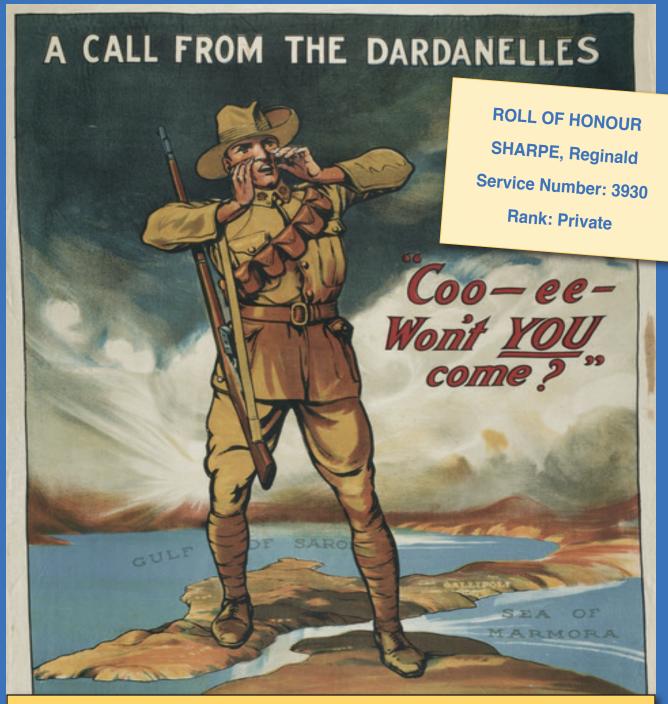
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 **Reginald Sharpe**, 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.

Reginald Sharpe 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.

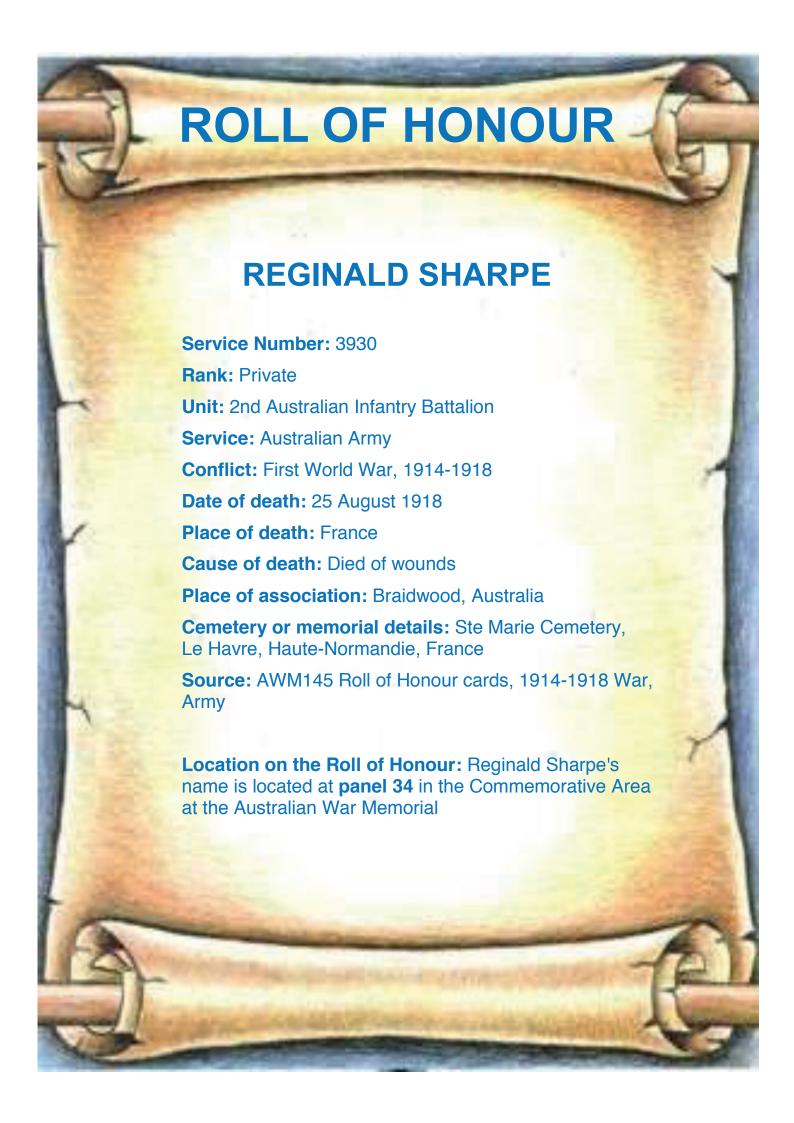
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





2nd Australian Infantry Battalion



Colour Patch 2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and was led by Lieutenant Colonel G. F. Braund, who was killed in action nine days later. On 6 August, the 1st Brigade led the charge at Lone Pine. Among the dead was the commander of the 2nd Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel R. Scobie, killed during a Turkish counter-attack. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December 1915.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

In early 1917 the German Army withdrew to the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line. As the 2nd Battalion advanced towards these defences in April 1917, Private T. J. Kenny attacked several enemy machine gun positions with grenades, earning the 2nd Battalion's only Victoria Cross. The battalion spent much of the rest of 1917 fighting in increasingly horrendous conditions around Ypres.

In 1918 the battalion returned to the Somme valley and helped to stop the German spring offensive in March and April. The battalion subsequently participated in the Allies' own offensive, launched to the east of Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and Empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The battalion continued operations until late September. At 11 am on 11 November, 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919.

Between November 1918 and May 1919 the men of the 2nd Battalion returned to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.



Reginald Sharpe's Cross at the St. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre,



REGINALD SHARPE #3930

Private Reg Sharpe writing to his mother July 16th "Somewhere in France."

I am now in the trenches, I am doing my bit, and it is just like hell at times.

They gave us a great greeting when we were coming to the trenches, but they only got a couple of our boys. I tell you it put a funny feeling in me, I was thinking of you all at home, but as soon as I got to the firing line I was alright. It is very cold here, but I have plenty of warm clothes. Sitting in my dug-out the other evening when they called out for Private Sharpe to come out. I got a great shock to find it was Charlie, so we had a great old talk. He is going to get me into his company as soon as he can, so that will do me. There was a bosker air fight this morning, three of them came down - two Germans and one of ours. It was pretty to watch they came right over our lines. I suppose you have seen by the papers about the Russians, they are just starting to fight now.

Mrs M. Sharpe, Ryrie Street Braidwood received the following letter from Colonel Sherbon:

It is with sincere regret I have to inform you that your son, No. 3930, Private Reginald Sharpe, 2nd Battalion, A.I.F., is officially reported to the 2nd General Hospital, on 25th August, 1918.

I am directed to convey to you the deep regret and sympathy of their Majesties the King and Queen and the Commonwealth Government in the loss that you and the army have sustained by the death of this soldier.



Correspondence shared by the Sharpe Family with The Braidwood Dispatch and published in Braidwood Letters from the Front, by Roslyn Maddrell

Cortified King AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

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Name SHARPE Begginald Unit 12TH REINFS., 2ND BATTIN Joined on 19. 8. 15

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D 50/2 (4)	2. In the Parish of in or
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born ?	near the Town of Braidwood
	in the County of Dumberland 190
	11.
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the	31 almal Born
latter, papers to be shown.)	103/12 M
4. What is your age?	4 19 110 Mears
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. Lahomer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so,	6 40
where, to whom, and for what period?	400
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8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	refer of search over
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9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power!	9.6.60
 Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incor- 	
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tion of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servi- tude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace	
from the Navyt	
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,	11 40
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	12/1/80
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13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's	13 No
Service? If so, on what grounds?	18
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will	14.1/5
be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach	
eight shillings per day.	15.1/50
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enterio tover?	15. 6
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by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing	do solemnly declare that the above answers made
Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or bey	ond the limits of the Commonwealth.
*And I further agree to allot not less than two-	fifths of the parapayable to me from time to time during
my service for the support of my wife three	-fifths O O
Date 27: 8. 13 and children	ul 10. Tharke
Date	Signature of person enlisted.

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(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Regiment or Corps 18th/2 Inf. Bn.A.I.F. Regimental Number 3930

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(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Regiment or Corpo 2 Inf. Bn. A.I.F.

Regimental Number 3930

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Australian Imperial Force.



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Inventory of Effects of - 3930 Sharpe R. End Batt'n A.I.F.

Porwarded to - The Secretary, Defence Department, N.O.A.Mother:melbourne. Mrs Mary Sharpe, Ryrie Street.

Braidwood.

D/S.

H.S.W.

Will loaged with:-Mrs M.Sharpe, 38 Robert Street, Ashfield. Syaney. New South Wales.

Mifects received from the field (3/6/25) 16.9.18. I Parcel (sealed) containing:-

1 Metal cigarette case (damaged), 1 Purse, 1 Religious medallion, 1 Coin, 1 wallet, Cards, 1 Letter, 1 Photo.

SARDINIA

42643

No. of Package National Archives of Australia

Checked by NAA B2455, SHARPE REGINALD

Beforence no 98361 Braidwood 0819 your letter of March 222d to hand, re no 3930 Private Prezinals Shaye Int Battalians edo their has been no probate or letters of aministration taken cent I would be glad if you 3 1919 Jule pass all my decessed sono affairs on to the Pay marter Vietoria Barracho Paddington n. S. W as quoted in your letter to me. I being a widow and was the dependent on sur son Burate 12 Shacke, of those fore preset. frin to deaceaved Soldier Thanks you in anticipation m Sharpe I am yours Ryrie Street & with tylly Than Sharpe Braidwood NAA B2455, SHARPE REGIN

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9th May, 1919.

DESPATCHED

Dear Madum.

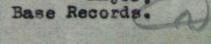
I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant and to state there is no record of the Will of your son. the late No. 3930 Private R. Sharpe, 2nd Battalion, having been received at this office, other than a statement made by the late soldier that -

"... Will lodged with Mrs. H. Sharpe, 38 Robert Street, Ashfield. Sydney, N.S.W."

and as you are apparently identical with
that person, it will be necessary for you to
furnish me with a Statutory Declaration to the
effect that the Will is not in your possession,
neither do you know of the whereabouts of such
document, before any action can be taken for

MrsM.Sharpe,
Ryrie Street, Yours faithfully,
Braidwood, F.S.W.

Officer i/c Base Records.



38 Robert St Ashfield 2/6/19 I hereby state that I do not hold the will of the late 163930 Private R. Sharpe, either now or at any other time, I was not even aware that he had left a will. alive matilda Sharke Signal bufore me al- achfulol - Jun 3 1919 Mayens A. al Archives of Australia

1 BRAIDWOOD. 20- 5-19 NAA B2455, SHARPE REGINALD National Archives of Australia *

In Memory of

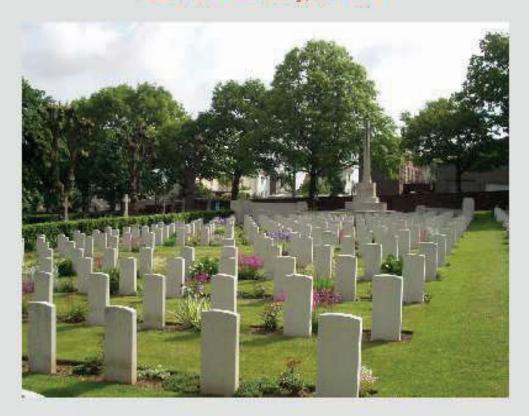
Private

Reginald Sharpe

3930, 2nd Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 25 August 1918

Remembered with Honour

Ste. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Pound Keepers Cottage, Ryrie Street, Braidwood, belonging to William Sharpe, formerly a convict assigned to Dr.Wilson. (Photo: Braidwood Dear Braidwood, by Netta Ellis).

Reginald Sharpe's grandfather was William Sharpe, a convict assigned to Dr. Braidwood Wilson, the founder of Braidwood. When William Sharpe received his 'ticket of leave', he became the Pound-Keeper and he built the first brick cottage in Braidwood, in Ryrie Street. Still known as the Pound-Keeper's cottage today. William Sharpe was a painter by trade and first painted many of the major buildings in Braidwood. He died in Braidwood on 2nd January 1900, aged 90. Reginald's father, John Thomas Sharpe, was born in Braidwood in 1862 and Reginald's mother was Mary Burke, they were married in 1885. Reginald was their fifth child. (By David Cargill).

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