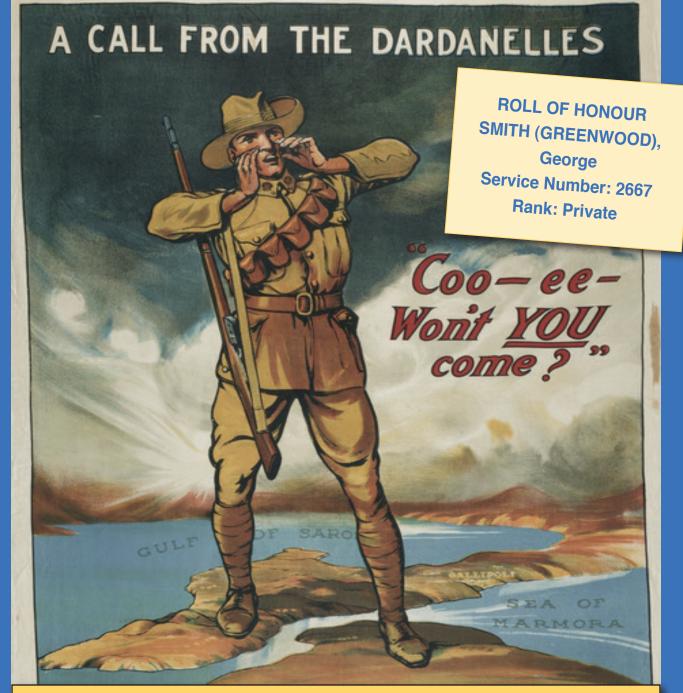
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 **George Smith**, 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.

George Smith 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

GEORGE SMITH (alias)

Also known as: George Greenwood (true name) Service Number: 2667 Rank: Private Unit: 53rd Australian Infantry Battalion Service: Australian Army Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918 Date of death: 19 July 1916 Place of death: France Cause of death: Killed in action Age at death: 46 Place of association: Araluen, Australia Cemetery or memorial details: VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, Lille, Nord Pas de Calais, France Source: AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War, Army

Location on the Roll of Honour: George Greenwood's name is located at **panel 157** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

53rd Australian Infantry Battalion

The 53rd Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 1st Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 1st, the 53rd was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Sydney. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

The battalion arrived in France on 27 June 1916, entered the front line for the first time on 10 July, and became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, at Fromelles, on 19 July. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster. The 53rd was part of the initial assault and suffered grievously, incurring 625 casualties, including its commanding officer, amounting to over three-quarters of its attacking 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.

Fromelles was the first major battle fought by Australian troops on the Western Front. Directed against a strong German position known as the Sugar Loaf salient, the attack was intended primarily as a feint to draw German troops away from the Somme offensive then being pursued further to the south. A seven-hour preparatory bombardment deprived the attack of any hope of surprise, and ultimately proved ineffective in subduing the well-entrenched defenders. When the troops of the 5th Australian and 61st British Divisions attacked at 6 pm on 19 July 1916, they suffered heavily at the hands of German machine-gunners. Small parts of the German trenches were captured by the 8th and 14th Australian Brigades, but, devoid of flanking support and subjected to fierce counterattacks, they were forced to withdraw. By 8am on 20 July 1916, the battle was over. The 5th Australian Division suffered 5,533 casualties, rendering it incapable of offensive action for many months; the 61st British Division suffered 1,547. The German casualties were little more than 1,000. The attack was a complete failure as the Germans realised within a few hours it

was merely a feint. It therefore had no impact whatsoever upon the progress of the Somme offensive.

The 53rd spent the freezing winter of 1916-17 rotating in and out of trenches in the Somme Valley. During this period the battalion earned the nickname "the Whale Oil Guards" after the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Oswald Croshaw, ordered the troops to polish their helmets with whale oil (issued to rub into feet as a trench foot preventative) for a smart turn out on parade. In March 1917, the 53rd 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 53rd'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 53rd Battalion at Anvil Wood, were critical to the capture of Peronne, which fell on 2 September. For a succession of courageous actions during the Peronne fighting, Private William Currey was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The 53rd Battalion entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918. This operation was mounted by the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, in co-operation with American forces, to break through the formidable German defences along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion withdrew to rest on 2 October and was still doing so when the war ended. The progressive return of troops to Australia for discharge resulted in the 53rd merging with the 55th Battalion on 10 March 1919. The combined 53/55th Battalion, in turn, disbanded on 11 April.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

19 July 1916: France: Western Front (France), Nord Region, Fromelles Area, Fromelles: Men of the 53rd Battalion waiting to don their equipment for the attack at Fromelles. Only three of the men shown here came out of the action alive, and those three were wounded. See also H16396.(Photographer: Charles Henry Lorking).

A03042



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16396

19 July 1916: France: Western Front (France), Nord Region, Fromelles Area, Fromelles: Unidentified men of the 53rd Battalion in a trench in their front line a few minutes before the launching of the attack in the battle of Fromelles. (Photographer: Charles Henry Lorking).

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STRALIAN	MILITARY FORCES.
DECEASED	
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AUSIKALIAN IIV	APERIAL FORCE.
Attestation Paper of Persons	s Enlisted for Service Abroad.
No. 2667 58 Name -	SMITH G
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J 500 Joined on	3. y. 15
Questions to be put to the Per	son Enlisting before Attestation.
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2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	near the Town of . Aralacon Araluen
	in the County of
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.BIf the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. Ys Matural for
4. What is your age?	4
5. What is your trade or calling?	5
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6
7. Are you married ?	7. bluebet 10. ligter
8. Who is your next of kin ? (Address to be stated)	with J. Haugton Street Balmain
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	N.S.W
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His	9
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tion of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servi tude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace	
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Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy,	11
or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	11
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	18
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an	14
amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day.	14
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever?	15
1. George Smith	do solemnly declare that the above answers made
by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyo	and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military ond the limits of the Commonwealth.
	fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during e-fifths
wife and children	G Smith
Date	Signature of person enlisted.

3.3.3

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DECEASED CHECKE Name Lorp Swith Service of No. 266. Period of service in each rank. Unit in which served. Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. Remarks. From-To-Embanker Borda alex. forfor out 18/10/5 1711 6986 39/10 TAREN ON STRENGTH FROM Sth herif & 4/11/5-TRANSFERRED TO 53 Battalion 13/0/16 1512 2548 9/3 4 xauce 19/1/16 Sentarked at alex 28.12.15 D.3124. able a schenter of A P. 4455. 53rd Battalion 14.2.16. D.O.1/233 where to join B. 87. 19.6.16 A.P. 9106. 28.6.16 2 25942. alexandria. embarked at Thanseilles 53rd Betty me In the Full. ~ active Service 010% 50/5709 from 0 800 9:7:16 21.10.16 lo 1300 10.7.16. Qward Haarp. DP. No 2 by C.O. 53 M. Batter. 11.7.16 Potal Forfeiture 16 days pay. Entitled to 1914/15 Star ECEASED i promotor

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

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Army Form B. 2090A.

FIELD SERVICE.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36 or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT or CORPS 53rd Battalion, A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company -					
Regtl. No. 2667 Rank Private					
Name SMITH, George.					
Date 19/7/16.					
Died Place In the Field, FRANCE.					
Cause of Death * Killed in action.					
Nature and Date of Report Army Form B.213. 28/7/16.					
By whom made C.O.53rd 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, exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.	or				
PlaceNot tet to hand.					
Burial Date					
By whom reported					
(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 Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

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

Ith Herrs Lieut.,] O.1/c.Records.

Station and Date Rouen, FRANCE. 20/9/16.

(4 11 3) W 497-810 300,000 4/15 H W V(P) A.O. 85

National Archives of Australia

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Regiment or Corps Port Active Service for Army Form B. 103. Regiment of Corps on Reins Rank Ale Name Smith Regimental No 2667 Terms of Service (a) War Tit Witstervice reckons from (a) 3/ Enlisted (a) Date of appointment to lance rank Re-engaged Qualification (b) Date of promotion to present rank Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. Extended Watered of proceedings, reductions, transfers, cases effects, etc., during active service, as reported as Area Farm H, 200, Area Farmers, Tasking a service of the service Report 5.00 Termates taken Hom Henry Form II. effe, Army Form A. 30, or other attract documents. Pres . maint to the ubit 2502 1000000 Init.15 CU 19848 Jours Mu Well have 18-12-15 BMT Huntserven'. Disemburkel 19-2-16 C.O.1 Bn. Transferred to B 213 53rd Battalien at 13-2-16 A.P. 4653. Tol-el-Kobin 19-2-16 C. 0.53rd Taken on strongth of 53rd Battalion at Pmoarked to Jeff at "Royal" at Tel-el-Kebir 14-2-10/8-Ps.44559/9168. 233 B.F. F ... "Marseilles 26/6/18. Disembarked 6052 Br Killed in action France AD1806-50 19/4/16 3802 521 4116 int in the case of a man who has re-engaged ber, or sellated hats Section D. Arms Sanstve, part (8) s.g. Signalize, Shoeing Smith, etc., wr., also apertal qualifications in technical Corps deline. gal Archives of Australia Recurs of promotions reductions, bandlers sematilies red during native advice, as separated as from Piters R. 2017. Acary Face A. 26, or in other addials discussion. The authority to be qualled in each case Report. taken brom Army Parm B. 313, Army Firms A. W. un office urbeite doctometric. Cate Place From which Diabe. 27 B 2000 A formarded . 6 all beddyweer o 1 9 16 0.5 194 . 0235 Lotaniteta. L "Water • • • Tenter . 10 D: 1012200-National Archives of Australia

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Dear Madam,

RLB.

Lipon enlistment, the late No. 2667, Private . Smith, 59rd Battalion, nominated you as next-of-kin but it is noted from the file that his mother still survives.

DESPATON AUG 1921

As I desire to dispose of War Medals, etc. (other than the 1914-15 Star which has already been forwarded to the Commandant, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, for presentation to Mrs. Treenwood) issuable on account of the abovementioned late soldier's service, according to the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918 which prescribe that these items must go to the next-of-kin in the following order of relationship unless good and sufficient reasons for varying the procedure are stated for the consideration of the Minister -

> ".....father, mother, eldest strviving brother, eldest surviving sister".

I shall be obliged if you will advise me thether there are any reasons as to the War Medals, etc., should not be handed to deceased's mother. Any statement you may care to make that would affect their disposal should be emcodied in the form of a Statutory Declaration.

Thanking you in anticipation for the favor of an early reply - I am holding the matter open for 14 days from this date.

Yours faithfully,

	.B.T. Officer 1/c Base Records.MTHO
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3. Relationship of such person to Member	Wid. Mother
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In Memory of

Private

George Smith

2667, ALIAS who died on 19 July 1916 Age 46

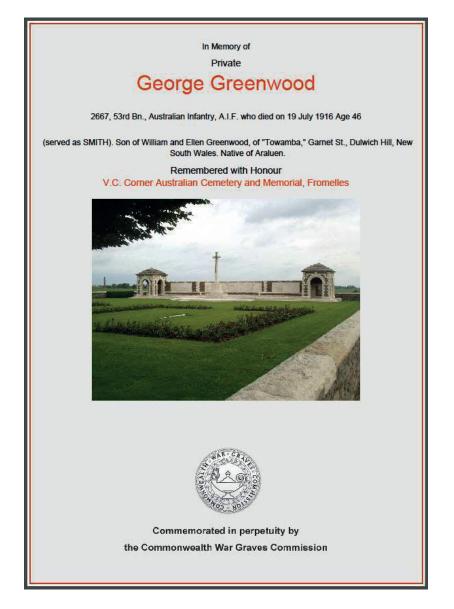
See "GREENWOOD," the true family name.

Remembered with Honour V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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