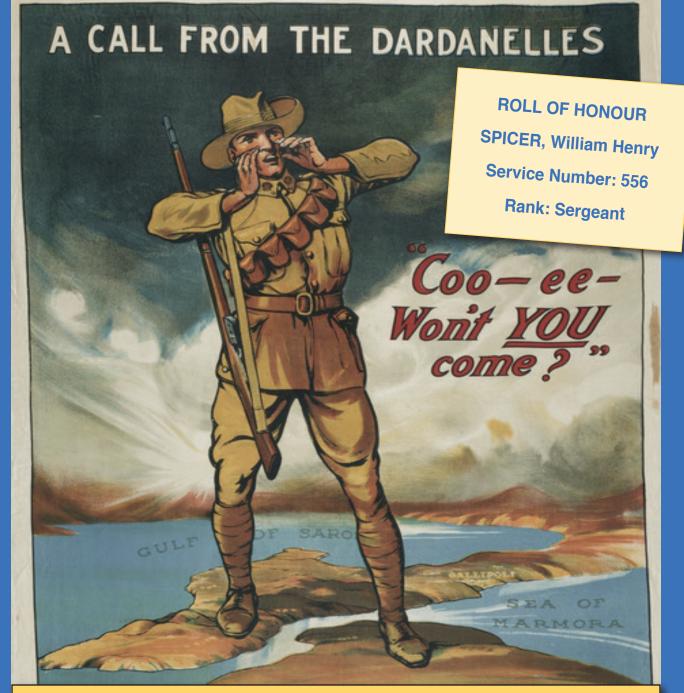
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 **William Henry Spicer**, 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.

William Henry Spicer 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

WILLIAM HENRY SPICER

Service Number: 556 Rank: Sergeant Unit: 3rd Australian Infantry Battalion Service: Australian Army Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918 Date of death: 23 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: William Henry Spicer's name is located at **panel 38** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

3rd Australian Infantry Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd 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 served there until the evacuation in December. In August, the battalion took part in the attack on Lone Pine. For his valorous action in defending Sasse's Sap at Lone Pine on 9 August, Private John Hamilton was awarded the Victoria Cross.

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.

The battalion participated in a short period of mobile operations following the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line in early 1917, but spent much of that year fighting in increasingly difficult 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' great offensive of that year, launched east of Amiens on 8 August 1918. The advance on this day 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 to late September 1918. 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 3rd Battalion returned to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.



In our last issue we briefly reported the death at the front of Sergeant W. H. Spicer, son of Mr. Frank Spicer, of this town, and Private W. Huggett, son of Mr. S. H. Huggett, of Mongarlowe. Sergeant Spicer was one of the first to enlist from Braidwood. He took part in the famous Gallipoli landing, and was in the thick of the fighting on the Peninsula till the end. He came through the ordeal unscathed by either bullets or sickness, although his comrade, Lance-Corporal S. Dowell, went down to sickness. Owing to his good work in the firing line Sergeant Spicer gained speedy promotion. He was only 27 years of age, and a native of Braidwood. He was very popular young man, and the news of his death was received with many manifestations of regret. The greatest sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Spicer in their sad bereavement. Mrs. Spicer was away on a holiday when the news of her son's death arrived. They are both very much cut up, although they are somewhat consoled by the fact that he gave his life for his country. Private Huggett's death must have taken place about the same time. The sympathy of the community will go out to his bereaved father and mother.

1916: The Braidwood Dispatch reporting the death of William Henry Spicer.



The Braidwood Dispatch articles published in Braidwood Letters from the Front, by Roslyn Maddrell

Sergeant W. Spicer; death at the front. He took part in the Gallipoli landing, he came through that ordeal unscathed by bullet or sickness although his comrade Steve Dowell went down to sickness. Sergeant Spicer was 27 year of age, a very popular young man and native of our district.

In Memory

St. Andrews Church of England, Braidwood, an oak Litany desk as unveiled In Memory of the late Sergt. William Spicer, which has been presented to his mother and sister. After the unveiling the Litany was sung. On the front of the desk is a brass inscription: "In memory of Sergt. William Spicer, who was killed in action July 23, 1916. Presented by his mother and sister."



The Battle of Pozieres

Pozieres, a small village in the Somme valley in France, was the scene of bitter and costly fighting for the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions in mid-1916. The village was captured initially by the 1st Division on 23 July 1916. The division clung to its gains despite almost continuous artillery fire and repeated German counter-attacks but suffered heavily. By the time it was relieved on 27 July it had suffered 5,285 casualties.

The 2nd Division took over from the 1st and mounted two further attacks - the first, on 29 July, was a costly failure; the second, on 2 August, resulted in the seizure of further German positions beyond the village. Again, the Australians suffered heavily from retaliatory bombardments. They were relieved on 6 August, having suffered 6,848 casualties. The 4th Division was next into the line at Pozieres. It too endured a massive artillery bombardment, and defeated a German counter-attack on 7 August; this was the last attempt by the Germans to retake Pozieres.



A busy scene in Sausage Valley during the fighting near Pozieres. Communications with Pozieres led through this valley, which was a very busy thoroughfare in July and August 1916 during the battle to capture the village from the Germans. Beyond the Rolls Royce Phantom motor vehicle, and in the middle distance, are several field kitchens. with numerous men waiting around them.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EZ0083

France: Picardie, Somme, Albert Bapaume Area, Pozieres Area, Pozieres: Australian infantry watching the artillery bombardment of Pozieres. Between 23 July and early September 1916, the 1st, 2nd and 4th Divisions between them launched 19 attacks on German positions in and around the ruins of Pozieres. The Australians suffered 23,000 casualties while advancing two kilometres; British and Australian artillery were no match for German artillery and machine guns.

IA/EG 4780 Dear Sir. With further reference to the report of burial of your son. the late No.556 Sergeant ".H.Spicer. 3rd Battalion, I very much regret having to inform you that the Imperial War Graves Commission has been unable to identify the site of the late soldier's final resting place in the Pozieres British Cemetery, France. With a view to suitably perpetuating the memory of your son and that of other members of the 3rd Battalion who were reported killed in action at Pozieres between the 22nd and 27th July 1916, the Commission has arranged for the erection of a permanent collective memorial in the abovenamed cemetery, upon which will be engraved the full regimental description and date of death of the soldiers concerned, and it is hoped by this means to pay fitting tribute to those of our fallen whose graves in this particular area cannot now be located. Assuring you of the Department's sympathy and regret at the distressing circumstances arising. Yours faithfully. Captain. Officer 1/o Base Records. Ir. F. Spicer. Araluen Road. BRAIDWOOD. N.S.W.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09990.001

1916: France: Picardie, Somme, Albert Bapaume Area, Pozieres Area: Memorial in the shape of a wooden cross commemorating D Company 3rd Infantry Battalion, AIF members who died at the battle of Pozieres, France between 21 and 26 July 1916. Names recorded on the memorial are: 539 Company Sergeant Major (CSM) Harry Fenton Manning Stead (killed in action (KIA) 23 July 1916); 587 Sergeant (Sgt) Robert McDonald (wounded at Pozieres and died of wounds on 3 August 1916); 896 Corporal (Cpl) Thomas Blackburn (KIA 24 July 1916); 929 Sgt Samuel Sawrey Garrard (KIA 23 July 1916); 979 Cpl James Charles Traynor (KIA 24 July 1916); 556 Sgt William Henry Spicer (KIA 23 July 1916); 1853 Cpl George Eric Wright (KIA 24 July 1916); 2731 Lance Corporal (L Cpl) David Silvester Ravolaine (KIA 24 July 1916); 2619 Private (Pte) Robert Edward James Duffin (KIA 24 July 1916); 558 Pte Archibald Douglas Hamilton (KIA 24 July 1916); 2622 Pte Edward Jenkins (KIA 22 July 1916); 2701A Pte Reginald Cole Kenny (KIA 22 July 1916); 2643 Pte Robert Meigan (KIA 24 July 1916); 4068 Pte John Steel (KIA 22 July 1916); 3259 Pte Arthur Lorn Wyborn (KIA 22 July 1916); 1124 Pte Carl FrederickGraff (KIA 22 July 1916) and 3973 Pte Richard Oswald Roberts. Only Sgt McDonald and L Cpl Hamilton have known graves. All others are commemorated on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, France with others who have no known grave.

De 1558 ACTION MILITARY FORCES. MILITARY FORCES. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES. Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.					
	MIAM HENRY ny 3th Batt. MA				
Questions to be put to the Per	son Enlisting before Attestation.				
1. What is your Name ? 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born ?	1. William Henry Spices 2. In the Parish of Paridwood in or near the Town of Braidwood in the County of New South Walco				
 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject (N.BIf the latter, papers to be shown.) 4. What is your age? 	3. Natural Born 4. 25'2 10 1 mth.				
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. Butcher				
 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6. M. 7. M 8. Annie Spicer (Mether)				
8. Who is your next of kin ! (Address to be stated)	Braidword				
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power !	9. <u>No</u>				
 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. No.				
Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, 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. Jel				
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13				
14. (For married men and widowers with children)— Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service?	14*				
Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of for the support of my wife and children.* Date <u>27/8/14</u>	hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the manuary				

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, Blanchard, CARD CHECKED Statement of Service of No. 556 Name Billiam Henry Period of service in each Unit in which served. Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. Remarks. From-To Divate 27/8/14 3rd Battalion adm 1 d. C. C. S. anzac Part 5 6052: 17.9.15 adm 18, 9. d. Baird Part 7 6 14 2: 17.9 Trans to cho Que. 400 adm Nol Que Bon \$ Part 2 6296:23.9.15 But E 0346 23.9.15 Trano to Helona Park 17955 1410.15 28.9.13 Class Di part M.E. F. dragt to emile 21. 10. 15 art 1.8944 2.11.16 REJOINED UNIT 3 . 11. 15 ant 7. 9502.18-11. 15 Cape (Jempo) 3. 11.15 1510092-7-12.12 Corpe 3. 12. 1 10342 16 12-1 PROMOTED Ser EJOINED UNIT 1.315/2/14 REJOINED UNIT from school of instruction 8/5/16 Procesoly On command at School of Instraction moderac Pr= 43 22/4 KILLED IN ACTION France 23.7.4 Pt. 3/572/5970 9/5/ I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.

al Archives of Australia

NAA: B2455, SPICER WILLIAM HENR

Transferred to to + 11103 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL No. 556 vicer. W. H Rank Pergeand. Name 55" late 3" Battalin Unit 19 Casualty Killed in action 23. 7. 16. BJB. 2 265/676413 Kea Ron. 10.8. 16 113 BURIAL REPORT RECEIVED "Will at THE AS TRAL ANS REST." Proppher sont to M. T. Spaces on 10. 3. 21 Ht. REF. NO. PURPORT. DATE. A.F. B. 2090A Receiveu illed in action 23-7-16 16 8-16 M. C. A/Cont worth 26/10 NOA CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF GRUND 2/2 NOK achi the Sydney asking for Aftis @ apathion End. Than WIII" to D.P.M. Brind M.D. 17/101 NO PERSONAL EFFECTS IN KIT - E.S.M. No. HIL/866 Circular B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re C. aves despatched 577 1.48 AP HISTORY INDEX 1914/1915 Star Issued B.R.M. 43/1229/ ... To-Comdt 2ng WAR MEDAL ISSUED 1914/15 STAI 3/33 3133 ISSUED 2486 BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt 212 N VICTORY MEDAL to Jather B.R.P.F. ... M.D.B.R.M. 52/1443 1135 NAA: B2455, SPICER WILLIAM HENR es of Australia

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.

REGIN o COR	r 3rd B	attalion, A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company
Røgtl.	No. 556	Rank Sergeant
Name_		SPICER, Willian, Henry
1	Date	23.7.16
Died	Place	"In the Field " FRANCE"
(,	Cause of Death*	Killed in action.
	Nature and Date of	Report Army Form B213, 28.7.16
201	By whom made	Commanding Officer, 3 rd Battalion, A.I.F.
* Specially	state if killed in action, or exp	died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or osure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.
	/ Place	Not yet to hand
Burial	Date	. Fr Burlal Report See BIQS
	By whom reported	a .
		((a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Not yet to hand.
State v	whether he leaves 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.

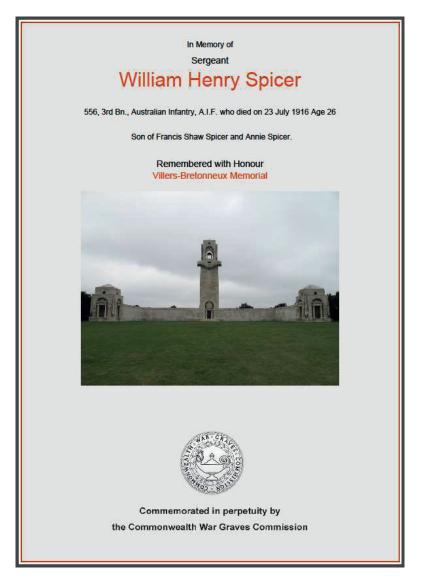
A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Epeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer as the case may require, together with the deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Station and Date	Office at th	Officer in char djutant-Genera British NCE, 30.9.	SED ECHELON, Expeditionar	fficer 1/c Re G.H.Q., y Force.	Capt.	-
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Army Form B. 10 Casualty Form-Active Service. Regiment or Corps 3rd, Battalion. Regimental No. 556. Rank Sgt. Name Spicer. W.H. Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reclions from (a) Date of appointment/ Numerical position on roll of N.C.Oa. Date of promotion } to present rank . to lance rank | _ Qualification (b)_ Re-engaged_____ Report into the during action service, or an advert Finnis II. The Arrive Finnis II. The Arrive Finance of the anti-arrive The anti-arrive to be special in each same A DE OF STR. Place Date Date From wheel 26.5.16. C.O.3rd.Bn.Crime: - Absent from 2000 Roll Call 82069. (2) prunk. Award:- Admontaned Prance. 23.5.16. AQ407 .- D053. 28.7.16. C.O.Srd.Bn.Killed in action. B215. AQ1507.-D072/5970. CIBL. 265. 10.8.16. 23.7.16. a la Capt., ANZAC. SECTION. 3rd. BCHELON. G. H.Q. Records. 0.1/c. British Expeditionary Force. Burred and of program & compare 7.4) into of a reast often tion recompligned fast, or articled into Santhen D. Access Reserves, particle sensities, liberting Smith, and, while also associal genetic sensities in technical Correspondences RM No. 556. Sergeant William Henry Spicer, 3rd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force. was killed in action. XXXXXX In France. XX 23rd July. 16. Cable No. C. I.B.L. 265, from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 10th August, 1916, confirmed by Mail from the Commandant, A.T.F. Headquarters, dated London, 18th August, 1916, and Army Form B 2090AL 30th April 17. Lieut. for CAN lational Archives of Australia NAA B2455 SPICER WILLIAM HENR

3510 WZLE 11th Nov 1916 In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to Miss Odrey Spicer of Braidwood H.S.W. William Henry Spicer Private No 556 CERTIFIED TRUE COFY C Company 3rd Battalion Bellicher H let Infantry Brigade Officer i/c Records Certified true copy of will extracted from A.B. 64 of the late No. 556. Sgt. SPICER.W.H. 3rd Battalion. A.L.F. 2/0. AU TRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. 110. GREYHOUND ROAD. FULHAM, LONDON. KIT STORE. S.W. HAMMERSMITH TROP Inventory of Effects of- The Late. 555. Sgt Spicer W.H. 3rd Bade'n. Forwarded to-Bext of Kin. Annie Spicer, Mother) Aralner Road, Braidwood, H.S.W. Effects. Wallet, Cards, Badges. 3rd Echelon) No. 1609.) No. of Package A 2732 Checked by tional Archives of Australia NAA B2455 SPICER WILLIAM HENRY



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