

# Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

*"We will remember them well"*

## A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

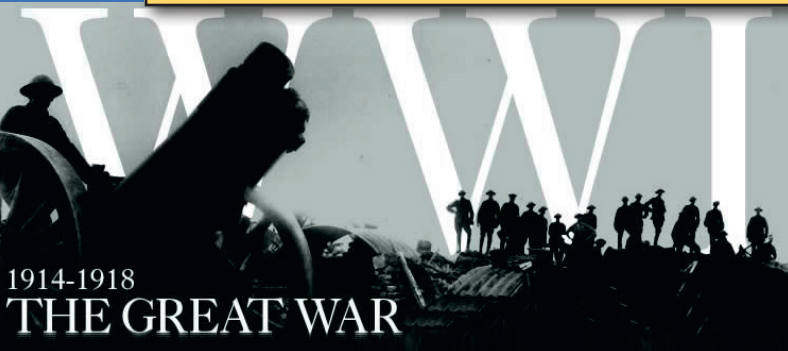
STEELE,

Alexander Norman

Rank: Private

*"Coo-ee-  
Wont YOU  
come?"*

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.



1914-1918  
THE GREAT WAR

100  
YEARS OF  
ANZAC

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 **Alexander Norman Steele**, 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.

**Alexander Norman Steele** 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.*



# ROLL OF HONOUR

## ALEXANDER NORMAN STEELE

**Rank:** Private

**Unit:** Depot

**Service:** Australian Army

**Conflict:** First World War, 1914-1918

**Date of death:** 09 February 1915

**Place of death:** New South Wales, Australia

**Age at death:** 25

**Place of association:** Braidwood, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Rookwood Necropolis,  
Rookwood, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

**Source:** AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War,  
Army

**Location on the Roll of Honour:** Alexander Norman  
Steele's name is located at **panel 187** in the  
Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

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## OBITUARY.

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It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. A. N. Steele, youngest son of Mr. W. Steele, J.P., of Budawang, Mongarlowe. The deceased, who had volunteered for the front, was suffering from septic pneumonia. He died in the Balmmain Hospital. The deceased was a promising young man, and would have given a good account of himself at the war had not the Silent Reaper ordained otherwise.

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1915: *The Braidwood Dispatch* reporting the death of Alexander Norman Steele.



WOUND IN CITY HOSPITAL 8/2/15  
AUSTRALIAN



SCHEDULE 2  
MILITARY FORCES.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

Name STEELE ALEXANDER  
Unit A.I.F. Force 4th Rfct 4th Bn  
Joined on 8th Jan. 1915

### Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. Alexander Steele  
2. In the Parish of St. Margaret in or near the Town of Braidwood in the County of St. Vincent New South Wales  
3. Natural Born  
4. 4 or 25 - 2 mths  
5. Latent  
6. No  
7. No  
8. Father, William Steele  
Mongalonge Braidwood N.S.W.  
(brother) Charles H. Steele  
9. No at the rank of Lt  
Handwich, 4/11  
10. No (except ship etc. 1/1/1915)  
11. No  
12. \_\_\_\_\_  
13. No  
14. \_\_\_\_\_

I, Alexander Steele do solemnly declare that the above answers made in the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to abstain from less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during the term of my service for the support of my wife and children

Date 11-1-1915 Alexander Steele  
Signature of person enlisted.

to claim to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

XXXI

GRATUITY SCHEDULE

02/29/1915

DEFENCE  
B.R.

1454

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

FILE OF PAPERS.

Subject:

Private Alexander <sup>Norman</sup> Steele ✓

4th Reinforcements 4th Battalion  
died at Sydney of pleurisy, pneumonia,  
and suppurating pharyngitis 7/2/1915

20/2/1915. P.C. 2nd M.D. Memo advising above casualty. 6/1/54.  
2/3/1915. " " " " enclosing documents.

Star B.R.M. 46/1363 & Booklet re Graves despatched 1/2/1916

50722 COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS Sydney m 5/66. m o

MEMORIAL SCROLL

To  
Father  
Mr W. Steele

596185

13/3/23

MEMORIAL PLAQUE 3323

Father (Died)

Mr W. Steele

596185

3.3.23

C 10074

(MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS COVER.)

"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."

Pamphlet sent to Not Eligible 17/3/23

MEDICAL REPORT ON THE CASE OF PRIVATE A. <sup>N</sup>. STEELE  
4TH REINFORCEMENTS 1ST BATTALION, WHO DIED WHILE  
ABSENT ON SICK LEAVE.

\*\*\*\*\*

Deceased reported sick on the 2/2/1915 with a cold, sore throat and bad teeth. He was treated and ordered for Light Duty. He again reported on the 3/2/1915, morning and evening with a cold and was ordered fit for duty. On the 5/2/1915 he again reported with influenza and otitis media and was ordered "No duty" and 4 days sick leave.

I interviewed Private Steele's brother who informed me that a Doctor ~~Shaw~~ saw Private Steele and prescribed and that he saw Private Steele again the next day, and then diagnosed pneumonia, which he stated was not present the day before and sent him into Balmain Hospital. He progressed favourably, but on the night, he died became comatose suddenly and died.

*A. H. Mosely* Captain.

O. C. Field Hospital.



DEFENCE  
A. I. F.  
125 | 1 | 109

**MILITARY FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.**

2ND MILITARY DISTRICT.

District Headquarters,

2nd Military District.		
69	1	54

Victoria Barracks,

Sydney, 25 February, 1915.

The Secretary,  
Department of Defence.

I have to report with regret the death of Private Alexander Steele, 4th Reinforcements, 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, A. I. Force, which occurred on 7th instant, of pleurisy, pneumonia, and supervening pharyngitis. The deceased had not received a number.

Pte. Steele was interred at Rookwood on 9th instant.

Full particulars of the case and all documents relating to the deceased have been asked for from Camp Commandant, and will be forwarded in a day or two.

BR  
26/2/15  
A.G.

*W. Hancock* Colonel,  
Commandant, 2nd Military District.

RECEIVED  
27 FEB 15

G. O. S.



App. 109  
File 26/3/15



DEFENCE A. I. F.		
125	1	114

# MILITARY FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

2ND MILITARY DISTRICT.

2nd Military District.		
69	1	54

District Headquarters,

Victoria Barracks,

Sydney, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1915.

The Secretary,  
Department of Defence.

Further to D. C. R. 69/1/54 of 25th ultimo, I forward herewith report submitted by Camp Commandant, Liverpool, and attestation sheet of the late Private A. N. Steele, 4th Reinforcements, 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, A. I. Force.

AP  
4/3/15



*W. L. ...*  
Colonel.

Commandant, 2nd Military District.

In Memory of

Private

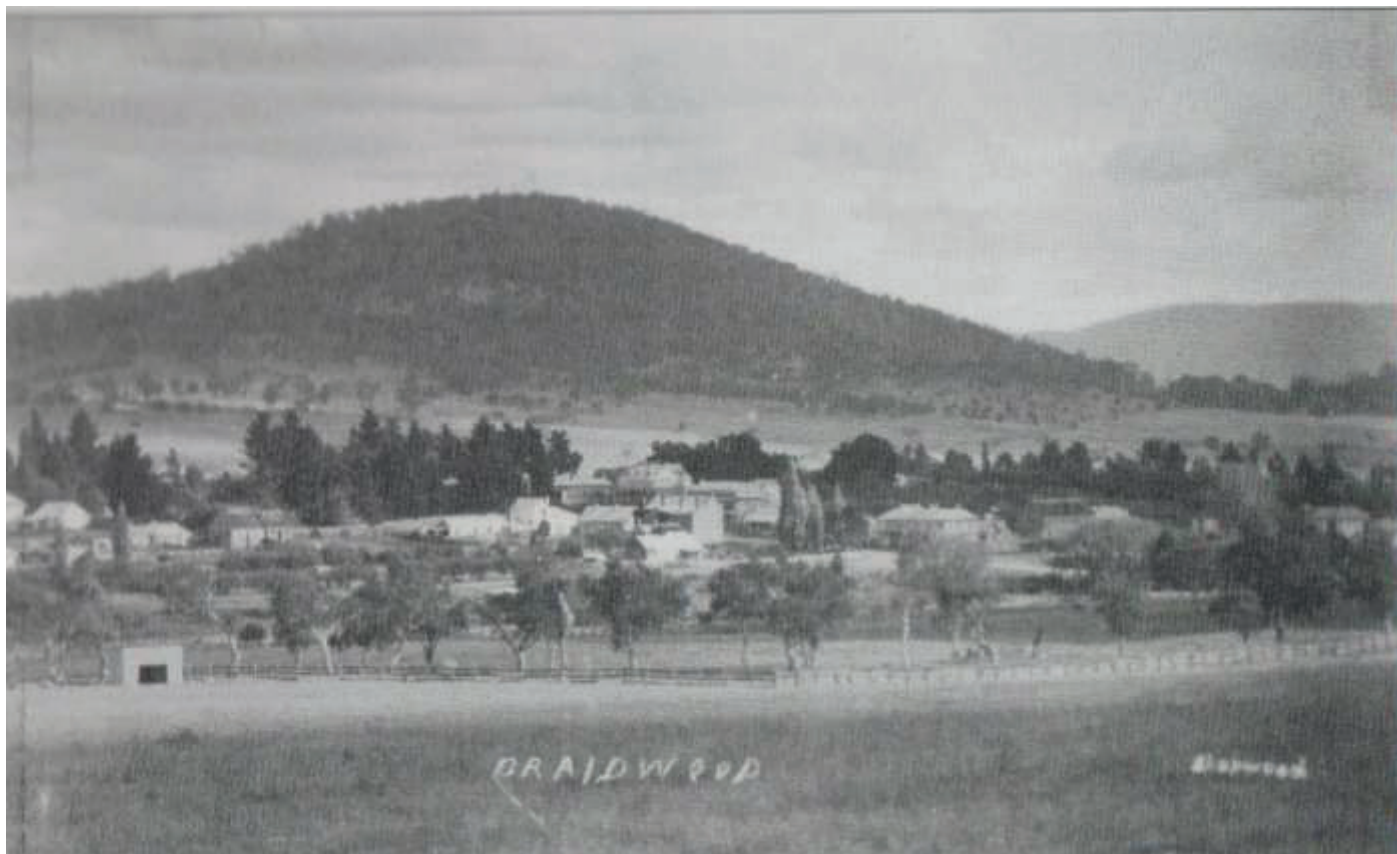
# Alexander Norman Steele

Australian Infantry Base Depot who died on 08 February 1915

Remembered with Honour  
Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



*Braidwood, early 1900s (Photo: Braidwood Letters from the Front by Roslyn Maddrell).*

## **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

Lest We Forget