

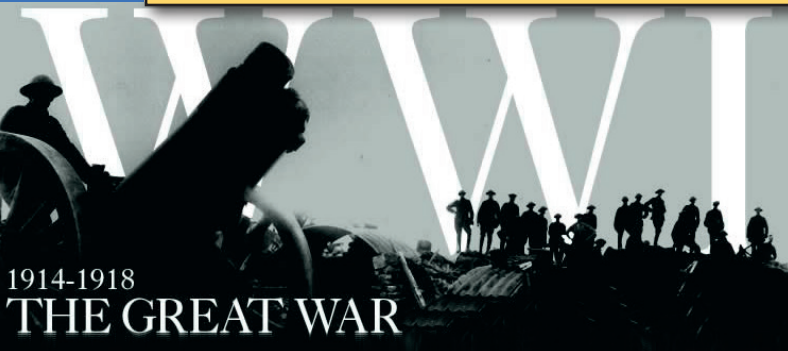
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



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.



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 **David Walter Stewart**, 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.

David Walter Stewart 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

DAVID WALTER STEWART

Service Number: 1783

Rank: Sergeant

Unit: 44th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 08 June 1917

Place of death: Belgium

Cause of death: Killed in action

Age at death: 22

Place of association: Perth, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Bethlehem Farm East Cemetery, Flanders, Belgium

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

Location on the Roll of Honour: David Walter Stewart's name is located at **panel 138** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

44th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 44th Battalion was raised at Claremont, Western Australia in February 1916. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division, and soon became known as "Old Bill's Thousand" after its first commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel William Mansbridge. The battalion left Australia on 6 June and proceeded to Britain for further training. It arrived in France on 27 November and entered the front line trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 29 December.

The 44th spent the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between service in the front line, and training and labouring in the rear areas. This routine was broken by only one major raid, an ill-fated effort involving almost half the battalion on 13 March 1917. *The battalion fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7 and 10 June. In the months that followed it was heavily employed in the Ypres sector, taking part in another major battle to capture Broodseinde Ridge on 7 June, and participating in costly defensive operations in horrendous conditions. Of the 992 men from the battalion who were involved in the Ypres operations, only 158 emerged unwounded when it was relieved for a rest on 21 October.*

Belgium remained the focus of the 44th Battalion's activities for another five months as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.

With the Germans' last effort defeated the Allies began planning their own great offensive. The 44th took part in the preparatory battle of Hamel on 4 July 1918, and was part of the first wave when the offensive itself was launched on 8 August. Its involvement continued during the long advance that followed throughout August and into September. The 44th's last major action of the war was fought between 29 September and 3 October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. By this stage, the 44th was just about spent. It had crossed the Hamel start-line approximately 600-strong, but just on 80 men were relieved on 3 October. The battalion was out of the line when the war ended, and was disbanded in May 1919.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01 293

Belgium: Western Front (Belgium), Messines Area, Messines: Portion of the Messines battlefield showing the ruins of Messines in the background. The village was razed by the bombardments preceding the British attack on 7 June 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04071.001

DAVID WALTER STEWART #1783

Informal portrait of 1783 Sergeant (Sgt) David Walter Stewart, 44th Battalion, of Perth, WA. A teacher at Perth Modern School prior to his enlistment on 25 January 1916, he embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT Miltiades on 9 August 1916. He was killed in action, aged twenty two, on 8 June 1917, at Messines, France.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03861

Belgium: Western Front (Belgium), Messines Area, Messines: A dummy tree used as an observation post on Hill 63 by Australian troops during the Battle of Messines on 7 June 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01414

7 June 1917: Belgium: Western Front (Belgium), Messines Area, Messines: German prisoners at Messines, on the afternoon of 7 June 1917, carrying their own wounded to a field dressing station, while the British Mark IV tanks advanced towards the distant Messines Ridge, where an enemy shell is seen bursting.

2. 2. 16
 CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
 AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.
 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
 Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.
 No. 444 1783. Name STEWART David Walter
 Unit 2/44th BATTALION 2-1-16 7-2-16 25/1/16
 joined on 25/1/16

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... David Walter Stewart
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... in or near the Town of Grainwood in the County of NSW
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B. If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Yes
4. What is your age? ... 32
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... School Teacher
6. Are you, or have you been an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Father Walter David Stewart 13 Park Rd 20 Randa Road Mt Lawley PERTH W.A. 17/1/16
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
10. 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? ... No
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, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service? ... Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
14. (For married men and widowers with children and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother) — Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which, together with pay, would reach eight shillings per day ... Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... Yes

I, David Walter Stewart do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than $\frac{two-fifths}{three-fifths}$ of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife * † and children.

Date 2-1-16 Signature of Person Enlisted D.W. Stewart

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.
 † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

checked

Transferred to

DEFENCE
B.R.

D 30658

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 1783

Rank

Sergeant

Name

STEWART D.W

Unit

44th Battalion

Casualty

Killed in Action 5.6.17

C.I.B.L. 1541, 9238^B dated London 26.6.17

LIST.



Handwritten initials

DATE.

A.F. B. 103 Received

PURPORT.

A.F. B. 2090A Received

REF. NO.

28 JUN 1917

M.G. 5 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION, 8/6/17

10.7.17

COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSION

4.9.17

N. of K for D/C. & personal effects

CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF

Cable No. C. 982. 1541 Vide 4/154 D^o Ld 2/7/17.

18.12.17

"Will" to D.P.M. 5th M.D. 28/555

No personal effects in kit. S. P. M. No. 23/606

ular B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched 12/1/20

Received & returned by printed card.

WAR HISTORY INDEX

28-1-20

17/9/30 Note

PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE *in triplicate*

TO NEXT OF KIN. B.R.M. No. 52/560

1 photo of grave available for disposal by Schedule No 8 52/821-M

31/13/22

BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt 5th M.D.B.R.M. 54/593.

11182

4

Statement of Service of No.

~~11182~~ 1783

Name

W. W. Stewart

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, etc.	Period of Service in each Rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
44 th Bn Australys	Private	7/2/16	1-11-16	G 0883
S. C. O. School Belmont	—	1/4/16	9-5-16	E. O. 21
2/44 Reimp	Cpl	9/5/16	1-6-16	B/0760
2/44 Reimp	Sergeant	1-6-16		C/0781
	Pte		25-11-16	BR 80158 Pte 103
"	Cpl	26-10-16	26/1/17	Provisionary BR 97630 D
"	Serjt	27/1/17		

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

W. O. Manning
Commanding 44th Bn A Force Lt Col

W I L L

Name in Full

I, David Walter STEWART.

Unit

Regimental Number 1783 Serving in 44th Battn. A.I.F.

of the Australian Imperial Force do hereby revoke all former Wills made by me and declare this to be my Last Will.

Name and Address of person or persons to whom it is to go.

I DEVISE and BEQUEATH all my real estate unto

absolutely and my personal estate I bequeath to my mother

Name and Address of person or persons to whom personal estate (See Note)

Amelia Stewart.

13 Park Road.

Mt. Lawley, Perth, West Aust.

Fill in Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, A D. 1917.

D.W.Stewart. (Signature)

All alterations to be initialled by Testator and Witnesses

Signed by the said Testator as his last Will and Testament the same having been read over and explained to him, in the presence of us both present at the same time who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses.

FIRST WITNESS

Signature of Witness Owen W. Williams.

Address and Occupation L. Cpl. "A" Coy., 44th Batt. A.I.F.

SECOND WITNESS

Signature of Witness B.C. Robins.

Address and Occupation Corporal 44th Batt. A.I.F.

N.B. Personal Estate includes Pay, Effects, Money in Bank, Insurance Policy, in fact everything except Real Estate.

Certified to be a true copy of Will of No. 1783 Sgt., Stewart, David Walter, 44th Battalion, A.I.F.

Checked. *McNeil*

[Signature]
Sgt.
Estates Branch
Adm. Hdqrs. A.I.F.

D25961

Casualty Form - Active Service. 1783

Regiment or Corps: Sad 3rd Bn. 44th BATTALION, A.I.F.
 Rank: Sgt. Surname: STEWART Christian Name: David Walter
 Religion: C of E Age on Enlistment: 25 years 2 months
 Enlisted (a): C of E Terms of Service (a): A.I.F. Service reckons from (a):
 Date of promotion to present rank: Date of appointment to lance rank:
 Extended: Re-engaged: Qualification (b):
 or Corps Trade and Rate:
 Occupation: Signature of Officer:

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents
Date	From whom received			
	<u>H.M.A.T. Miltiaden</u>	<u>Embarked</u>		
		<u>Disembarked</u>		
<u>1.10.16</u>	<u>11th Tng. Bn.</u>	<u>Taken on Str. from O'cean</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>ET. 5577</u>
<u>22.10.16</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>Attg. Muskty. Sch. Tidworth</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>DO. 17/5735</u>
<u>15.10.16</u>	<u>C.O. 44th Bn.</u>	<u>Taken on Strength ex Sad B.</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>DE. 6501</u>
<u>5.11.16</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>Rejoined from Muskty. Sch.</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>DO. 17/1041</u>
<u>25.11.16</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>Proceeded overseas France</u>	<u>Southampton</u>	<u>A.X. 4169</u>
<u>15.12.16</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>Promoted Corporal to complete Establishment</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>P.M. 1503</u>
<u>16.2.17</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>Promoted Sergeant to complete Establishment</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>DO. 19/10202</u>
<u>10.6.17</u>	<u>Sad B.H.Q.</u>	<u>Killed in Action</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>DO. 2/20-1016</u>
<u>15.6.17</u>	<u>C.O. 44th Bn.</u>	<u>Killed in Action</u>	<u>do.</u>	<u>DO. 14/844</u>
				<u>AF. 12009, VL382</u>
				<u>DO. 34/3013</u>
<u>Anzac Section, 3rd Echelon,</u>				<u>Lieut.,</u>
<u>C.O. 44th Bn.</u>				<u>Officer i/c Records.</u>

FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090A.

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) 44th BATTALION, A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, }
 OR CORPS } Battery or Company }
 Regimental No. 1783 Rank Sergeant
 Surname STEWART Christian Names David Walter
 Died { Date 8th June, 1917. Place In the Field, BELGIUM.
 Cause of Death* Killed in Action.
 Nature and Date of Report AF B213 dated 15th June, 1917.
 By whom made C.O. 44th Battalion.
 * Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.
 Burial { Place Particulars not yet to hand. Date 1
 By whom reported
 State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) (b) in Small Book (if at Base)
 a Will or not (c) Will not received.

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.

Anzac Section, 3rd Echelon,
 Station and Date } C.H.Q. D.E.F. 25.7.17.
 Signature of Officer in-charge of Section } Lieut.,
 Adjutant-General's Office at the Base } Officer i/c Records.

8th July. *DWB**17876**17877*

Dear Sir,

The following extract from a communication received concerning certain personal effects of the late No. 1783 Sergeant D. W. Stewart, 44th Battalion, is referred for favour of any information you may be able to furnish with a view to locating the missing effects :

"Before he left England for France he left some personal belongings of value with a soldier who was to have forwarded them to a friend of his residing in Wimbledon, Surrey, to take care of, he not having sufficient time to arrange matters himself. His Surrey friend, by name John Tully, heard from this soldier - a Lance Corporal J. Gallagher - to the effect that he was in possession of the articles, and asking what was to be done with them. He was instructed to forward them to Wimbledon, but since then nothing has been heard from him with regard to them. . ."

Thanking you in anticipation for an early reply,

Yours faithfully,

Major.
Officer i/c Base Records

Ex-No. 2078A L/Cpl. J. Gallagher,
42nd Battalion,
C/- S. O. I. & R. S.,
Victoria Barracks,
Brisbane, Q'LAND.



Mt. Lawley
4/9/17

To the
Officer-in-Charge
Base Records

Dear Sir

Will you kindly forward me the official death certificate of my Son. Sergeant. David. Walter. Stewart. No 1783. 44 Battalion. A. Company. Australian Imperial Forces who was killed in action on the eight day of June 1917 also please forward his personal effects if you have received them and you will kindly oblige me.

Yours Truly
W. D. Stewart
13 Park Road
Mt. Lawley
West Australia

W.D. Stewart
14/9

West Australia
13 Park Road
Mt Lawley
14/5/18



Dear Sir

I am sorry to worry you again as regards to my late Son's belongings. Sergeant David Walter Stewart who was killed in the battle of Messines on the 8th of June last year and I have not received one article back that belonged to him. Could you kindly inform me if any thing of his as came threw to the Base records yet

and I will be so grateful & thankful to you

If you will do me this favour
Yours Truly

M. M. Morgan
20/5

Mrs W. Stewart
13 Park Road
Mt Lawley
W. A.

ackd. by
P.C. 29 518

287 Dugan St
Kalgoorlie
June 28th

John Morgan
3/7

BASE RECORDS
JUL 2 1918
RECEIVED

Sir,
I have been asked by Mrs Stewart of 13 Park Rd. Mt Lawley W.A., whose son, Number 1783, Sergt. B. Stewart of 'A' Coy 4th Battalion, was killed in action at Messines on June 8th, 1917, to write to you, with regard to a matter about which she desires advice.

2/7/18

Before her son left England for France, he left some personal belongings of value with a soldier, who was to have forwarded them to a friend of his residing in Wimbledon, Surrey, to take care of, - he not having sufficient time to arrange matters himself.

RECEIVED
9 - JUL 1918
D.G.R. 250 (M.D.)

This Surrey friend, by name John Lully heard from this soldier - a lance corporal J. Gallagher, to the effect that he was in possession of the articles, and asking what was to be done with them. He was instructed to forward them to Wimbledon, but since then, nothing has been

Base Record

heard from him with regard to them.

Enquiries have just elicited the fact that he has since returned to Queensland, and as both Mrs and Mrs Stewart are very anxious to have these articles which they greatly value, they wish to know whether you could do anything towards recovering them.

Hoping you will give this matter your attention

I remain

Yours respectfully
Gladys Radbourn.

Gallagher's address as far as was known was.

Number 2078

Lieut. Corp. J. Gallagher

'B' Company

44th Battalion

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

Qk.513/1/55TELEPHONES:
HAMMERSMITH 1900, 1901.**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.****KIT STORE.**

110. GREYHOUND ROAD.

HAMMERSMITH, LONDON, S.W. 6.

23rd July, 1918

Dear Sirs,

1783 Sergeant D.W. Stewart, 44th. Battalion, A.I.F.
Deceased.

In continuation of my letter to you of the 17th. ultimo relative to the personal effects of the above-named late soldier - although thorough enquiries have been made in the field with a view to tracing the effects of the deceased, our efforts have proved unsuccessful.

The Commanding Officer, 44th. Battalion, on being communicated with in regard thereto reports that no record exists in his Unit of any belongings of the late Sergeant D.W. Stewart having been recovered from the field.

In view of the foregoing I regret that I cannot hold out any hope for the recovery of any property belonging to the deceased.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Stewart
Lieutenant.
O.C., A.I.F. Kit Store.

The Commissioners,
Australian Red Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

DC.

26th November 1918.

64112

Dear Sir,

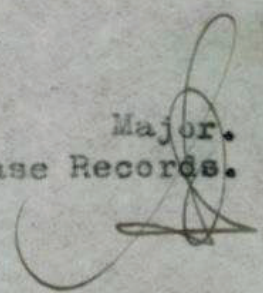
With reference to a communication written on behalf of Mrs. Stewart and yourself by Miss G. Radbourn, of 287 Dugan Street, Kalgoorlie, W.A. dated 23th June last, relative to certain personal effects of your son, the late No. 1783 Sergeant D.W. Stewart, 44th Battalion, left with ex Lance Corporal J. Gallagher, 42nd Battalion, every effort has been made to trace this soldier but without result.

*(See file of
307th Bde
Gallagher
42nd Bn)*

However, in the event of any information as to his whereabouts coming to hand, he will be promptly communicated with relative to the late soldier's personal effects.

Yours faithfully,

Major.
Officer i/c Base Records.



Mr. W.D. Stewart,
13 Park Road,
Mount Lawley,
PERTH. W. A.

Perth
Mount Lawley
13 Park Road

To The Officer in charge
of Base records

26/2/18

Dear Sir

Could you
inform me if any of my son's personal
effects as came through my son was
killed at Messines on the 8th of June last
year and I have received nothing of
his belongings yet so if you receive
any thing I will be so grateful
if you will forward them on to me
as I am his Mother

I remain yours Truly

My late sons address Mrs W. Stewart
Sergeant D. W. Stewart
No 1783 A Company
44th Battalion
Australian Imperial Forces

Mr Morgan

7/3

No. 1783.

Sergeant David Walter Stewart,

44th Battalion,

Australian Imperial Force.

xxxxxx Was killed in action.

(No record available),

8th June

17.

Cable No. C.I.E.L.

1541, from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 26th June 1917, confirmed by Mail, from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 2nd July 1917.

18th September 17.

Major.

EAG M52/821

TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 4741.

In all communications regimental number, rank, full name and unit of Soldier referred to, are to be stated.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE,
VICTORIA BARRACKS.

Melbourne, 14th December 1920

Dear Sir,

With reference to your application for photographs of the grave of the late No. 1783 Sergeant D. W. STEWART, 44th Bn. I have to advise you one copy ~~is~~ is now available, and may be obtained at the rate of 3d. per copy.

Upon receipt of your remittance (stamps or postal note) the photographs will be at once forwarded.

Yours faithfully,

Mr H. J. Rail,
Chamberlain Street
COTTESLOE. W. A.

J. M. LEAN, Major,
Officer in Charge Base Records.

In Memory of

Sergeant

David Walter Stewart

1783, 44th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 08 June 1917 Age 22

Son of Walter David and Amelia Stewart, of 13, Park Rd., Mt. Lawley, Perth, Western Australia. Native of Braidwood, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour

Bethleem Farm East Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

France Day.

BRAIDWOOD CELEBRATION.

The celebration of France Day in Braidwood was something of a fiasco. The public was invited to meet in Ryrie Park at 12 o'clock yesterday. At 10 minutes past this hour the only members of the public, outside the public school children, in attendance were the Mayor and town clerk. The youngsters were marched to the ground by the headmaster, Mr. Page, and Miss Hogg. The Mayor presided.

Mr. Page said they had met to pay some recognition to the great Republic of France on her national day. This day was celebrated, partly to commemorate the fall of Bastille, but chiefly to commemorate the beginning of a free constitution in France. Australians and Britishers generally possibly did not appreciate fully what the revolution meant to France, but he did not intend to say anything about that. It was rather a curious fact that in 1792, four years after the revolution, the representatives of all sections met in France on 14th July, which was celebrated as France Day. At this gathering it was decided to fight the enemy of France at that time. This enemy was Germany, which was then moving on Paris. To-day France was fighting the same enemy, and fighting it nobly and well. He concluded by saying that he had much pleasure in mo-

ving the following resolution:— "That we, the citizens of Braidwood, assembled in Ryrie Park, by invitation of the Mayor, desire upon this, the national festival of our glorious ally, to record our deep sense of the immeasurable sacrifice made by the French people in withstanding the greatest menace to liberty that ever threatened civilisation; our admiration of the matchless valor of her armies, and the irresistible determination of her civil population which shows no sign of faltering after four years of the bloodiest war in history; and our profound conviction of the ultimate success in which the arms of the Allies will be crowned with a glorious and imperishable victory, for ever removing the danger of the free democracies being crushed by Prussian militarism."

Mr. C. Green, town clerk, said he had much pleasure in seconding the resolution. The resolution simply meant that the citizens of Braidwood honored France for her achievements in this war and lifted their hats to her. France had been fighting for four years and was still fighting. Australians scarcely knew what war meant. Frenchmen knew what it meant. They had bitter experience to guide them. The towns in France were deserted except for women and children and old men. All the rest had gone to defend their country against an implacable enemy. They were determined to keep on fighting until victory had been achieved. Therefore it was that they honoured France.

The resolution was carried unanimously. Afterwards the children sang "The Marseillaise" and "God Save the King." The proceedings terminated with three lusty cheers for France.



*France Day, Wallace Street Braidwood (Photo: Braidwood Letters from the Front, by Roslyn Maddrell).
Story from the The Braidwood Review and District Advocate, Tuesday 16 July 1918, page 2*

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.

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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