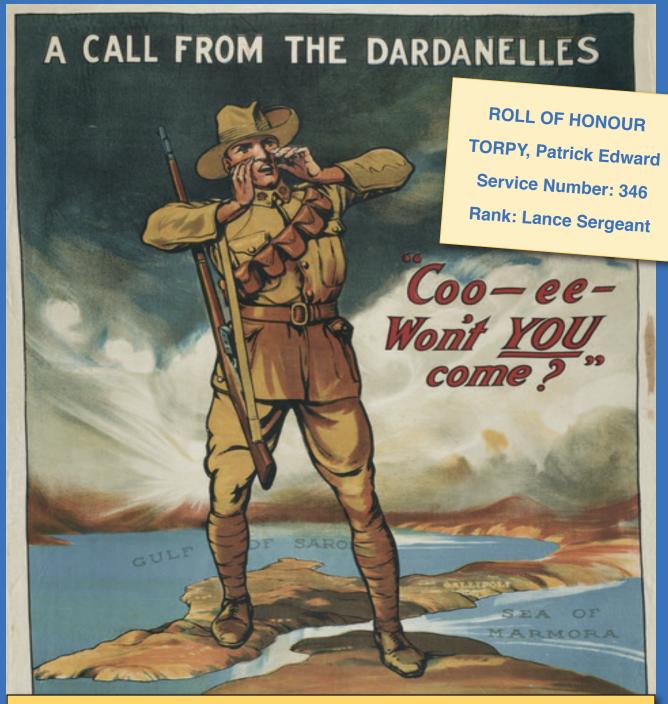
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 **Patrick Edward Torpy**, 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.

Patrick Edward Torpy 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.

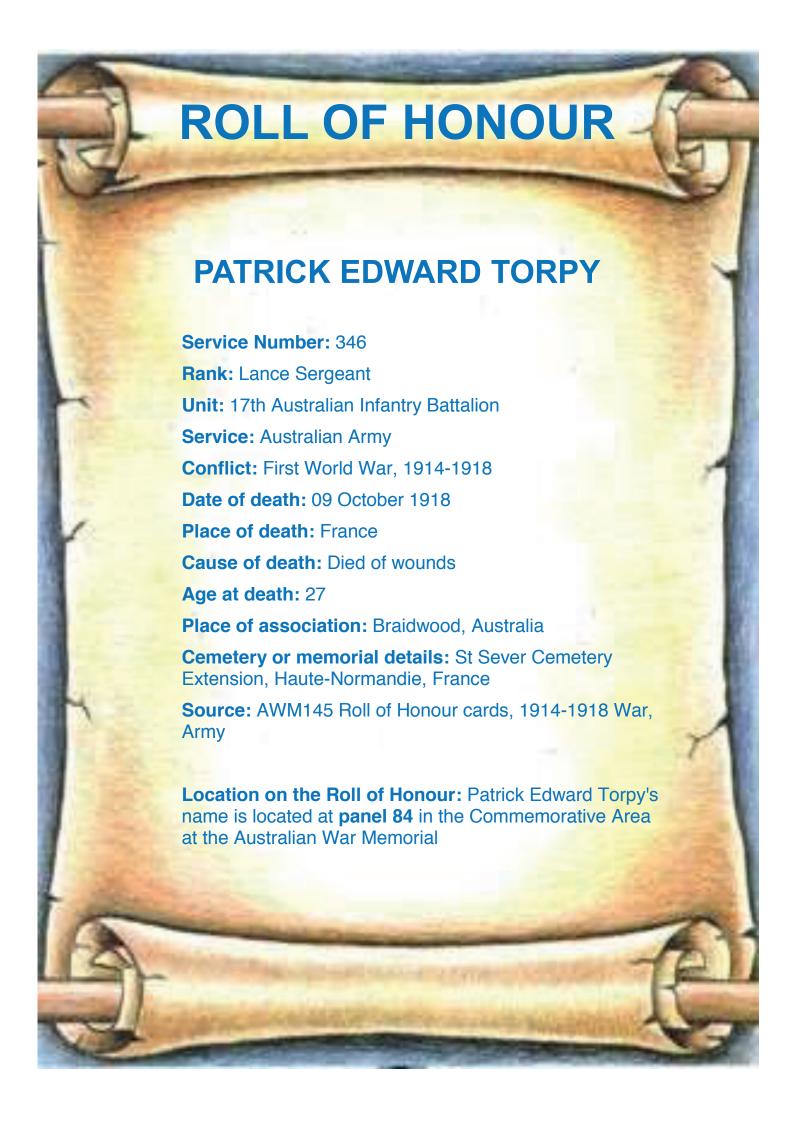
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





17th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 20 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. For a short period part of the 17th garrisoned Pope's Hill, but for most of its time on the peninsular the Battalion was responsible for the defence of Quinn's Post, one of the most contested positions along the entire ANZAC front. The Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915.

After further training in Egypt, the 17th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 22 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The Battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time, although in a reserve role, between 18 and 28 August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 17th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

In 1917 the 17th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost four times as strong, at Lagincourt. The battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

After another winter of trench duty, 17th Battalion helped to thwart the German Spring Offensive of 1918. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the Allied armies turned to the offensive and the 17th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaurevoir Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle. It was training out of the line when the armistice was declared in November 1918, and was disbanded in April 1919.





PATRICK EDWARD TORPY #346

At the time of WW1 Patrick Edward Torpy was engaged to Miss Lily Holland. The post card is from Pat to Lilly: "My dearest Lily, I have had my photo (above) taken as you can see and what a lovely one too. Please do not show it to many they will think "Fritz" has really frightened me. I will say goodbye for the present dearest with fondest love and kisses to you dearest and all at home. Your ever loving Pat."



Private Patrick Torpy, of Lagoon, Braidwood, son of Mr and Mrs M. Torpy, has died from wounds received in France, this is the second son they have lost, the other was Private Thomas Torpy, who was reported missing fully 12 months before any authentic information regarding his death was received. The late Patrick Torpy was 27 years of age, he took part in the Gallipoli campaign, returned to France in 1916. The deceased was a general favourite in the district, his other brother Private Eddie Torpy, returned recently suffering from a dose of Fritz's mustard gas.

The Braidwood Dispatch reporting the death of Patrick Edward Torpy, from Braidwood Letters from the Front, by Roslyn Maddrell.

OUR SOLDIERS.

Mrs. M. Torpy, of this town, on Wednesday received a telegram from the Defence authorities conveying the sad news that her son, Private P. Torpy, had been wounded in France. Mrs. Torpy's three soldier sons are now out of action. Private E. Torpy was admitted to the Cambridge Hospital on the 11th March suffering from wounds received in France, while Private T. Torpy was reported missing six months ago, and no information as to his whereabouts has since been received.

Writing from England to his mother, Mrs. M. Irwin, Braidwood, Private Vin. Irwin says that Private P. Torpy, son of Mr. E. Torpy, of the Criterion Hotel, had been recommended for a Military Medal or a French decoration.

1918: The Braidwood Dispatch reporting on the fate of the three Torpy brothers: Patrick, Thomas and Eddie.

17th EATTALION.

No. 346.

*DIED OF SOURDS 9.10.18.

Torpy was in B. Company VIII Platoon, with me as a Tem: Berguant having been recently promoted from Corporal. He was a big lump of a chap and his name was I think 'atrick. He was wounded in the eye on 3.10.18 at Johncourt the other side of the Hinden burg Line. I had been wounded just previously on the same day. He was carried out and died six days later at a Base Hospital. I heard of his death about 2 months later. I heard of his being wounded the day it happened. He was wounded by a piece of shell.

Informant: Sergeant J. Dolan 1346. 17th Estation A. Company, "Suterley"

Home address: Mooramie Avenue,
KEMSINGTON.
No. 4 General Hospital RAND/TOK.
21.2.19.
H.2.0.

SYNEEY BUTEAU.

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"Diedof Wounds 9/10/18".

Corporal Torpy and I went away together in March 1915 on the "Themistocles". He was about 5ft.7" in height, with freekled face, light hair and fair complexion.

We were engaged in a stunt at Joncourt on the 7th or 8th October 1918 and I was alongside of him. We happed over about 10 e'cleck in the morning. After a little while, I cannot remember how long, I saw him hit by a bullet. He was very severely wounded. I saw the stretcher-bearers carry him off. I never saw him again.

Informant; - No. 411, Lance-Corporal J.B. Huge, 17th Battalion.

Private address; - Hew Tunnell, WALLSHID, N.S. Wales.

Ansac Buffet, Sydney. 31/5/19.

SYDNEY BURKAU.

Sal

Australian ded Gross Seclety, 17 Blor RECEIVED

38, Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

Reference attached, I have to inform you that Sgt Torpy was admitted to this Hospital on 8/10/18, suffering from "GSW Head". He died on 9/10/18, in spite of all that could be done for him. He was buried in St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, on 11/10/18. Grave No 7308.

Rouen. 21/1/19.

for U.C. ho d General Hospital.

'LUMson

Tel: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

. 10 - 11

600 in 120%

Quien 11-10-18

WOUNDED AND, MISSING

ENQUIRY BUREAU

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

14th Jan:19

The Officer Commanding.

Dear Sir, 346, LSq7, P. S. Dorfy, 17th Ballation.
We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to
obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death
and burial of the above, who died in your Hospital on
9.10.18 and would greatly appreciate any information
that you may send us.

As we have been informed by various C.O.'s and Adjutants that the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience, unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

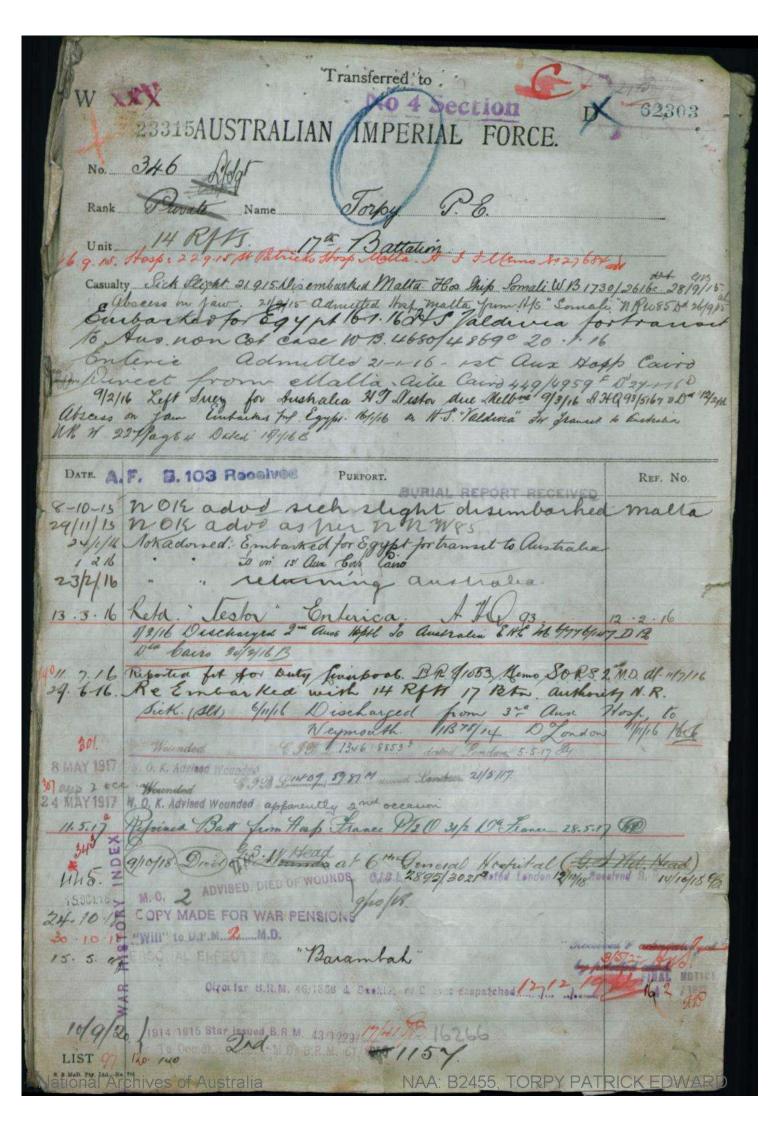
(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.

elei um, 🗸 .

17th BATTALION A. I. F. FROM AUSTRALIA 13-10-16 MILITARY FORCES. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad. Name No. Calmok retworks Unit Joined on Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation. . What is your Name? 2. In the Parish of near the Town of . Braidwoo . In or near what Parish or Town were you born! Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) . What is your age? What is your trade or calling? Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? you married? Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? . . 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 Force? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? (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? 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 two fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during * This clause 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.

13103 France Ent. mattalle Unit in which served: Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. From-To-Liverpool Overdaying leave Serg. Juned 10 From 12mi. N. 21. 8. 15 days pay 1.4.15 10 12 down 31.3.15 And 5/hurslaying leane Smerport Traus Hospital 16.9.15 15. C.C.S Mosship 17.9.15 Hosp Malla x Tomali" 21.9.15 St Patricks Hosp Malla 3 mor change 9.2.16 RETURNED FROM AUSTRALIA adm to & seveport Attlany 12 18 DIE, 28 NO16 12.10.16 Haspitat lick Slight. ENJOINED UNIT FROM Hook 12-2-17 24-2-17 marched in to PI.2. 521E) 6.11.16. Depot Weymouth from 10.1.14. ER85-18 roceede dopeas France Dolkestan 921 Dikestone El 4007 A Jo Ho: Teck Trance The W unled in Action France 3 MAY 1017 40 29/0216 24/8/9 I have examined the above details and find them correct in every respect. I Push 2786/3/4 NAA: B2455, TORPY PATRICK EDW



Page 4 (B.) Name Voyry Statement of Service of No. 346 Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, etc. 20B Me. Rejd Bu from Hosp France 11/5/12 /11/31/37/8 28/5/ De Rou: Tehl nee Laucs. DOS4/6203.7.10.19 25.9.17 7213. No. 153547 3) bhe from Energe Baby 1711 Pli Reid 1713 his from dosp. 0062/7346 France. 14.11-17. coll adm. 2nd East. Ser. Hp. -Brighta 28-1-18. 148.1420. D.O.11/651 while or leave from France: accident - Frying to Reg. He bel adm. 2nd Galt bent Hos. Brighton England 28-1-18 RO 16/1393. Ple to Hospital while on Furlough in U.t. France 28-1-18, 200 16 Cherkist muth 100 Pte) Wounded in action h A Newland 3/5/18. France 15,4.17 Do 26/26,43 Che Proceeded Opeas France via Lex 6 peas yng Bagde Longbridge Deverill Folkestone 22.5.18 n. H. esc Sick. from nance. 24/5/18. Do 33/3021. 8/6/18

JED OF William recin action 9.8 587. 141018
6th General Hosp: Romen 9.1018 6218 2895.

Plund St Sever bern: 6xt: 104121.

Planen. D916 L. L. 5. 3509.

National Archives of Australia

NAA B2455 TORPY PATRICK EDWARD

In the event of my Death
I leave all my belongings
to my Mother

Mrs M Torpy Lagoon Estate Braidwood NSW

Signed 346 Pte Torpy 17th Batt A.I.F.

Certified to be a true copy of will extracted from the Pay Book of No.346 Pte TORPY Patrick Edwin. 17th Battalion A.I.F.

Estates Branch. Adm; H.Q. A.I.F. London.

Checked & Mulbourn Cpl.

25192

R.O'B. W-23315

M. TORPY

LAGOON ESTATE

BRAIDWOOD (N.S.W)

REGRET REPORTED SON PRIVATE P.E. TORPY SICK SLIGHT DISEMBARKED
MALTA 21st SEPTEMBER HOSPITAL SHIP SOMALI WILL PROMPTLY ADVISE IF
ANYTHING FURTHER RECRIVED

BASE RECORDS

8.10.15

Medical Report on an Invalid.

3287

Station NO. I. A.C.D.

Date 22/Y/16

- I. Unit 17TH BATTN.
- 2. Regimental No. 346
- 3. Rank PTT
- 4. Name T O R P Y . PATRICK R.
- 5. Age last birthday 24 22ND BEBRUARY 1915
- 6. Enlisted
- 7. Former Trade (LABOURER.
- 8. Disability.

DEBILITY FOLLOWING ENTERIC.

Statement of Case



Note. — The answers to the following questions are to be filled in by the Officer in medical chage of the case, in answering them he will carefully discriminate between the man's unsupported statements and evidence recorded in his military and medical documents. He will also carefully distinguish cases entirely due to venereal disease.

- 9. Date of orgin of disability
- 28TH SEPTEMBER 1915
- lo Place of origin of disability.
- ANZAC
- II. Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability, noting entries on the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case

IN BED WITH ENTERIC PEVER FOR SIX WEEKS. UP AND ABOUT FOR THE LAST SEVEN WEEKS.

- (a) Give your opinion as to the causation of the disability.
- (b) If you consider it to have been caused by active service, climate, or ordinary military service, explain the specific conditions to which you attribute it (See notes on page 3)

CONTRACTED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

CONCOUVERLY OF AUSTRALIA .

Department of Defence,

MILBOURIE. 1st February 1916

Dour Sir.

With reference to this office communication of the 24th stating that No. 346 Private P. R. Torpy, 17th Battalion, had left Milta for Toppt for hospital ship "Valdivia", advice is now to hand which shows he arrived at, and was admitted to let

Auxiliary Hospital, Cairo, 21st January.

This is evidently only until arrangements can be made for his return to Australia and you will be duly advised on receipt of later reports.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. M. Torpy, Lagoon Estate,

J. M. LEAM, Captain. Officer 1/c Base Decords. Captain.

BRAIDWOOD (N.S.W.)

W.23315

CONTRACTA OF AUSTRALIA.

Department of Defonce Philipomore, 22nd February 1916.

Door Sir,

I am in receipt of cable advice to the effect that No. 346 Private P. E. Torpy, 17th Battalion,

is returning to Australia, and is due in Melbourne about the middle of March, 1916. It is regretted no further details can be disclosed.

It is to be noted that owing to possible mutilations in the cabled advice and other causes this notification may not be correct pending verification from the roll on the troopship.

Yours faithfully.

J. M. IMAN.

Officer 1/c Base Records.

Mr. M. Torpy, Lagoon Estate, Braidwood, N.S.W. RY.

BRAIDWOOD HITH

TORPY

LAGOON ESTATE

PRIVATE PATRICK TORPY WOUNDED APPARENTLY SECOND OCCASION WILL ADVISE ANYTHING FURTHER RECEIVED

BASE RECORDS 24.5.17

National Archives of Australia

NAA B2455, TORPY PATRICK EDWARD

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. KIT STORE.



FULHAM, LONDON.

S.W.

Inventory of Effects of 346 Forpy P.E. 17th Btn.A.I.F.

Legatee. Mother:-

Mrs. H. Torpy, Lagoon Estate, Braidwood, NEW SOUTH WALKS.

Effects received from the field. 28.10.18.(3/9242).

I Parcel(sealed) containing:-

2 Dises, 2 Pipes, 1 Pair seissors, 1 Pair nail clippers, 1 Religious book, 1 Note book, Letters, Cards.

Checked by

Validhal Archives of Australi 2/8. 45593

NAA B2455, TORPY PATRICK FOW

monday. 28.10.18 Et Vincents Hospital Nictoria Street Darling hurch

Lo the Officer in charge Dear Ber

you Rindly send me a Johoto of Corpolal I. Is Lolpy's grave who died of wounds on the 9 10. 18 by doing so you will greatly oblige miss a. Keirian

no 346.

Corporal S. S. Lolpy.

G. Company.

14th Battalion

auchalian Imperial Loces of abroard

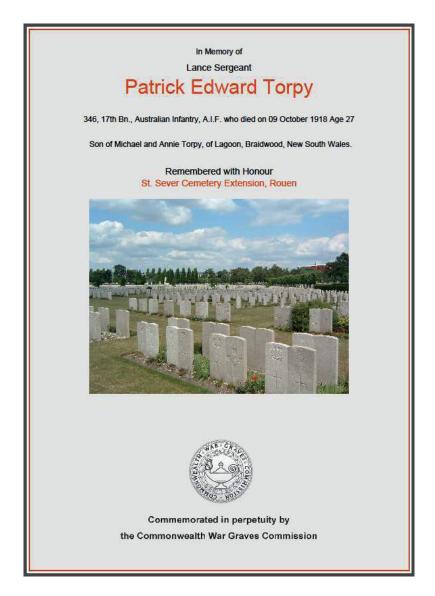


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART03023

1918: Will Longstaff, Breaking the Hindenburg Line: The Battle of the Hindenburg Line which began September 18, 1918, was a key turning point in the Hundred Days Offensive that eventually led to the end of World War 1. British forces spearheaded the attack against the German Line, continuing their effective use of tanks that stated earlier in the Offensive at the Battle of Amiens. The battle was another sign that trench warfare was over as the Allies broke through the largest trench system on the Western Front.

6th June, 1919 Dear Bir. with reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 340, Lance Sergeant P. E. Torpy, 17th Battalion, I am now if receipt of advice which shows that he was wounded in action (third occasion) in France on 3.10.18 and admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance. He was then transferred to 60th Casualty Clearing Station and thence to Ambulance Train. On 8.10.18 he was admitted to 6th Casualty Clearing Station and thence to Ambulance Train. admitted to oth General Hospital, Rouen, France, where he died on 9th idem as the result of gunshot wound head. He was buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen. The utmost care and attention is being devoted, where possible, to the gravesof our soldiers. It is understood photograogs are beigg taken as soon as practicable for transmission to next-of-kin. These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward alliinformation received in connection with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force. Yours faithfully. Mr. M. Torpy, Officer 1/o Base Records. Lagoon Estate, PRAIDWOOD. N.S.W. National Archives of Australia NAA B2455 TORPY PATRICK EDWARD



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

RROWN