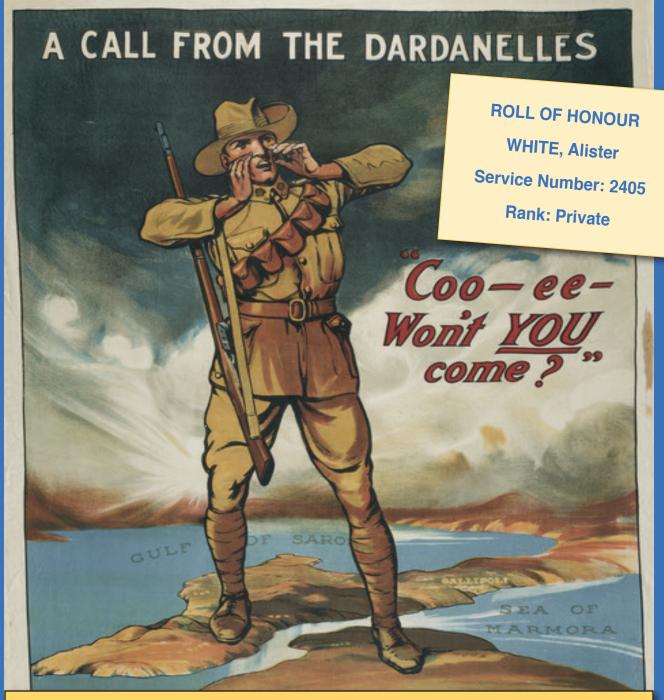
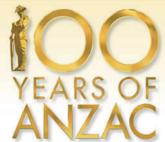
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 Alister White, 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.

Alister White 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.

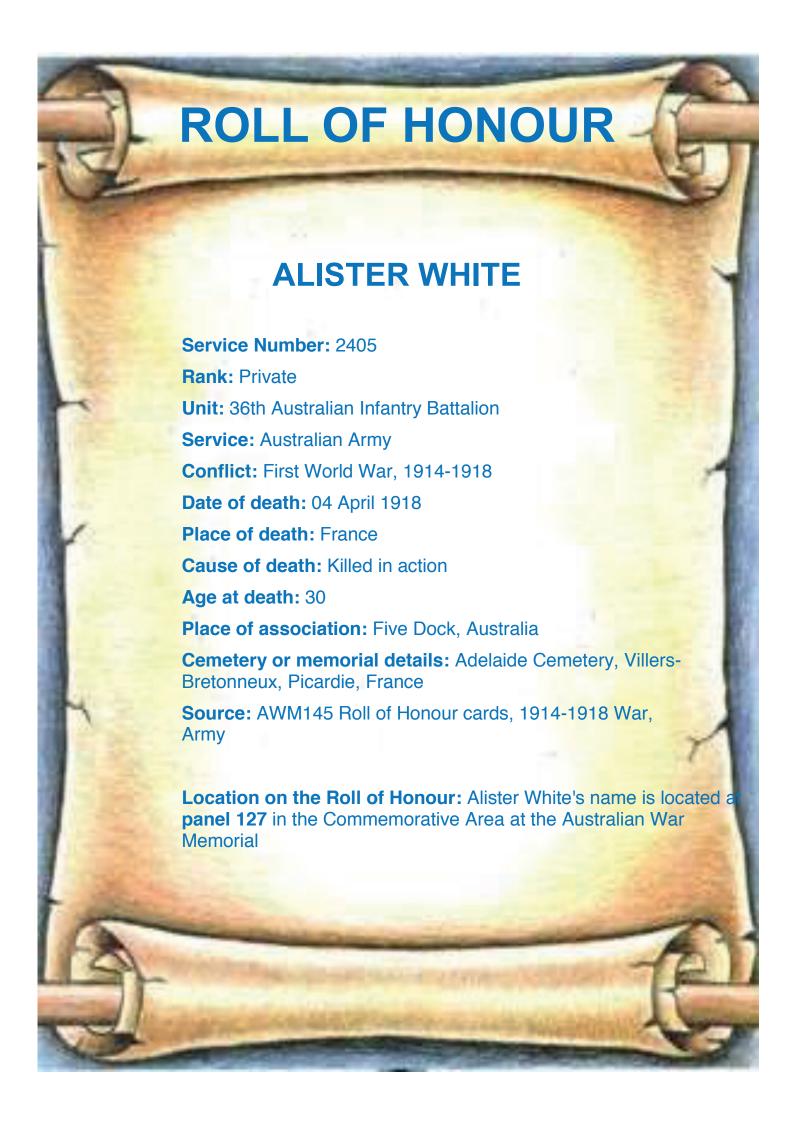
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





36th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 36th Battalion was raised at Broadmeadow Camp, in Newcastle, New South Wales in February 1916. The bulk of the battalion's recruits had been enlisted as a result of a recruiting drive conducted amongst the rifle clubs of New South Wales by the Minister for Public Information in the New South Wales government, Ambrose Carmichael. Thus, the battalion became known as "Carmichael's Thousand". Carmichael led by example and enlisted as well, serving in the battalion as a captain.

The 36th Battalion became part of the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. It left Sydney, bound for the United Kingdom on 13 May 1916. Arriving there in early July, the battalion spent the next four months in training. It crossed to France in late November, and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 4 December, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17.

The battalion had to wait until the emphasis of British and Dominion operations switched to the Ypres Sector of Belgium in mid-1917 to take part in its first major battle; this was the battle of Messines, launched on 7 June. With the 9th Brigade held in reserve during the battle for Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October, the 36th's next major battle was around Passchendaele on the 12th. Heavy rain, though, had deluged the battlefield, and thick mud tugged at the advancing troops and fouled their weapons. The 36th secured its objective but with open flanks and ineffective artillery support, was forced to withdraw.

For the next five months the 36th alternated between periods of rest, training, labouring, and service in the line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the battalion was part of the force deployed to defend the approaches to Amiens around Villers-Bretonneux. It took part in a counter-attack at Hangard Wood on 30 March, and helped to defeat a major drive on Villers-Bretonneux on 4 April.

German Spring Offensive:this term relates to the three major German attacks on the Western Front in late March, April and May 1918, known collectively as the "Kaiserschlacht" (Kaiser's Battle) offensive. Using troops released from the Eastern Front, following the revolution and collapse of the Russian Armies in late 1917, the German General Staff attempted to win the war before the Americans arrived in sufficient force to tip the strategic balance firmly in favour of the Allies. The first German attack in March was launched against the British Fifth Army in Arras (Somme area); the second attack in April centred on Lys in Flanders, and the third offensive in May focused on the Aisne, where British Divisions recuperating from the March attacks were again subjected to severe losses. Despite sweeping early gains in each of their attacks, German forces (which incurred huge casualties in their all-out attacks) outdistanced their supply lines and became themselves exhausted by the constant fighting. The final German advances were repulsed at the Marne in mid-June 1918, and the scene was set for the Allied counter-offensives. of the summer.

Late in March 1918, the Germans struck hard, and immediately had the British reeling back in disarray. Had they and their French allies been driven apart, the British might have been forced to evacuate their whole front. At worst, this could have resulted in a decisive German victory on the Western Front, and perhaps an end to the war.

To help stem the tide, the Australians were rushed to the threatened sectors. Near Hazebrouck in the north, and on the Somme, they played an important role in containing the Germans. Before Hazebrouck and Amiens, they protected key rail and communication centres, which if lost, might have led to a general collapse. On the Somme, the Australians' tenacious defence at Dernancourt was followed by a stunning counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux on 24 April. The German advance was halted, but the final outcome still hung in the balance.

The fighting to defeat the German offensive had exacted a heavy toll upon the 3rd Division, and the 9th Brigade in particular. Reinforcements from Australia were dwindling and thus it was decided to disband one of the 9th Brigade's battalions to reinforce the other two. The 36th was the battalion selected. In what one of the battalion's officers called an "unselfish act" the 36th disbanded on 30 April 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P10427.004

ALISTER WHITE #2405

Studio portrait of 2405 Acting Corporal (A/Cpl) Alister White, 36th Battalion. A clerk from Five Dock, NSW prior to enlistment, A/Cpl White embarked with the 4th Reinforcements from Sydney on HMAT Borda on 17 October 1916. Later reverting to the rank of Private he was killed in action at Villers-Bretonneux on 4 April 1918, aged 30. He is buried in the Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, France



MILITARY FORCES.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

	1000	Ulister
	No. Name _	WHITE H.
	Unit	36 th Balle
	Joined on	4 19/15 11- 1-16
	Questions to be put to the Pers	son Enlisting before Attestation.
	What is your Name!	1 aliaser White
		2. In the Parish of in or
	In or near what Parish or Town were you born !	near the Town of
		in the County of Sh Vincent
	Are you a natural born British Subject or a	3 British Born
	Naturalized British Subject! (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	As a server and a server a ser
	What is your age!	1 Elver 28 years 2 months.
	What is your trade or calling !	5. Lalyto
	Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6 CRO
	Are you married !	7 to Slo
		8 Craffer) of 35 White
TO THE	Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	Shathalan Denver Road
	Parameter and the contract of	Twee Doch Lydrey.
	Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power!	9 GATANO
	Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incor-	
	rigible and Worthless, or on account of Convic- tion of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servi	10
	tude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy!	
1	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,	ore.
	or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not	11
	now serving, state cause of discharge)	
0.	Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12
3.	Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's	13 eVo
	Service? If so, on what grounds?	10
-	Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an	14 yes
	amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day.	
5	Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox	NIS
	and enteric fever?	15
	1. alister White	do solemnly declare that the above answers made
t	forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or bey	
13		fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during
100	wife and shildren	-fitths
	Date	Awhite.

*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

Statement of Service of No... Period of service in each rank. Remirks. Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. Unit in which served. To-From-11.1.16 B Coy 4 Bath Bly New castle Depth Batter, Corporal D. Cay New. A Cay Man A Corporal Embarked . Borda' Disempacked ? L/mouth marched into 9th Ing Bricho: 11 Durington land 20-17 Proceeding Ofsea Sto France or get get Ing. pie TOS of 3616 80 AIF 28.4.17 France

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

C.O. Hewaske looped Ball action

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5.2.18	1st ACCS	Phe.Adm. do	do	15.2.18	AMERICA /56	
		Pto-Rejoined Unit from Sich	e do		AMERE8/86 09/65 D010/1051	
2.3.18	do	Pte.On leave to U.K. Pte.Rejoined from Leave	do	15.3.18	C9/66	
6.4.18	do	Pte Killed in Action Pic	14 France	4.4.18	CB/V1 VL6V8 DO1	0/16
	Austral	ian Sestion		1		
	- Carried	Srd Hohelon G.H.Q.,	(800.1.)	H. CHAY	MEORD	Capt
		22 MAY 1918	for	Officer	1/s Records.	
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re Number of Staff, Small Arms Factory, on active service.
Alister White. Acting-Secretary, & All Call Coll According to the records No.2405 Corporal Alister White is attached to the 36th Infantry Battalion. He was promoted Corporal on 25/8/16. Helbourne. Major. 17/3/37. Officer 1/o Base Records. WILL. Codicil to Will made in Australia in October 1916 (in possession of Artnur White Strathslam Denver Rd. Five Docks, Sydney, NSW Austrelia) All money to the credit of my a/a No 81 in the Post Office Savings Bank at Durrington. Wiltshire England to the amount of £24 to go to my mother Ketherine White together with all my personal effects. (Pass book lodged with Mrs J.M.Ross The Whins 114 Kenneth St Inversess, Scotland) Signature A White Rank and Unit Private, 26th Btn Date 4th April 1917 Certified to be a true copy of Will extracted from the pay book of No.2405 Pte.WHITE Alister, 36th Battalion, A.I F. & Mintes Estates Branch. Cpl. Checked. Adm. Hdqtrs. Ldn. 17.5.18.

557 1 959 Strathalon" Denver Rd., Dive Dock, Sydney, 12.12:18 I have before me a letter dates 10%. July 1918, marked Qk, 574/1/62 from Lieutevant Wenny O. C., a. J. J. Kit Store, informing me that personal belongings of my late brother alister white towit spectacles in case, notebook and 12 photos. had been gorworded tomy morher atdid not arrive by , es December I was advised to make application to I hope these articles have come to to forward them on to us These articles were recovered in the field and I would be glad to Know how I could discover what has happened to the nest y his personal

belongings. Among other things he had compass and diary, also money belt, armlet, rayor. my brother belonged to B, bompany 36 th Battalion and was Kelled in action as Villers Brettonneauxe on 4 the april of this year. Thanking you in anticipation, yours Jack gull, (miss) To. White. The Secretary, Dept. 9 D'esence,

29 OCT 1924

Sir,

your son.

the late No. 2405 Private A. WHITE, 36th Battalion, the site of his final resting place in the ADELAIDE BRITISH CHMETERY, Villers Bretonneux, is officially recorded as :-

> Plot 3. Row K. Grave 7.

While the actual place of burial remains unchanged the former registration has been altered to conform with the uniform layout of this Cemetery.

Mr. H. White, "Strathalan" Denver Road, FIVE DOCK, MSW.

Ho. 2405

Private Alistor WHITE, 56th Battalion,

Australian Imperial Force

XXXXX was Killed in action

xx in France

4th April, 1918 XXX

Cable No. C. I.B.L.

2434, from the Commaniant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London 13th April, 1918, confirmed by mail from the Commandant, A. I.F. Headquarters, dated London 15th pril, 1918.

Camberra 1 8 BCT. 1938

(J.H. FASHOR)

20th December 1918.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your communication of the 12th instant, addressed to the Secretary of Defence. I have to advise that a package of personal effects of the late No. 2405 Private A. White, 56th Battalion, containing "12 Photos, Note Book, Spectacles (broken) in case," was forwarded to Mrs. K. White at the undermentioned address on the 19th instant.

There is no record of the other articles mentioned by you having been received at this Office to date, but it does not necessarily follow that the above package contains the whole of deceased's effects that may be returned, as on several occasions more than one parcel is received in connexion with the same soldier, but on different dates. In the event of anything further coming to hand later, it will be promptly forwarded to Mrs. White.

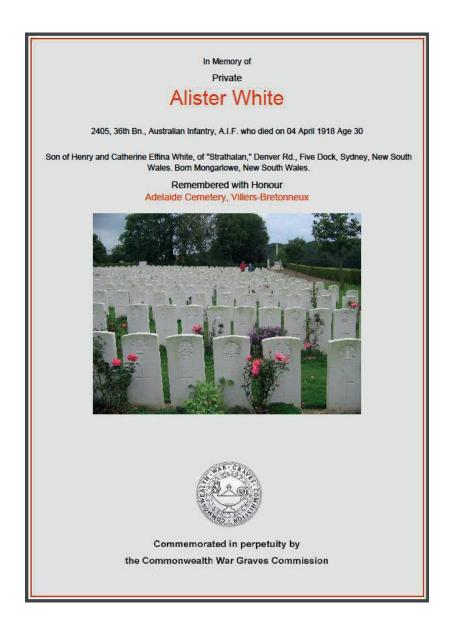
Yours faithfully,

Officer i/c Base Records.

Miss K. White,
"Strathalan",
Denver Road,
Five Dock,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

Stratholan Denver Rd, TiveDock n Sw 28/9/21 Offer in Charge Base Records.

Dear Sis, Please forward Moree (3) copies of photographs of the grave of DECEASIN the lake No 2405 Pt a White, 36 Br. for which go in slamps is enclosed, yours faithfully Allohite. Cheque Starps 9 and Official Receipt No 304837 issued. RECEIVING OFFICER. DEFENCE (Central Administration) Listed for hondon



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

AERROWN