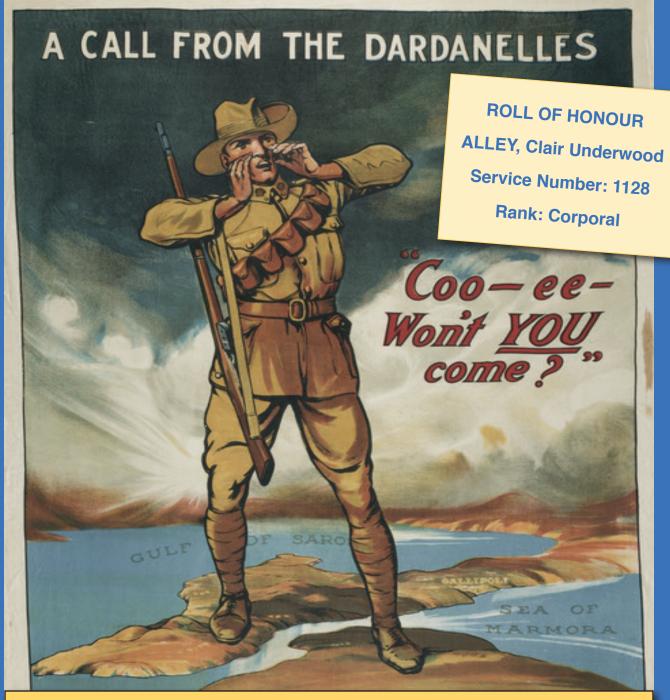
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"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 **Clair Underwood Alley**, 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.

Clair Underwood Alley 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.

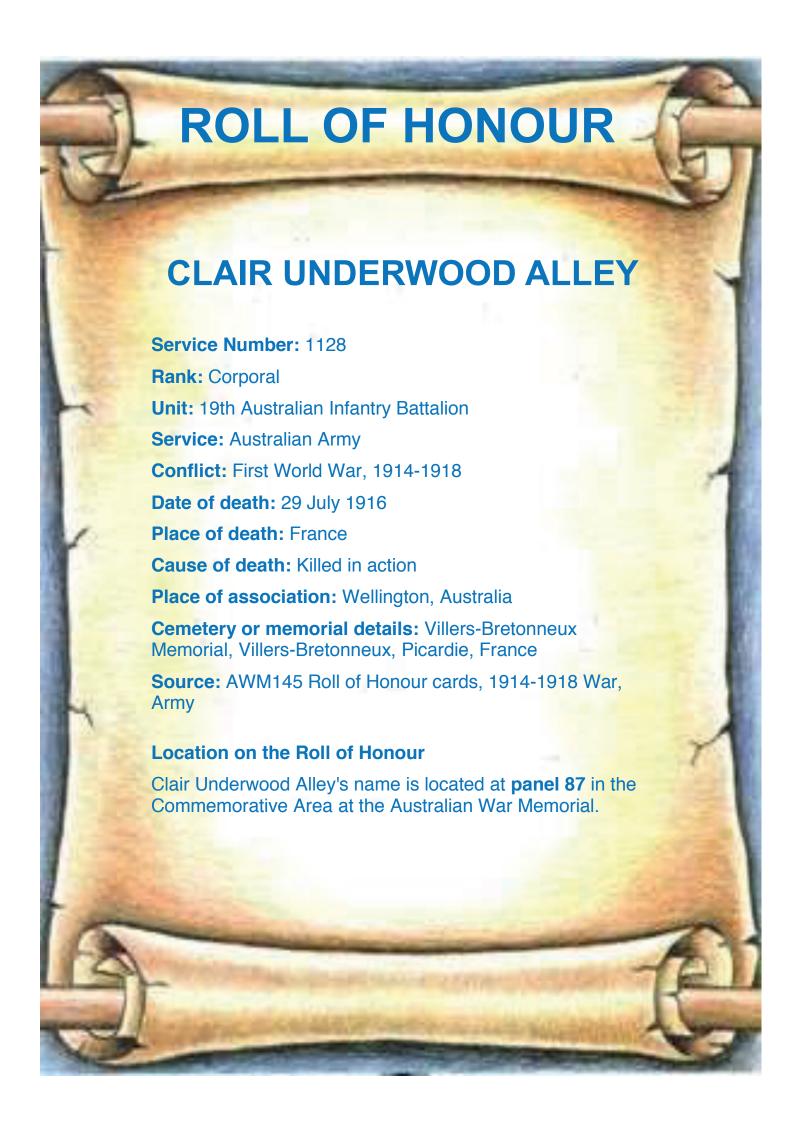
The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

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.





19th Australian Infantry Battalion

Private ALLEY was a member of the 19th Infantry Battalion which was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. Prior to joining the Australian Army he was a Clerk and lived at Araluen. Some of the 19th's original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914. The 19th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 21 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. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Pope's Hill.

After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozières between late July and the end of August 1916.

Corporal ALLEY served on Gallipoli and in France. He was just 25 years of age when he was killed in action in France on Saturday the 29th of July 1916 during 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.

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 19th Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.

In 1917, the 19th 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 five 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.

The spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 19th Battalion helped to stop. For his actions during the fighting around Hangard Wood on 7 April, Lieutenant Percy Storkey was awarded the Victoria Cross. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the 19th 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. The casualties of 1918, combined with long-term leave for 1914 enlistees, and dwindling new enlistments had sapped the strength of the AIF. On 10 October 1918 the 19th Battalion was disbanded to reinforce other battalions in the brigade.

1128



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation I	Paper of	Persons	Enlisted	for	Service	Abroad.
---------------	----------	---------	----------	-----	---------	---------

21717	18. 2. 15
Questions to be put to the Per	son Enlisting before Attestation.
What is your Name! What is your Name!	A Clair Underwood ally
1 cm g	2. In the Parish of in
In or near what Parish or Town were you bornf	near the Town of Arabia 1
	in the County of
Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3 Malmae Born
What is your age!	1.25 zears
What is your trade or calling !	5. Clik
Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, to whom, and for what period!	6. M. 6.
Are you married?	7. 0/19
	& blysfish unn alley f
Who is your next of kin! (Address to be stated)	& Elyafish ann alley f
Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power!	D. O naistion
	0.01.0
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 Diagrace from the Navy?	10. Pe-
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	n Po
Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. 400
Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13. Ne
(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

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 further scree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife three-fifths

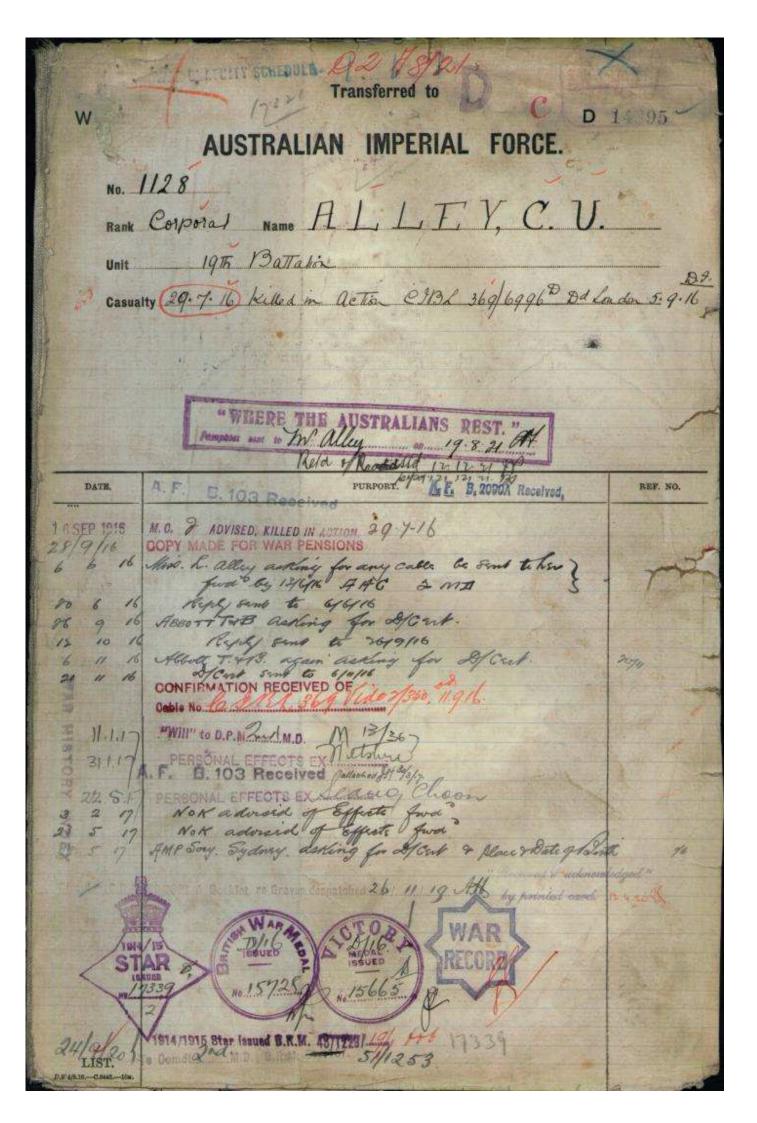
Date 19-2-15

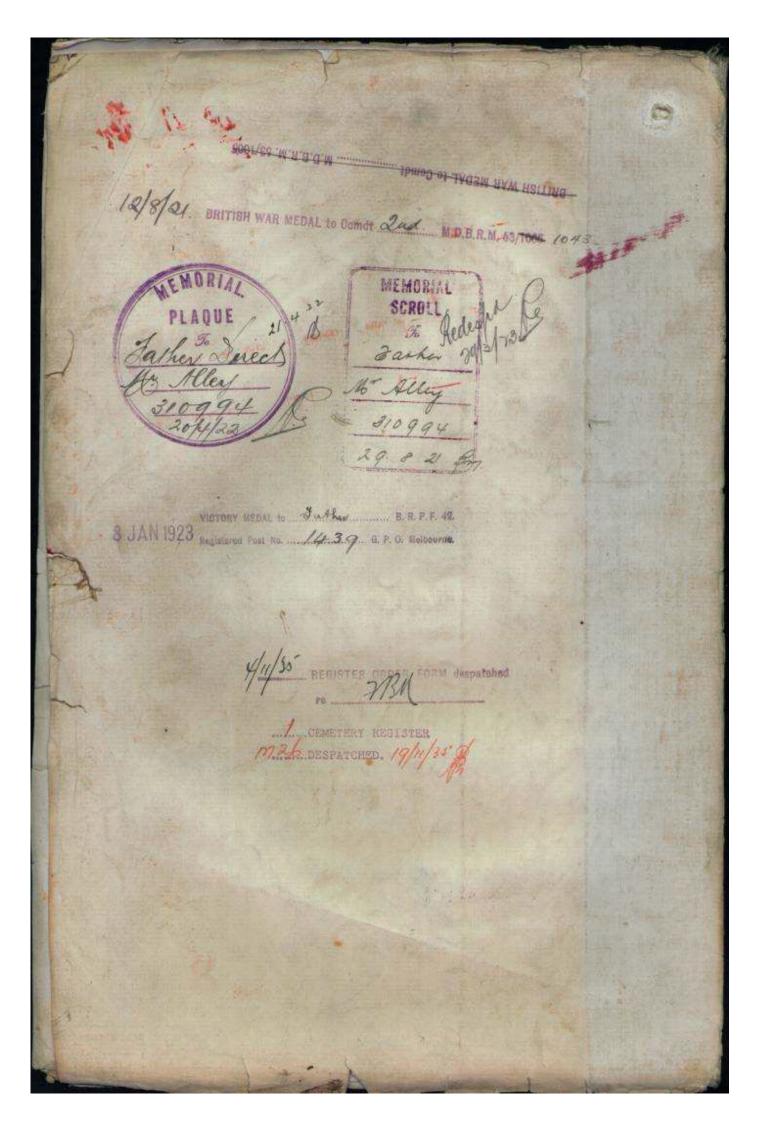
^{*} This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under TB years of age

Entitled to sateless Star.

.Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank. From— To—	Remarks,	
19 Sacr Confe	aral vice Swith bound; Told to Supermemorary Hele & m action Front Proceeded to your B. B. Disembarbed at horse	4 alex 18.8.16	87 270/205 3. 60/3474	
	KILLED IN ACTIO	Forance	27069/3474 39.7.16.	
			**	

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





JUN 7 - 1916 HEADQUARTERS A. A. G. address (any come

Sent JUN 1916

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,

Regtl No 1128 Rank CORPORAL Name ALLEY C Underwood Date 29th JULY 1916 Died Place FRANCE	
Date 29th JULY 1916	
Died Place FRANCE	
Cause of Death* KILLED IN ACTION	
Nature and Date of Report Army Form B.213 dated 5.8.16.	m ii
By whom made Commanding Officer 19th Battalion A.I.F.	
* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, private exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.	tion or
Place	
Burial Date	
By whom reported .	
(a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Not yet to hand	
State whether he leaves a will or not (b) in Small Book (if at Base)	4
(c) as a separate document	340

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.

Signature of Officer in charge of Section Adjutant General's Officer 1/c Records

ANZAC SECTION, 3rd ECHELON G.H.Q. B. E. F.

Wt. 12929/4141 400,000 12/18 JFW September 1916

*

	Religion. Enlisted (of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank Oualification (b)					
	Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reducting active service, as a St. 215, Army Form A. 36, or in The authority to be quoted in each	ons, transfers, ensualties, eported on Army Form other official documents. It case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army For B: 205, Army Form A. 1 or other official documents
			TO SAIT: FOLIF on MUDROS	Embarked Disembarked	ALEXANDRIA do	16.8.15	
19	.2.16	c.O.19th Bett	TO BE CORPORAL TREE TO SUPER TO J	WUTRARY LIC			P213 AP467 D.O.15-120
5	.8.16	C.O.19th Hett	DISE TARKED AT		MARSETILES FRANCE	25.3.16	P213 A9320
			Hewa	nen	Lisut.,		D.0.60-34' V.1.57-25
0		fo	r 0 C Australia	n Records :			

1963

COPY OF WILL EXTRACTED FROM A.B. 54. OF THE LATE No. 1128.

Corporal C.U. ALLEY, 19th Battalion, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to Elizabeth Ann ALLEY, "Edgecumb", Saywell Street, Chatswood, Sydney, New South Wales.

(Sgd) Clair Underwood ALLEY.
Private No. 1128.
Australian Commonwealth Infantry.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE VICTORIA BARRACKS MELBOURNE 1st June, 1917.

DEAR Sir.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 28th ult. and enclose herewith, as requested, certificate of report of death of the late No. 1128, Corporal a.S. Alley, 19th Battalion.

According to the records deceased was born at Auburn, M.S.W., and was 25 years of age at date of enlistment, 19.2.15.

The General Manager, A.M.P. Society. 87 Pitt Street,

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY. N.S.W.

J. M. LEAN, Major,

Officer in Charge, Base Records.

D 1857.17 -- C.N.I.

upal Archives of Australia

NAA B2455, ALLEY CU

No. 1128,

Corporal Clair Underwood Alley 19th Battalion,

Australian Imperial Force.

was killed in action,

xxIn France.

29th July.

16.

Cable No. C. I.B.L.

369, from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 5th September, 1916, confirmed by Mail from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 11th September, 1916, and Army Form B 2090A.

1st June.

17.

Major.

INVENTORY OF EFFECTS of the Late 1188. Opl Alloy G.U. 19th Batt'n A.I.F. 19th Batter Number and Description of Packages Ones

(other) Baywell Street, Chateword, Sydney. D.S.T.

Date Despatched .

Contents of reckegos

3 Cap Comforters, Lotters, Photo, Pr Hittens, Strap.

(Ex Eit Stores.)

3/1 1791

National Archives of Australia

NAA B2455 ALLEY C

F.C.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. KIT STORE.



110, GREYHOUND ROAD. FULHAM, LONDON.

-HAMMERSWITH 1889.

Inventory of Effects of- The Late.1128. Pte Alley C. W. 19th Batt'n. A.I.F.

Forwarded to-Logatee. Slizabeth Ann Alley. Edgeoumb. Street. Chatewood. Sydney. B.S. Wales.

Effects.

3rd Rohelon) No. 2556.)

Identity Disc, Photo, Wallet, Photos.

No. of Package A/1 3770

Checked by

lational Archives of Australia

In Memory of

Corporal

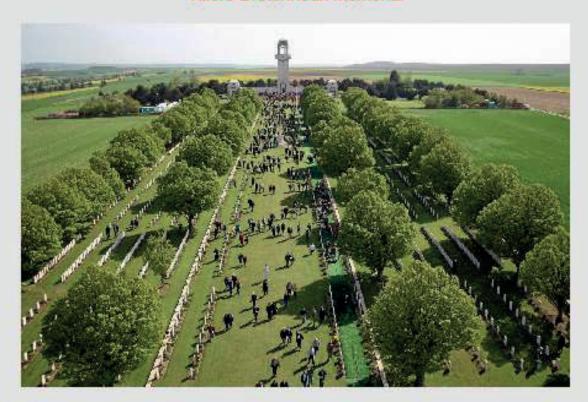
Clair Underwood Alley

1128, 19th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 29 July 1916 Age 26

Son of Arthur Underwood Alley and Elizabeth Anne Alley, of Lane Cove Rd., Turramurra, New South Wales. Born at Araluen, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour

Villers-Bretonneux Memorial





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Before there was a War Memorial in Braidwood. An early 1900s view to the Braidwood Court House from Ryrie Park. The War Memorial was unveiled 5th June, 1922 by the Hon. Mr. Austin Chapman MP. "Chapman's speech eulogised the Australian soldiers for their toughness and steely courage, "They never turned back. If they had the Germans would have probably overrun the world". He dwelt on the unity of the men of disparate origins, "These men stood side by side, ignoring all questions of social position". But when the assembled crowd looked at the figure of the soldier they saw a gentle faced youth, with rifle at his side, standing at ease. Perhaps this was the truthful portrayal of the local boys as they went to war, rather than the scarred mature men that returned". "Braidwood Dear Braidwood" by Netta Ellis.

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, Meaghan and Ben 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

ADBROWN