

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



26A PRIVATE

C. R. BRAY

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH MARCH, 1917

Clive Russell BRAY

Clive Russell Bray was born at Kynnunboon, near Murwillumbah, New South Wales on 26th July, 1888 to parents Joshua and Rosalie Gertrude Bray (nee Nixon).

Clive Russell Bray attended Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane, Queensland between 1903 & 1905.

Clive Russell Bray was a 26 year old, Surveyor's Assistant from Murwillumbah, NSW when he enlisted at Enoggera, Queensland on 22nd August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 26 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Bray, of Murwillumbah, NSW. Clive Bray stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with B.G.S. (Brisbane Grammar School) Cadets for 1 ½ years.

Private Clive Russell Bray was posted to Light Horse Brigade Training Regiment on 22nd August, 1914 for recruit training.

Driver Clive Russell Bray embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Omrah* (A5) on 24th September, 1914 with the 1st Light Horse Brigade Training Regiment – 5th Army Service Corps.

Driver Clive Russell Bray was transferred from Heliopolis to Minia on 18th February, 1915.

Driver Clive Russell Bray embarked from Alexandria on HMTS *Melville* on 9th May, 1915 for Dardanelles. He disembarked at Dardanelles on 31st May, 1915.

Driver Clive Russell Bray was written up for Insolence to an N.C.O. on 15th August, 1915 at Sidi Biskr while attached to 5th A.S.C. The punishment was discharged on 17th August, 1915.

Driver Clive Russell Bray was transferred to 9th Battalion at Cairo on 16th February, 1916 & reverted to the rank of Private. He proceeded to join 9th Battalion on 17th March, 1916 from Zeitoun.

Private Clive Russell Bray proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 27th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

Private Clive Russell Bray was wounded in action on 20th April, 1916. He was admitted to 7th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to 10th S. Barge (?) on 21st April, 1916. Private Bray was admitted to Lahore British General Hospital at Calais, France on 28th April, 1916. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* on 6th May, 1916.

War Diary – 9th Battalion

20th April, 1916:

At 13.15 today the Billet occupied by C. Coy were subjected to heavy bombardment by the enemy. Fifty or sixty shells H.E. were landed in the Billet area. Early in the bombardment a shell landed in one of the canvas huts wounding four men some men ran to the assistance of the wounded and another shell caught these. A subsequent shell struck the wall of the Billet (Brick) and accounted for 47 casualties. The following are the casualties

KILLED 1 Officer (Lieut Fothergill)

2 N.C.O.'s

22 Privates

Total 25

WOUNDED 1 Officer Capt McKIllip (M.O.)

9 N.C.O.'s

40 Privates

Total 50

All were buried in the English cemetery the same evening. Capts the Revs Lundie (Pres) and Fahy (R.C.) officiating. A Battery ours had been active all day and it appeared as if the enemy were trying to get this Battery. A Coy of 3rd Bn arrived 19.30 and relieved C Coy. The latter Coy moved to new Billeting area at SAILLY Le LYS. The rest of BN is to be relieved tomorrow.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Clive Russell Bray was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 6th May, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to back & right forearm. He was discharged on 13th May, 1916.

Private Clive Russell Bray was taken on strength of Burtford Depot from Abbey Wood on 8th June, 1916.

Private Clive Russell Bray was written up for being Absent from 07.00 Parade on 18th July, 1916. He was awarded 24 hours confined to Camp.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training & convalescing was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Clive Russell Bray was marched out for Overseas from 3rd Training Battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 25th July, 1916. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B. (Australian Divisional Base) Depot at Etaples, France on 26th July, 1916.

Private Clive Russell Bray proceeded to join 9th Battalion from 1st A.D.B.D. on 8th August, 1916 & was taken on strength of 9th Battalion in France on 9th August, 1916.

Private Clive Russell Bray was wounded in action in France on 25th February, 1917. He was admitted to No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station on 25th February, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to leg & hand then transferred on 26th February, 1917 to 45th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Bray was transferred to Ambulance Train on 3rd March, 1917 then admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen on 4th March, 1917 with gunshot wounds to thorax, compound fracture of left leg & amputation. He was transferred to England on 6th March, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. David* with gunshot wounds to leg & thorax.

War Diary – 9th Battalion

Front Line – 25th February, 1917:

Our line advanced and occupied BANK TRENCH at 0130 without opposition. Patrols were sent forward to examine OAT LANE and WHEAT TRENCH. The enemy were retiring slowly. Enemy artillery and the heavy state of the ground considerably hampered operations.

At 0200 a patrol reported having come in contact with the enemy at about M.18.8.1. A fighting patrol of 1 Officer and 30 O.R was sent out to engage the enemy at this point. Later this patrol was forced back. Two Officers patrols went out on flanks at 0300 – one working up BLUE CUT and the other up YELLOW CUT. The patrols moved forward for about 600 yards and reported no sign of the enemy. At 0600 the situation was as follows:-

1 Coy – M.18.C.4.7 to M.18.6.6 ½ . 2 ½.

1 Coy – M.18.C. 6 ½ . 2 ½. to M.18.C. 7 ½.00 to M.18.D.5.1.

1 Coy – M.18.C. 6 ½ . 2 ½. to M.18.D.5.1.

1 Coy – M.18.A.8.2 to M.18.D.7.5 ½.

The enemy placed a heavy barrage on our position and greatly hampered operations. At 1300 our line moved forward towards OAT LANE. This position was occupied at 1530. At this period the enemy shelling was intense. At 1530 the situation was as follows:-

“C” & “D” Coys in OAT LANE

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"A" Co. in BANK TRENCH

"B" Co. in THE MAZE.

At 1700 patrols were sent forward to investigate MALT TRENCH

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

9th Battalion

In March 1916 the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley. The 9th Battalion attacked on the extreme right of the line and it was during this action that Private John Leak won, with the bayonet, the battalion's only Victoria Cross. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917 the battalion moved back to Belgium for the advance to the Hindenburg Line.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Clive Russell Bray was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 7th March, 1917 with gunshot wounds to Chest – penetrating. The Hospital Admissions form has the following information:
"Date of Origin 25/2/17. Place Somme. Treated at No. 1 CCS Rouen. Treated at No. 3 Stationary Hospl Rouen. Amputation at CCS. On admission at 1 PM. Patient looked as if dying. Saline given and patient slowly rallied.

9th Mar 1917 – Pint of ___fluid removed from cheat – by aspiration

10th Mar 1917 – By aspiration another 6 ___removed.

11th Mar 1917 – Incision made into chest and tube inserted in plemal cavity, Foul fluid removed.

12th Mar 1917 – Slightly better

13th Mar 1917 – Patient looks worse, breathing distressed. 13th Mar 1917 Patient died of septic absorption."



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private Clive Russell Bray died on night of 13th March, 1917 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from multiple gunshot wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to left leg, left chest, hands & shoulders.

A death for Clive R. Bray, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private Clive Russell Bray was buried on 16th March, 1917 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number C. E. 1902. He does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone, like other Australians buried in this Cemetery but his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Clive Russell Bray contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, death and burial. A reply was sent from The Matron, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley which reads: *“Died – Pte Bray was brought to this hospital from France very seriously ill. His left leg had been amputated and he was also suffering from a gunshot wound in his chest, which necessitated a further operation in this hospital. Although everything possible was done to save or prolong his life he passed away on March 13th at 10.30 pm. His sister in law visited him whilst he was in hospital and also attended the funeral which took place on March 16th at 2.30 pm. Pte Bray bore his sufferings most bravely and quietly, but his wounds were such that he would never have felt strong or free again. The number of his grave is 1902 and the cemetery is in a quiet and peaceful part of the grounds of this hospital. The Matron imagines that Pte Bray’s sister-in-law will have sent some particulars to the relations in Australia, and hopes that these few details will be a little comfort to the friends who are so far away.”*

The personal effects of the late Private Clive Russell Bray from the Royal Hospital Netley & Kit Store were sent to his sister-in-law Mrs Bray of 4 Parklands, Surbiton Hill, England in 2 separate packages. Another package from the Kit Store was sent to Mrs Bray, Murwillumbah, NSW, mother of the late Private Clive Russell Bray.

Officer i/c “B” Records wrote to O.C. Records on 25th July, 1918 regarding 26a Pte Bray C.R. 9th Battalion (Deceased) which reads: *“From information received it appears that this soldier and Sgt A. S. Talbot were both employed at the Depots Tidworth about September 1916. Applications were made by them for transfer to the Royal Flying Corps, they were forwarded by the Depots with their recommendations to the Royal Flying Corps. Subsequently Bray went Overseas to France 8.8.16, and served with his Unit until wounded on 25.2.16, as the result of which wounds he died on 13th March, 1917, at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley. London gazette 29727 of 20.8.16 show both Bray and Talbot to be temporary 2/Lieutenants with the Royal Flying Corps to date from 16.8.16. Talbot was discharged from the A.I.F. and took up his Commission, but there is no record of any action having been taken to effect Bray’s transfer to the Royal Flying Corps and discharged from the A.I.F.”* The Director of Air Personal Services wrote to The Commandant, Australian Imperial Force, London advising that the Commission of the late Private Clive Russell Bray was cancelled in the London Gazette dated 22nd September, 1916.

The District Paymaster, 1st Military District, Victoria Barracks wrote to Base Records on 30th January, 1919 asking if they had any record of the late Private Clive Russell Bray’s *“promotion to commissioned rank, as his non-effective statement shows him as Driver at the date of death, whereas the Chief Paymaster, London, has referred to him – both by cablegram and in letters – as Lieutenant.”* Base Records replied that *“there is no record here of the above-named deceased soldiers having been promoted to Commissioned Rank. Final official documents show he held the rank of Private at time of death. There is a record here of one Lieutenant William Mark Bray, 25th Battalion, who was appointed in the 1st M.D. Is it possible that these two men have been confused although the letter never left Australia ?”*

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 1st Military District on 4th December, 1920 asking who the lineal next-of-kin of the late Private Clive Russell Bray was as they had been advised that Mr Joshua Bray, father of the late Private Bray

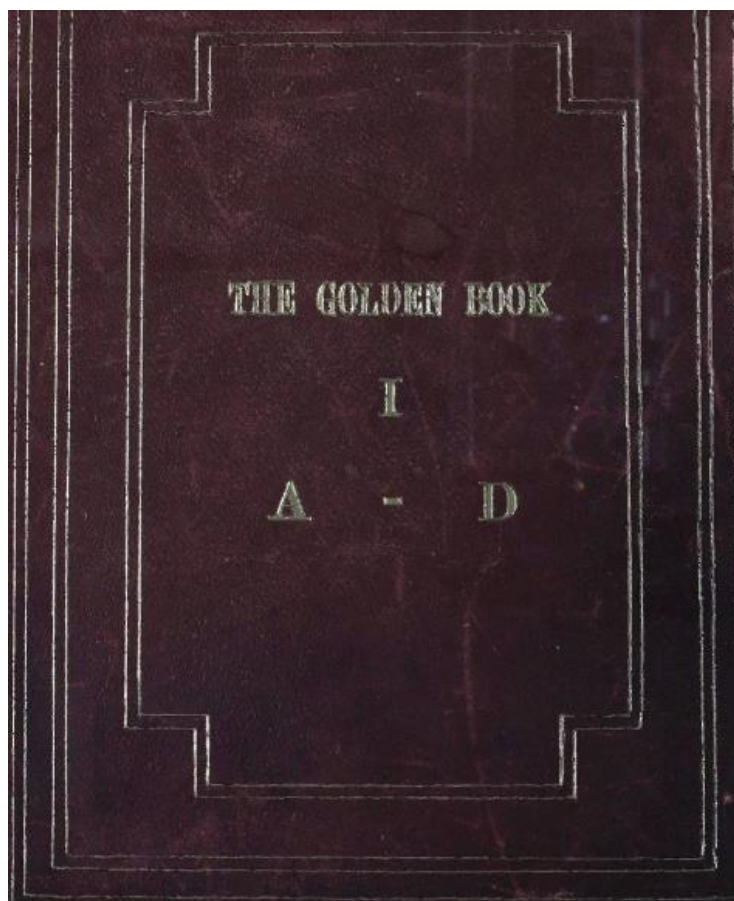
was deceased. Headquarters, 1st Military District replied & advised that the next-of-kin of the late Private Clive Russell Bray was his mother – Mrs Rosalie G. Bray, Kynnumboon, Tweed River, NSW.

Private Clive Russell Bray was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal which were sent to Mrs Bray, mother of the late Private Clive Russell Bray, as his father had died on 20th February, 1918. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Bray's sister-in-law - Mrs Bray in England (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in January, 1922).

Base Records wrote to the Military Adviser, Commonwealth Offices, Australia House, Strand, London on 13th January, 1922 asking *“Kindly arrange for the re-call of the Memorial Plaque and Scroll issued in respect of the late No. 26A Private C. R. BRAY, 9th Battalion, to deceased's sister-in-law, Mrs Bray, residing in England, according to nominal roll (Ref. No. 305168), and forward same to this office for transmission to the late soldier's mother – Mr R. G. Bray, of Kynnumboon, Murwillumbah, Tweed River, New South Wales, as the person most entitled to receive under the regulations.”* According to notations on the Stamps for the Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque listed on the last page of the Service Record file for the late Private Clive Russell Bray – The Scroll & Plaque were forwarded by Mrs A. W. Bray (sister-in-law in England) to Mrs R. G. Bray (mother) in Australia in April, 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Clive Russell Bray – service number 26A, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joshua and Rosalie Gertrude Bray, of Kymunboon, Murwillumbah, New South Wales.

Clive Russel Bray is remembered in The Golden Book at Brisbane Grammar School. The volumes contain the names and records of the known 1020 Old Boys who volunteered for service in the First World War. Each name and record occupies an entire page, surrounded by an interlacing border of Flanders poppies.



(Photo courtesy of Brisbane Grammar School)

Bray, Clive Russel.

Born at Mourwillumbah. July 26th 1888.

Attended B.G.S. 1903-05.

Occupation. Bank Officer in Commercial Bank till 1910, then
went with Survey party to California.

Returned home May 1914.

Enlisted August 1914. No 26 5th A. S. C. Broke his leg by
accident in camp at Enoggera and was taken on board
transport by ambulance September 24th 1914.

Service in Egypt and France.

Transferred to 9th Battalion.

Wounded May 11th 1916. Returned to duty in July and
was in the Somme Campaign.

Mortally wounded near Albert February 26th 1917. sent
to England, but died at Bethley Hospital March 13th 1917.

Clive Russel Bray's page in The Golden Book, Brisbane Grammar School

Transcript of Clive Russel Bray's page in The Golden Book, Brisbane Grammar School:

Bray, Clive Russel

Born at Murwillumbah, July 26th 1888

Attended B.G.S. 1903-05

Occupation Bank Officer in Commercial Bank till 1910, then went with Survey party to California.

Returned home May 1914.

Enlisted August 1914. No. 26 5th A.S.C. Broke his leg by accident in camp at Enoggera and was taken on board transport by ambulance September 24th 1914.

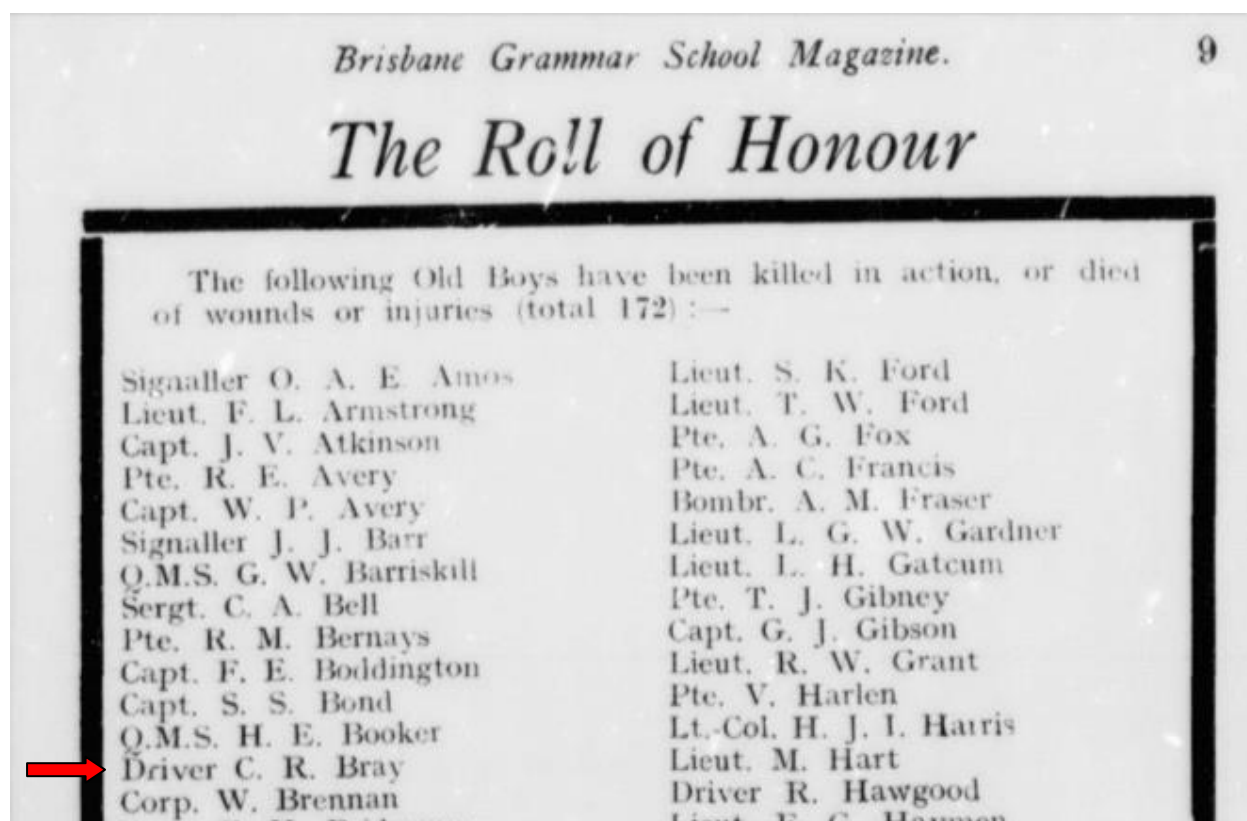
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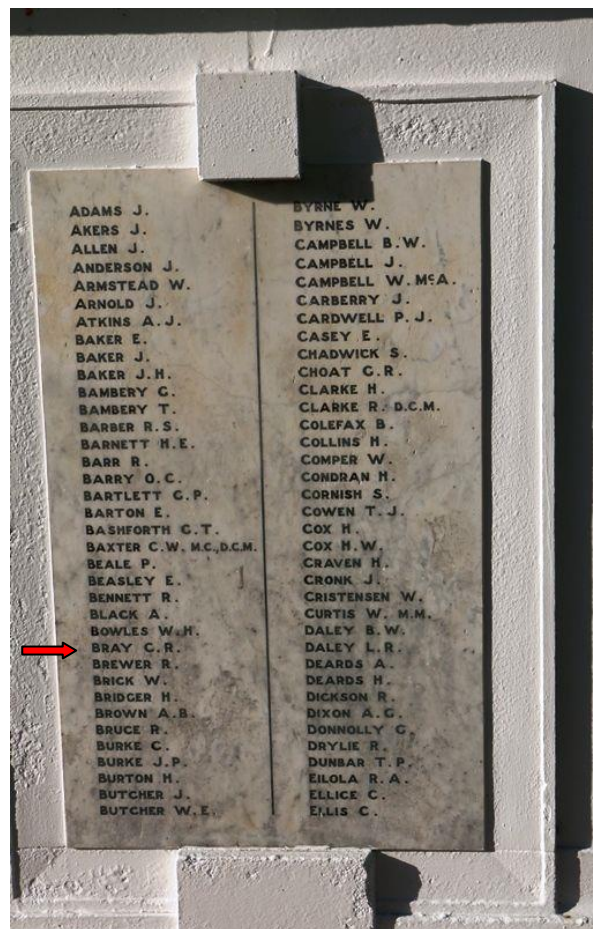
Mortally wounded near Albert February 26th 1917 – sent to England, but died at Netley Hospital March 13th 1917.

Driver C. R. Bray is remembered in the Brisbane Grammar School Magazine's Roll of Honour.



(Photo courtesy of Brisbane Grammar School)

C. R. Bray is remembered on the Murwillumbah War Memorial, located in Remembrance Place, Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah, NSW.



Murwillumbah War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)

Private C. R. Bray is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(54 pages of Private Clive Russell Bray's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



C. R. Bray (*The Queenslander Pictorial* – 26 September, 1914)

Extract from *Australia's Fighting Sons of the Empire* (p. 130):



Mrs Rosalie G. Bray, of Kynnumboon, Murwillumbah, is the mother of four sons who are serving the Empire. Lieut. Percy Russell Bray is 36 years of age, and enlisted in England early in February, 1915, and trained at Hornchurch. He gained his commission, and was sent to the Cameroons, West Africa, where he served under General Smuts, and was mentioned in despatched. He was wounded in the leg, and after some months returned to duty. Private John Frank Russell (409) is 35 years of age, and was married to Miss Evelyn Tows on 4th April, 1911, and has four children. He enlisted at Sydney in June, 1916, and trained at Seymour, Victoria, in the Machine Gun Section. He was also training at Perham Downs, and Grantham, England, and went to France in February, 1917. Private Clive Russell Bray (26a) enlisted in the A.S.C. in August, 1914, and sailed for Egypt the following October. He remained there until April, 1916, when he was transferred to Infantry and sent to France. He was slightly wounded on 20th April, 1916, and on his return to the firing line was mortally wounded, and died in the Netley Hospital on 13th March, 1917. Lieut. Edward Llewellyn Russell Bray returned to England after serving for one year in the Gold Coast Regiment, East Africa, and joined the Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers. After being in France for some months he was invalided to England, and is now at Chatham on home service.

Newspaper Notices

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL

Mr Clive Bray, son of Mr Joshua Bray, Kynnumboon, has received a letter from the military authorities to report himself at the barracks in connection with A.I. Expeditionary Force. If he succeeds in getting away with it he will be the third son of Mr Bray to serve this country on active service.

(*Tweed Daily*, Murwillumbah, NSW – 22 August, 1914)

OFF TO THE FRONT

Yesterday Mr Clive Bray, son of Mr Joshua Bray, left for Brisbane, in response to a letter from the military authorities to report himself for service with the expeditionary force, he having offered his services. If they are accepted, like all Tweedites, we wish the quartette luck, honor and safe return.

(*Tweed Daily*, Murwillumbah, NSW – 22 August, 1914)

LETTERS FROM EGYPT

The last Egyptian mail brought the following letters from Jack Snow, a Bangalow boy. Writing from Heliopolis he says :— Have heard that Charlie Trythall is at Abyssinia with the reinforcements, but have not seen him yet. **I dug up Clive Bray last Tuesday night from the 5th Army Service Corps and we went down to the New Zealand camp at Zeitoun to see the welcome to the Maori troops.** The Maoris are a fine stamp of men and ought to give a good account of themselves if they get into the fighting line. At the conclusion of the welcome, about 25 or 30 Maoris, stripped to the waist, jumped upon the platform and gave the "Haka," their war dance and war cry. It was a great sight to watch them, and some of the local natives, standing on the outside of the crowd, got old Nick frightened out of them, when the Maoris began to yell. I went down to Old Heliopolis yesterday, with Jim Newton

.....

(*Northern Star*, Lismore, NSW – 27 May, 1915)

Private Clive A. Bray

REPORTED WOUNDED

Private Bray, who is a son of Mr Joshua Bray, of Kynnumboon, left with the A.M.C., but subsequently transferred to the Infantry. When last heard from he was with the Australian forces in Egypt, but as the cable received on Tuesday,



from Private Bray himself, comes from London, and followed by a day only the official intimation from the Defence Department, it is possible, and indeed probable, that he has been in action in France, where it is known some of the Australians have been for some little time.

(*Tweed Daily*, Murwillumbah, NSW – 8 May, 1916)

PERSONAL

Mr and Mrs Joshua Bray received a telegram from the Defence Department yesterday, stating that their son, Private Clive Bray, had ben admitted to hospital suffering from a gunshot wound in the left leg, a compound fracture of the leg and gunshot wounds in the throat. His condition is dangerous. Progress reports will be sent.

(*Tweed Daily*, Murwillumbah, NSW – 16 March, 1917)



PRIVATE CLIVE BRAY

Died of wounds;
Son of Mr and Mrs Joshua Bray, Kynnumboon.

(*Tweed Daily*, Murwillumbah, NSW – 22 March, 1917)

CASUALTY LIST

The 281st list of casualties sustained by Australian troops was issued yesterday....

QUEENSLAND

WOUNDED

Pte C. R. Bray, Murwillumbah, NSW

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 23 March, 1917)

PERSONAL NOTES

Word has been received at Murwillumbah of the death from wounds of Private Clive Bray, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Joshua Bray, two of the earliest and best known settlers on the Tweed River. The deceased was 29 years of age. Three of his brothers are on active service.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 March, 1917) & (The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BRAY – Died on 13th March, in the Royal Victoria Hospital, London, from wounds received on 4th instant, Private Clive Russell Bray, youngest son of Joshua and Gertrude Bray, of Kynnumboon, Murwillumbah, aged 28 years.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 March, 1917) & (The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BRAY – March 13, 1917, at Royal Victoria Hospital, London, of wounds received in France on March 4, Private Clive Russell Bray, youngest son of Joshua and Gertrude Bray, of Kynmimboon, Murwillumbah, in his 29th year.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 March, 1917) & (The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 March, 1917)

CASUALTIES

THE 282nd LIST

Died of wounds: C. Bray, Murwillumbah

(Daily Examiner, Grafton, NSW – 27 March, 1917)

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS'

A Memorial service to the late Private Clive R. Bray, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Joshua Bray, who recently died of wounds in Europe, was held in All Saints Church on Sunday last (Whitsunday), at 11 am. The church was practically filled, and the service was a particularly fine one. A short war litany was said at the commencement, after which the Rev. Madden gave an appropriate address, in which he dealt with the great loss suffered by the deceased's relations and the general community. In a second short address, during the Communion service, he explained the meaning of Whitsunday or Pentecost Day, and its relation to the birth of the church. The Communion service was choral, Woodward's "Office of the Holy Communion" being sung by the choir.

(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 29 May, 1917)

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private Clive Russell Bray's Private Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)

*Pte Clive Russell Bray
9th Australian,
Died Of Wounds Received In France,
March 13th 1917 Aged 28 Years
I Thank My God Upon Every Remembrance
Phil.1:3*



Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery