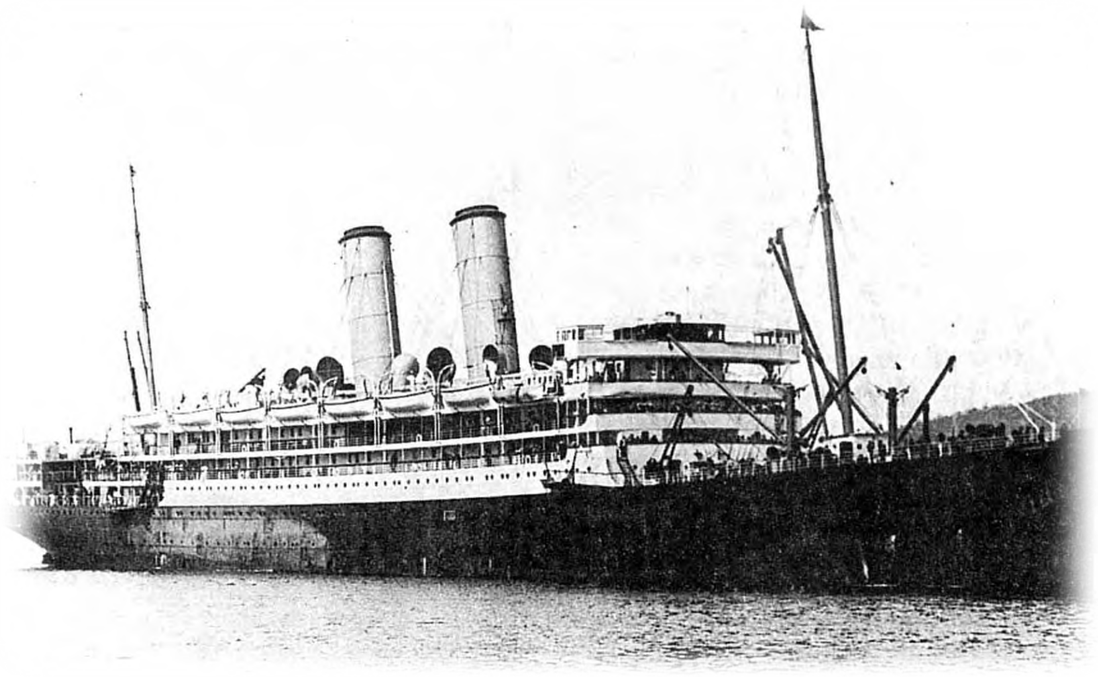
Richard Mitchell BRADSHAW

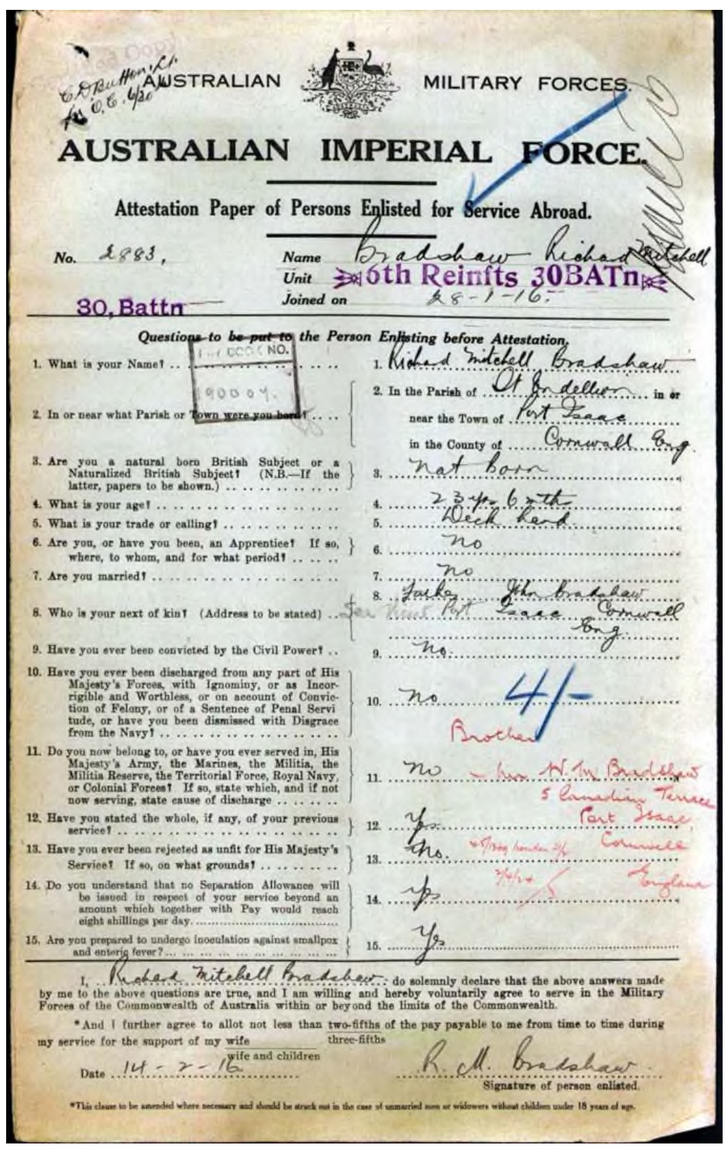
Private 2883, 30th Battalion Australian Infantry
Died August 11th 1918 aged 26
Memorial in Vignacourt British Cemetery, Vignacourt, France.

Richard Bradshaw was born in 1892 to John and Mary Bradshaw. The 1901 census records 57 year old John as a fisherman to his own account, and Mary was 50 years old. In 1911, Richard is living with his father John, who is shown as a widower, Mary having died in May 1908, and living with them is Richard's 24 year old sister Ann Brown Bradshaw (in 1912 Ann married George Honey, and they emigrated to Australia), his eldest sister Mary Faulkner (35) and Mary's three sons. Richard emigrated to Australia in 1911, with his brother John and family and a servant. In 1911 John was running a market gardening business in Port Gaverne. On October 13th1911 they left London on the SS Otranto bound for Fremantle. On the passenger list John described himself as a farmer and Richard as a farm hand.

In January 1916 he joined the Australian Imperial Force in the 6th Reinforcements, 30th Battalion.



SS Otranto



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2883, Name Bradshaw Richard Mitchell
Unit 6th Reinfts 30BATn
Joined on 28-1-16.
30, Battn

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

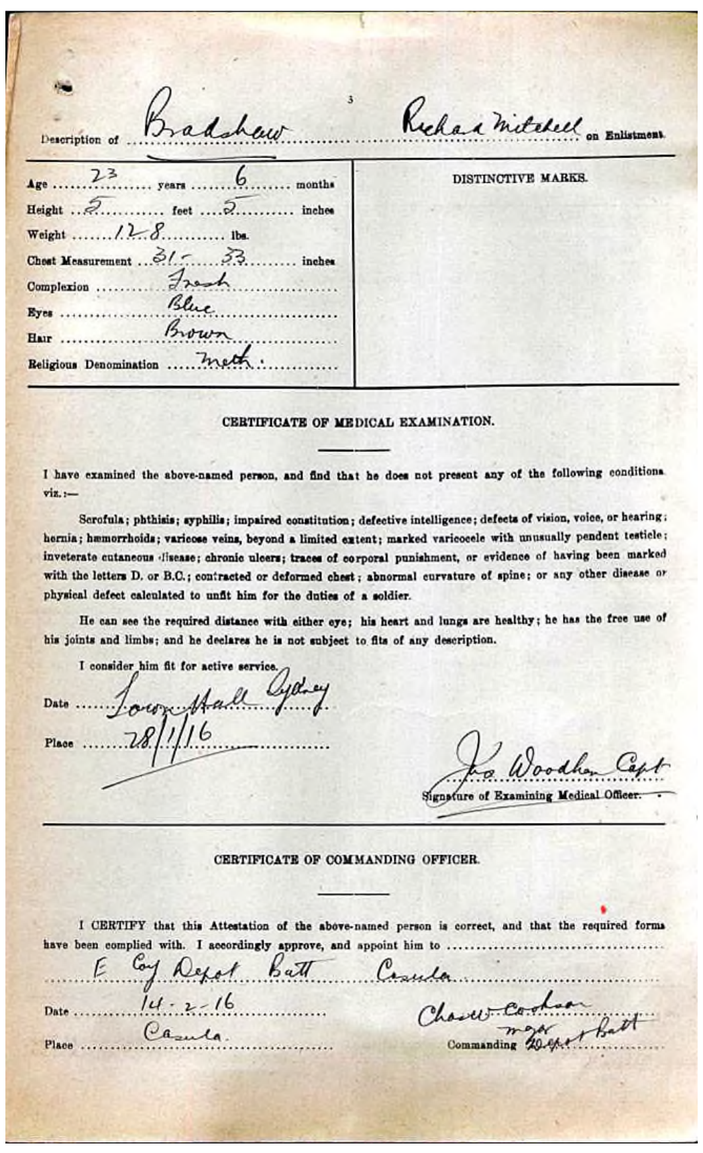
1. What is your Name? Richard Mitchell Bradshaw
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? In the Parish of St Endellion in or near the Town of Port Isaac in the County of Cornwall Eng
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Nat born
4. What is your age? 23 yrs 6 mth
5. What is your trade or calling? Week hand
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 John Bradshaw Port Isaac Cornwall Eng
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. 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, Richard Mitchell Bradshaw 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 two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife three-fifths wife and children

Date 14-2-16 R. M. Bradshaw Signature of person enlisted.

*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.



Description of Bradshaw Richard Mitchell on Enlistment.

Age 23 years 6 months
Height 5 feet 5 inches
Weight 128 lbs.
Chest Measurement 31-33 inches
Complexion Fresh
Eyes Blue
Hair Brown
Religious Denomination Meth.

DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions viz.:—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date Town Hall Sydney
Place 28/1/16

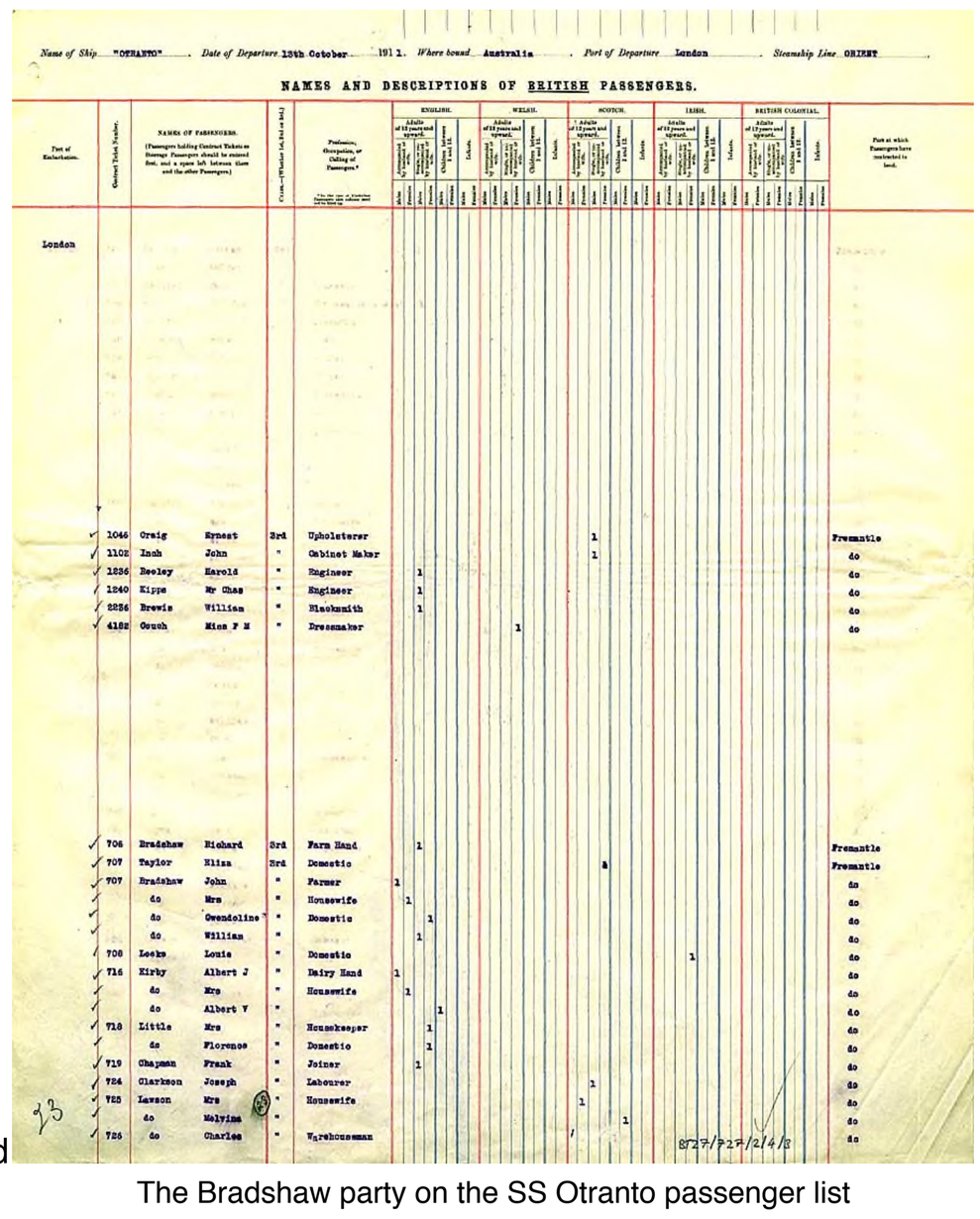
Jas Woodhen Capt
Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to E Coy Depot Batt Casula

Date 14-2-16
Place Casula.
Commanding Major Depot Batt

Richard's enlistment papers



Name of Ship "OTRANTO" Date of Departure 13th October 1911. Where bound Australia Port of Departure London Steamship Line ORIENT

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS.

Port of Embarkation.	Contract Ticket Number.	Names of Passengers.	Class.	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers.	English	Welsh	Scotch	Irish	British Colonial	Port at which Passengers have contracted to land.
London	1046	Craig Ernest	3rd	Upholsterer			1			Fremantle
	1102	Inch John	"	Cabinet Maker			1			do
	1236	Beeley Harold	"	Engineer	1					do
	1240	Kipps Mr Chas	"	Engineer	1					do
	2256	Brewis William	"	Blacksmith	1					do
	4182	Couch Miss F M	"	Dressmaker		1				do
	706	Bradshaw Richard	3rd	Farm Hand	1					Fremantle
	707	Taylor Eliza	3rd	Domestic			1			Fremantle
	707	Bradshaw John	"	Farmer	1					do
		do Mrs	"	Housewife	1					do
		do Gwendoline	"	Domestic	1					do
		do William	"		1					do
	708	Locke Louie	"	Domestic				1		do
	716	Kirby Albert J	"	Dairy Hand	1					do
		do Mrs	"	Housewife	1					do
		do Albert V	"		1					do
	718	Little Mrs	"	Housekeeper	1					do
		do Florence	"	Domestic	1					do
	719	Chapman Frank	"	Joiner	1					do
	724	Clarkson Joseph	"	Labourer			1			do
	725	Lawson Mrs	"	Housewife			1			do
		do Melvina	"				1			do
	726	do Charles	"	Warehousman			1			do

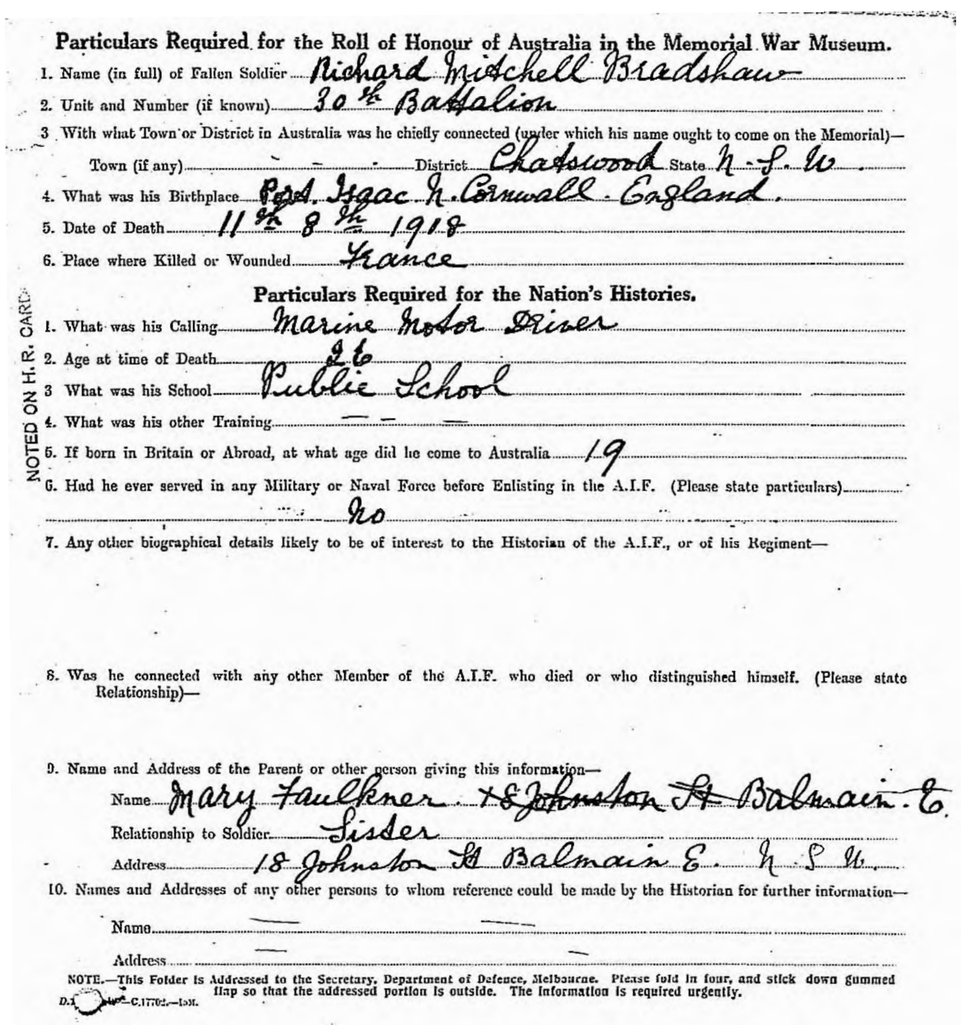
The Bradshaw party on the SS Otranto passenger list

His unit embarked from Sydney on HMAT A71 Nestor on April 9th 1916, arriving at Alexandria, Egypt, in May as part of the 5th Division. He left Egypt on June 6th 1916 on the SS Franconia and arrived in Plymouth on June 16th. He was in the UK for 3 months at the 5th Division Base Depot. He went to France in September, arriving at Etaples on September 16th 1916 and joined his unit at the end of the month.

He probably saw action in the Battle of Polygon Wood in October 1917, although he got trench foot in December and was invalided to the UK, first at Bristol on December 6th and the Dartford in January. His return to France in February was brief, as he had a recurrence of trench Foot and was in hospital again until the end of February when he returned to his unit. Trench foot is caused by continued immersion in unsanitary water, often found in wartime trenches

The effects of severe trench foot

In the early morning of August 8th 1918 30th Battalion was on the line at Framerville, about six miles east of Amiens, waiting to spearhead the attack up the Morcourt valley as part of the allied 'Hundred Days Offensive'. With the assistance of tanks, especially to deal with machine guns, they covered 8 miles in as many hours, despite thick fog with visibility down to five yards. The operation had around 55 casualties, of which Richard Mitchell Bradshaw was one. He received a gunshot wound to the chest on August 9th and died from his wounds on August 11th. He is buried at Vignacourt British Cemetery about five miles north west of Amiens.



Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier Richard Mitchell Bradshaw
2. Unit and Number (if known) 30th Battalion
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)—
   Town (if any) — District Chatswood State N.S.W.
4. What was his Birthplace Port Isaac N. Cornwall England.
5. Date of Death 11th 8th 1918
6. Place where Killed or Wounded France

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

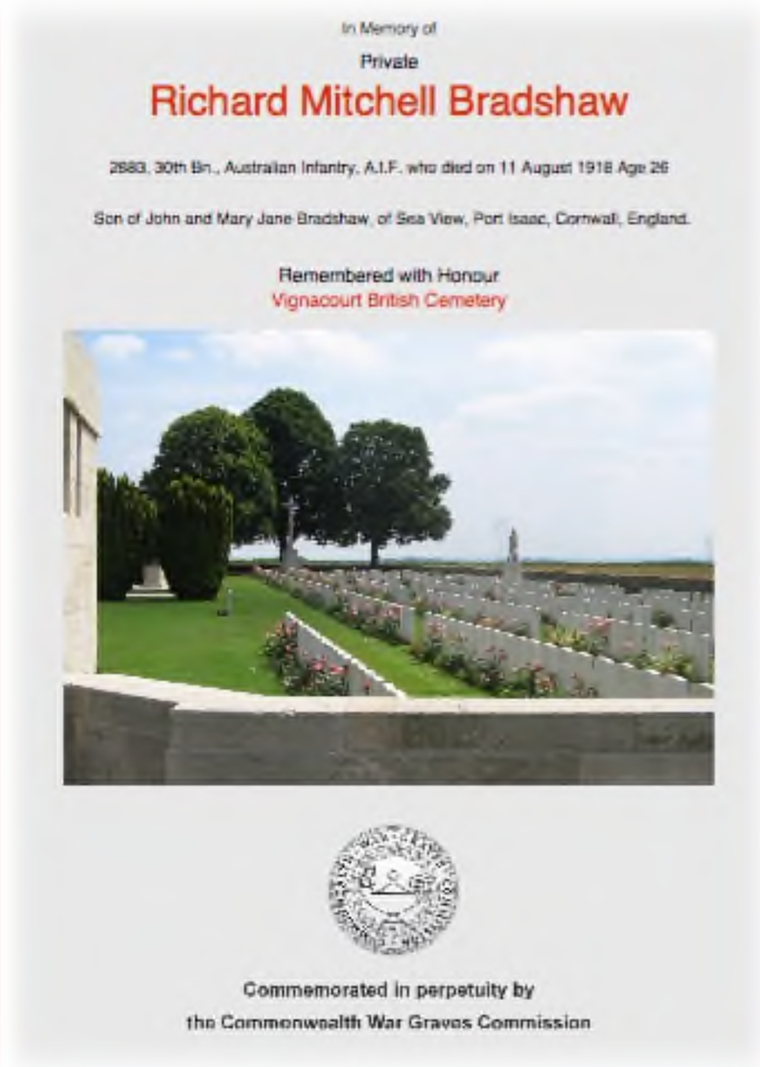
1. What was his Calling Marine Motor Driver
2. Age at time of Death 26
3. What was his School Public School
4. What was his other Training —
5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia 19
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars) No
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment—
8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship)—
9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information—
   Name Mary Faulkner 18 Johnston St Balmain E.
   Relationship to Soldier Sister
   Address 18 Johnston St Balmain E. N.S.W.
10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information—
   Name —
   Address —

NOTE.—This Folder is Addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne. Please fold in four, and stick down gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.

NOTED ON H. R. CARD

Richard Mitchell Bradshaw's details for the Roll of Honour

Richard Mitchell Bradshaw recorded on his parent's grave at St Endellion churchyard



In Memory of
Private
Richard Mitchell Bradshaw
2883, 30th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 11 August 1918 Age 26
Son of John and Mary Jane Bradshaw, of Sea View, Port Isaac, Cornwall, England.
Remembered with Honour
Vignacourt British Cemetery
Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Richard's eldest sister Mary Faulkener completed the details for the Australian Roll of Honour, where she noted his occupation as a marine motor driver. She now lived in Johnston Street, Balmain, a suburb of Sydney, having emigrated to Australia in September 1913 with two of her children Charles (10) and Mary (8). Perhaps the youngest, Richard who would have been 6, had died since the 1911 census.

Sources

30th Battalion: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Battalion_(Australia)
30th Battalion War Diaries: http://203.6.144.30/collection/AWM4/23/47/