



OFFICE OF AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES



Insights & Understandings

Acknowledgements




Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Office of Australian War Graves

The Office of Australian War Graves acknowledges the Custodians of the lands and waters ways where the war and post war dead of this nation are at rest.

On behalf of my colleagues, I respectfully acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation. It is our privilege to be in your country again, and I thank you for your welcome.

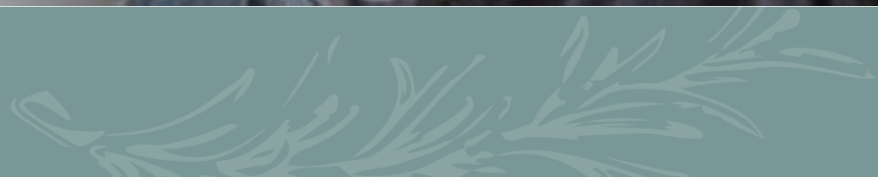
I also acknowledge also those amongst us who have served their nation in uniform. Thank you for your generosity and your service.



They shall not grow old,
As we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)





More than 2 million Australians have served their nation in uniform.

More than 103,000 of them have died in war. 13,000 are at rest within a War Cemetery in Australia.
They are all war dead.



326,465 have died after a war, of *causes attributable to their war service.*
They are our post war dead.





CWGC

Commonwealth War Graves Commission



COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES





Geraldton War Cemetery

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COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

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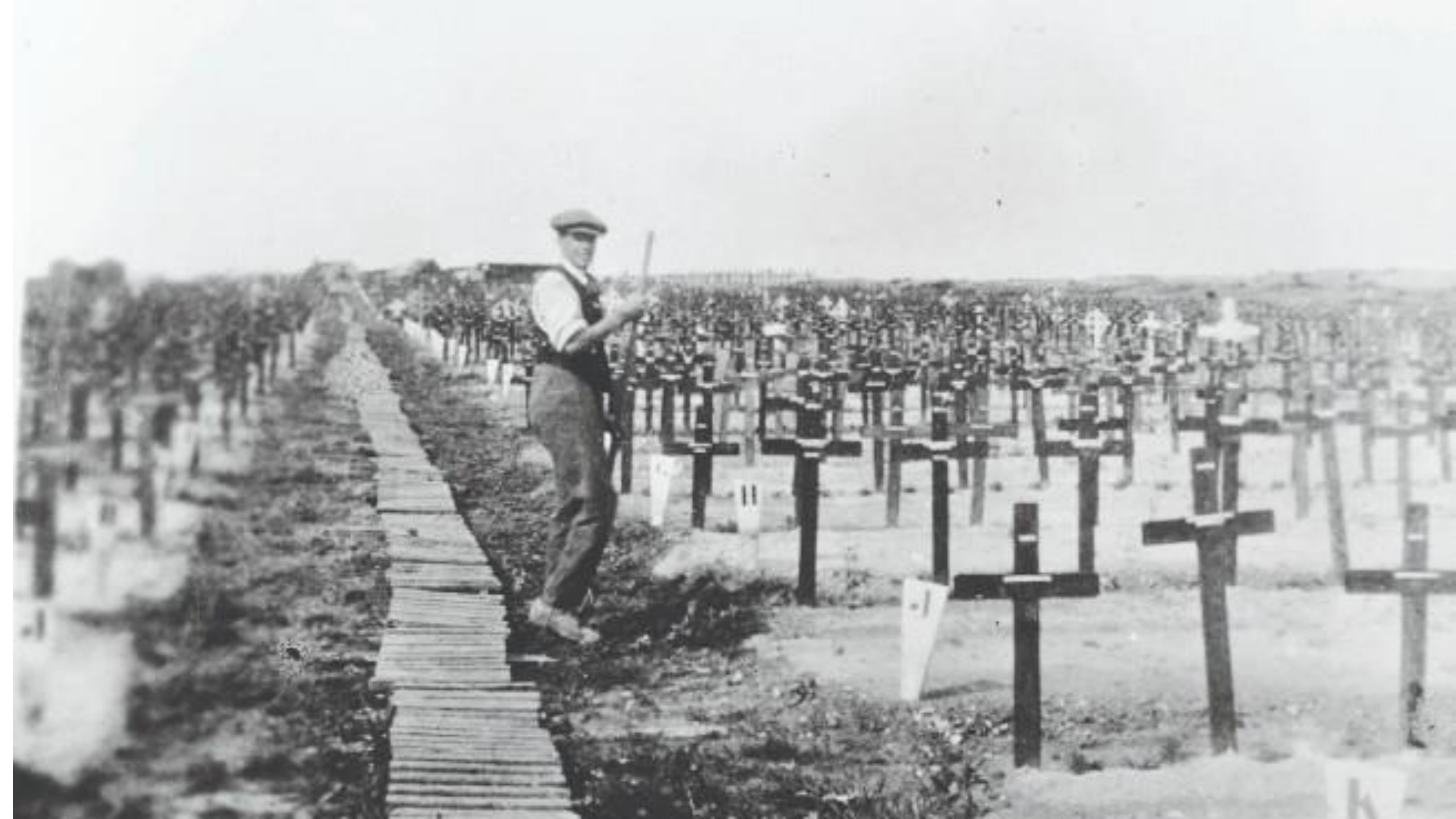


Australian Government

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King George V & Sir Fabian Ware





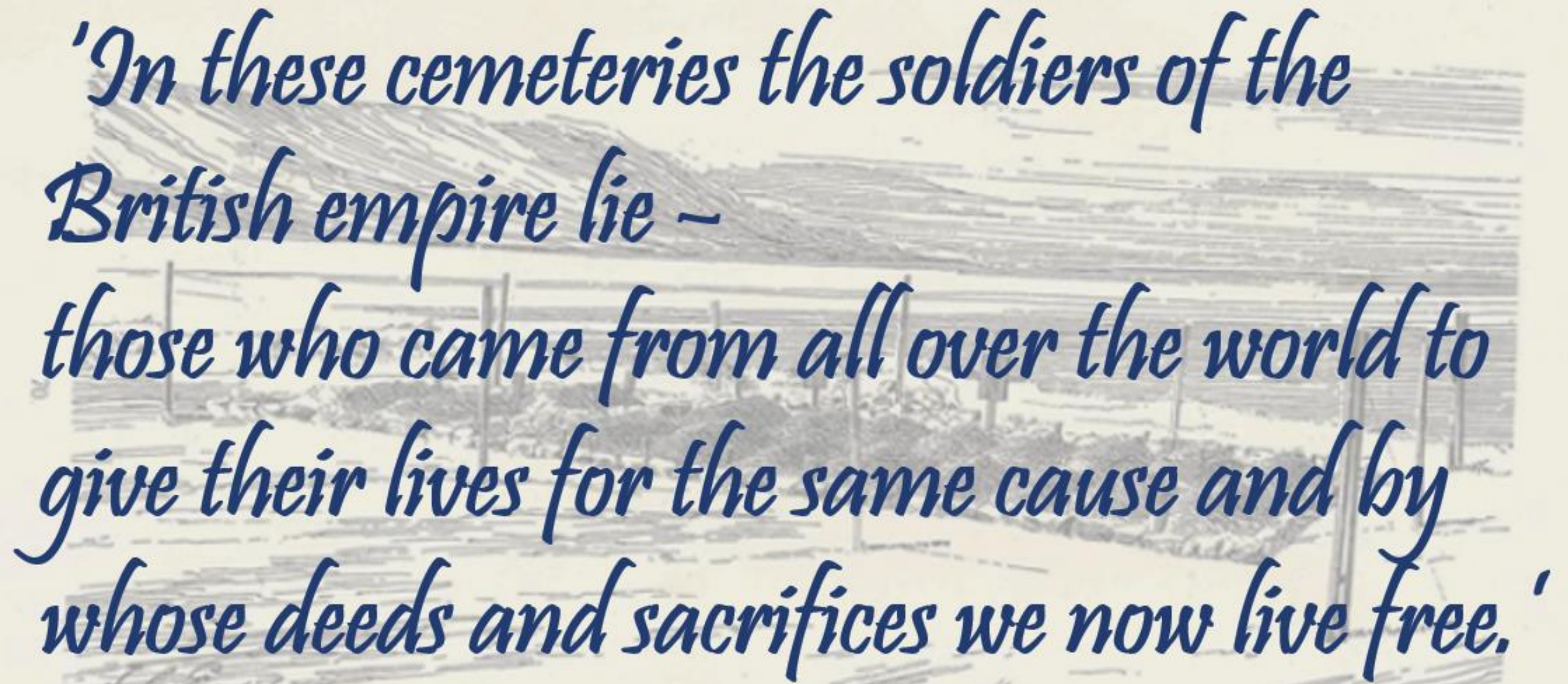




587,000 graves

559,000 casualties

with no known grave



*'In these cemeteries the soldiers of the
British empire lie -
those who came from all over the world to
give their lives for the same cause and by
whose deeds and sacrifices we now live free.'*

GRAVES OF LIGHT HORSEMEN, BY SEA OF GALILEE

The Perth War Cemetery



Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery Papua New Guinea





Adelaide River Cemetery, Northern Territory



**So that was then?
What about now?**





Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Office of Australian War Graves

|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||



OAWG = CWGC

In Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.





To be eligible for official commemoration, veterans will have met the following criteria:

- A member of the Australian Defence Force who died whilst on War Service, Operational Service, Peacekeeping Service or 'Warlike' or Non-Warlike' Service.
- A veteran whose death has been accepted by the Repatriation Commission or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission as being due to service in a war or conflict;
- A veteran in receipt of a Disability Compensation Pension at the Special Rate of either the Temporary or Permanent Rate and where the veteran has seen service in a war or conflict;
- An Extreme Disablement Adjustment rate at the time of death and where the veteran has seen service in a war or conflict;
- A veteran who is a multiple amputee as defined in Section 27.1 of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) on maximum pension rate where service in a war or conflict has been proven;
- An ex-prisoner of war; or
- A Victoria Cross recipient.



What forms do Official Commemorations take?

1. A memorial in a crematorium (niche or garden ashes placement)
2. A commemoration in a lawn or general cemetery
3. Memorial in an Australian Government managed Garden of Remembrance

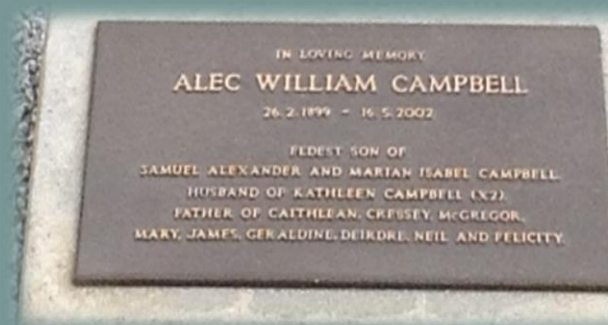






Official Plaque

- Rendered concrete
- Specific placement of service details
- Optional religious emblem on the left of the plaque
- 80 characters for a personal inscription



Private plaque

- placed on the middle or towards the foot of the grave



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ALTERATIONS NOT PERMITTED WITHOUT APPROVAL. PH (08) 8277 3993

All commemorations provided by the OAWG:

- Are uniform in design for each type of memorial and to the area of the cemetery or crematoria where the memorial is to be placed
- Remain the property of the OAWG
- Allow for the recognition of religion
- May not be altered or amended in any way



- All memorials provided by the OAWG for cremation purposes are uniform in design for each type of memorial.
- The OAWG will arrange for the placement of the veteran's ashes in a single wall niche, sealed with the official bronze plaque, or in a garden bed.
- Cremation plaques are not inscribed with a personal message or religious emblem.
- Again we need the correct dimensions from you to manufacture the right plaque!
- Please note that if ashes have been scattered or are to be retained by the family, a plaque in an OAWG Garden of Remembrance is the only form commemoration available.
- OAWG does not inter ashes in our Gardens of Remembrance.





Sergeant Brett Wood MG DSM



**An eligible veteran can
only have one official
commemoration**





The Defence Act allows that the Director of War Graves, or an officer of the Defence Force in charge of a unit specifically raised for the purpose of the registration of, or inquiries concerning, the graves of deceased members of the Defence Force to:

'...enter a cemetery and inspect, maintain or execute any work in connection with the grave of a person who has died while on service as a member of the Defence Force or as a result of service as a member of the Defence Force or authorize any person or persons to enter a cemetery and inspect, maintain or execute any work in connection with such a grave.'

GET PERMISSION TO USE THE SERVICE EMBLEM!

You can generate a permission letter authorising the use of a service badge/insignia for veterans of the Second World War, Korean War and Vietnam War via our website for

- Second World War: www.ww2roll.gov.au
- The Korean War: www.koreanroll.gov.au
- The Vietnam War: www.vietnamroll.gov.au

Requests for permission for use of the service badge for veterans who served in conflicts other than those listed above, should be directed to wargraves@dva.gov.au.



Can a second burial take place with an official commemoration?

- The grave of a veteran that is officially commemorated in a general cemetery may be re-opened for further burials — for example a widow/widower or other family member.
- Where a full grave monument has been provided, the **OAWG will restore the grave to its original condition** and the family may then place a plaque for the additional burial **on the infill area, in the centre or towards the foot of the grave.**
- It is prudent to note that the cemetery is responsible for the restoration of graves in lawn areas. An additional plaque may be placed if the lawn cemetery authorities permit.

The veteran's plaque cannot be moved or changed in any way. Families are advised to contact the OAWG to discuss their options with regards to changes.

- The plaque or grave provided under the program of official commemoration is paid for and therefore owned and cared for by the Commonwealth.



- If there is a need to replace or repair a commemoration OAWG will arrange for the work to be carried out.
- Our plaques and headstones are an asset. We know where every one of the more than 339,465 commemorations are located and work to inspect each on an annual basis.




Demonstrations of Remembrance



OFFICE OF AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES

MAINTAINS OVER
326,000
official
commemorations
within Australia

AND THIS
GROWS BY  **2,500**
per year

LOCATED
IN MORE THAN



2,300

cemeteries, crematoriums and
Gardens of Remembrance
throughout Australia



OAWG'S TEAM OF

19 staff across
10 depots
are supported by

100's of
contracted service
providers.

MAINTAINS

43 MEMORIALS IN
15 COUNTRIES



AS THE AGENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

MANAGES

72 war cemeteries
within Australia and
3 in Papua New Guinea

CARES FOR

27 graves on
Norfolk Island
6 on Guadalcanal Island,
Solomon Islands



LARGEST

Bomana War Cemetery,
Papua New Guinea **3126**

SMALLEST

3 Dungog War Cemetery,
New South Wales



OVER

6,000

calls received from
veterans and their
families annually



OVER

1,000

email enquiries
received annually



Thank you

For the work you do identifying veterans and passing on our contact details to them; and for the contact you make when you are not sure and the respect you pay to those who have served their nation and are at rest in your cemeteries and crematoria.

Your care means a great deal to the families of those men and women.





QUESTIONS?

wargraves@dva.gov.au

