

From: s 22 - Out of scope @cwgc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2026 2:41 AM
To: Stothart, Wade <Wade.Stothart@dva.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 - Out of scope @cwgc.org>; s 22 - Out of scope @cwgc.org>; s 22 - Out of scope @cwgc.org>; s 22 - Out of scope @defence.gov.au>; s 22 - Out of scope @dva.gov.au>; s 22 - Out of scope @dva.gov.au>
Subject: Re: GAZA WAR CEMETERY - UPDATE QUERY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Wade,

Thanks for your email, and renewed apologies for not getting back to you sooner.

Gaza

We have been informed today (1/6/26) of further damage that appears to have been caused in mid-April and to have affected burials on the south-eastern edge of Gaza War Cemetery. This comes from new satellite images which were posted on a Facebook page by Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East & North Africa (EAMENA). [EAMENA Project | Oxford | Facebook](#)

These images appear to show additional damage to the south border of the cemetery which was allegedly caused between 5th and 16th April 2026. The damage seems to have impacted the Canadian UN plot significantly and the Indian section, both of which are located outside the main south wall of the cemetery where a new road has been created. Without on-site professional analysis, however, it is hard to determine whether any burials have been disturbed in this newly damaged area of the cemetery. As with previous reports, we will conduct a full assessment as and when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime we will be seeking clarification from the Israeli authorities and from others who might have further detailed information.

We have separately been engaging with the Halo Trust NGO to provide Explosive Ordnance Risk Awareness Training for our staff there. Following our engagement with the Trust, our assessment remains that no work should currently recommence in the cemetery.

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As ever, do let me know if you would find it helpful to talk any of this over.

With best wishes,

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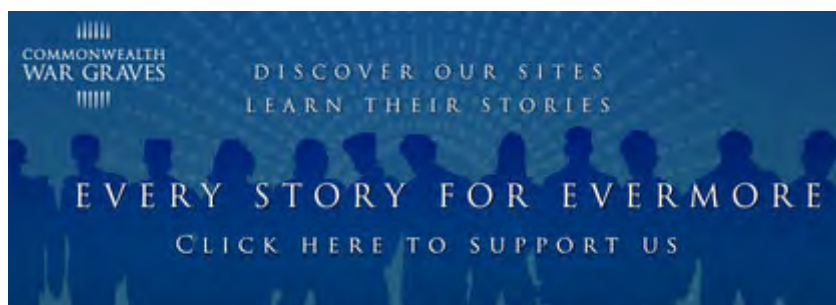
Director of Global Strategy and International Relations



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From: Stothart, Wade <Wade.Stothart@dva.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 05:28
To: s 22 - Out of scope @cwgc.org>
Cc: s 22 - Out of scope @cwgc.org>; s 22 - Out of scope defence.gov.au>; s 22 - Out of scope @dva.gov.au>; s 22 - Out of scope @dva.gov.au>
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Hope that you are well. s 22 - Out of scope

s 22 - Out of scope the Australian Federal Parliament Senate Estimates process is underway. To that end, we, Department of Veterans' Affairs is preparing to give evidence next Tuesday morning, 2 June.

As part of that preparation, can I confirm that there has been no change to condition of the Gaza War Cemetery and the Dier El Balah War Cemetery since the last update in September 2025?

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Any updates you could provide specific to the above questions or connected would be gratefully received.

Kind regards, Wade

Wade Stothart AO DSC CSC

Director War Graves

Office of Australian War Graves

Department of Veterans' Affairs

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