

# War Cemeteries within Australia



**Australian Government**

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

Office of Australian War Graves



## War Cemeteries within Australia

Many Australians travelling abroad visit Commonwealth War Graves Commission war cemeteries where Australian Service personnel are buried or commemorated. However, few of the 70 Commission war cemeteries, scattered throughout Australia, attract similar interest among Australians at home. These cemeteries, which range in size from several hectares to small plots, are comparable with any found throughout the world.

In Australia, the Office of Australian War Graves maintains 11,651 war graves. Of these, approximately half are in war cemeteries and the remainder are distributed among some 900 civil cemeteries throughout the nation. There are also memorials to 1,033 missing personnel.

Major war cemeteries containing the graves of Commonwealth Service personnel and, in some cases, Allied and enemy military dead are located in or near each capital city except Canberra. The German Military Cemetery in Tatura, Victoria, and the Japanese War Cemetery at Cowra, New South Wales contain respectively, the graves of 250 and 523 war dead of our one-time adversaries.

The larger Commission war cemeteries throughout the world are characterised by monuments such as a Stone of Remembrance, which indicates that the cemetery contains more than 1,000 war graves. There is only one Stone of Remembrance in Australia, at the Sydney War Cemetery. This stone was intended for transportation to the Ambon War Cemetery in Indonesia but difficulties at the time prevented its shipment and it has remained in Sydney. A Cross of Sacrifice — the size of which varies with the number of war graves in the cemetery — is present in all cemeteries with 50 or more war graves. Most war cemeteries also contain a register which records the names of those buried or commemorated in the war cemetery. In addition to maintaining war cemeteries the

Office also holds the burial and commemoration details of the Commonwealth war dead of the two world wars and Australia's war dead from Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and other conflicts in which Australia has been involved post-World War II. An historical notice at each war cemetery site describes the circumstances that gave rise to the cemetery.

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## New South Wales

### Sydney War Cemetery, Memorial to the Missing and the NSW Cremation Memorial



*Sydney War Cemetery*

Located within the Rookwood Necropolis, the Sydney War Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing is Australia's largest war cemetery and memorial. This cemetery has the only Stone of Remembrance in an Australian war cemetery. It contains 734 war graves, made up of 85 sailors, 20 soldiers, 16 airmen and one Merchant Navy sailor of the UK Forces, 33 sailors, 489 soldiers and 86 airmen of the Australian Forces, one sailor and one airman of the NZ Forces, one French sailor and one civilian (died while in employment of the Admiralty). The Memorial to the Missing honours 741 dead. A further 199 names of men and women of the Armed Forces whose remains were cremated appear on the Cremation Memorial.

The cemetery was established by the military authorities in 1942 as the last resting place of Servicemen and Servicewomen who gave their lives during WWII. It contains mainly the graves of those who died in the Concord Military Hospital of wounds received in operational areas, sickness or accident. The United Kingdom

Forces casualties died while prisoners-of-war in Japanese hands and were cremated. After the war the Army Graves Service arranged for their ashes to be brought by HMAS *Newfoundland* to Sydney for interment. The cemetery was taken over by the Commission in December 1946.

The Sydney War Cemetery was entered on the Register of the National Estate on 21 October 1986.

### **Albury War Cemetery**

During WWII, Albury became a major Army base for Allied troops, ordnance and supplies. It also contained a Military Base Hospital which serviced the large military population in the area. Located within the Albury General Cemetery, in Waugh Road the cemetery contains 96 war graves, including two men of the Royal Navy. The other 94 burials are those of soldiers and airmen of the Australian Forces, most of whom died from war-related injury, illness or accident. A Cross of Sacrifice stands in the central path, flanked by the marble headstones on each side.



*Albury War Cemetery*

### **Newcastle (Sandgate) War Cemetery**

Located within the Sandgate General Cemetery on the Pacific Highway and has 73 burials. Included in the burials are four men of the Royal Navy. The front entrance of the cemetery is through a wrought iron gate set in a low stone wall constructed of local stone.

The city of Newcastle was a strategic military site both as a centre for heavy industry and as a busy seaport. On 8 June 1942, Newcastle came under attack from a Japanese submarine. The area was also a major staging area for AIF Divisions and supported some of the largest concentrations of troops in Australia throughout the war. The Australian Second Army, including the 1st, 9th and 28th Brigades and the 3rd Army Tank Brigade were based on the outskirts of Newcastle, the 4th Armoured Brigade in Singleton and three Artillery Training Regiments at Greta.



*Newcastle (Sandgate) War Cemetery*

### **Wagga Wagga War Cemetery**

Located within the Wagga Wagga General Cemetery on Koorinal Road. The war cemetery was established by the military authorities and contains 83 burials, 43 airmen and 40 soldiers, including a post-war burial. The No 2 Service Flight Training School of the RAAF and other military training facilities, including the Army School of Military Engineering, were based in

the area. Of the 40 soldiers buried in the war cemetery, 26 died on 21 May 1945 in a hand grenade training accident.



*Wagga Wagga War Cemetery*

### **Cowra (Australian) War Cemetery**

The Cowra (Australian) War Cemetery contains 27 war graves. Of these, four died during the break-out at the Prisoner-of-War Camp in August 1944. Two of those soldiers were awarded the George Cross for their actions during that incident. Buried in the Cowra General Cemetery are six Australian Army casualties of WWII and one from WWI.



*Cowra War Cemetery*



## Cowra (Japanese) War Cemetery

Adjacent to the Australian War Cemetery is the Japanese War Cemetery. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission holds responsibility and title for this site. The Commission accepted the maintenance responsibility in 1964 and the Office of Australian War Graves recovers maintenance costs from the Japanese Government. The 523 Japanese graves are those of prisoners-of-war who died in the attempted break-out from Cowra in 1944, Japanese aircrews shot down in Northern Australia and Japanese civilian internees who died in Australia during WWII.



*Cowra Japanese War Cemetery*



## Queensland

### **Lutwyche War Cemetery and Cremation Memorial**

Being situated on the Brisbane River, navigable by large vessels for over ten miles from Moreton Bay to the city and with graving docks capable of accommodating destroyers and fuelling facilities, Brisbane became a naval base during WWII. Upon the entry of Japan into the war, fixed defences were provided and manned, and American detachments arrived and established themselves there. In July 1942 the American Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, South-West Pacific area, moved his headquarters from Melbourne to Brisbane to be nearer the scene of operations in Papua and New Guinea.

The Lutwyche War Cemetery is situated within the Lutwyche Cemetery, in Gympie Road, Kedron, Brisbane. The Lutwyche Cemetery has 386 war burials, with the war cemetery containing 347 of those burials. The majority of burials in the war cemetery are sailors, soldiers and airmen of the Australian Forces.



*Lutwyche War Cemetery*

### **Bundaberg War Cemetery**

Located within the Bundaberg General Cemetery in Takaluan Street, it contains 30 graves of soldiers and airmen of the Australian Forces and

five airmen of the United States Army Air Corps. The No. 12 Elementary Flying School and No. 8 Service Flying Training School of the RAAF was located at Bundaberg during World War II.



*Bundaberg War Cemetery*

### **Ipswich War Cemetery**

Located within Ipswich General Cemetery, on the corner of Cemetery and Warwick Roads, the triangular plot, containing 68 burials, is delineated on two sides by shrubs. A Cross of Sacrifice stands in one of the triangular points.

During WWII a number of Australian units were stationed in the Brisbane–Ipswich area to reinforce the defences of this important seaport.



*Ipswich War Cemetery*

Many of the casualties resulted from air training accidents at the No. 6 Aircraft Depot at Oakey and the Air Base at Amberley.

### **Rockhampton War Cemetery**

Located within the Rockhampton Cemetery, situated on the Bruce Highway. The plot was acquired by the Army in 1943 and contains 36 graves, comprised of one airman of the Royal Air Force, 21 soldiers and 12 airmen of the Australian Forces, one Salvation Army member and one Young Men's Christian Association member.

During WWII Rockhampton was host to a number of Allied Forces. Australian troops were stationed in the Rockhampton–Maryborough area in 1941; in 1942 the 41st American Division moved from Melbourne prior to operations in the Solomons and in November 1942 the Commander of the 1st American Corps had his headquarters there.



*Rockhampton War Cemetery*

### **Toowoomba War Cemetery**

Toowoomba was the headquarters of the 1st Australian Army during WWII. It was conveniently placed for the establishment of Army and Air Force camps and was often used as a re-training facility for Servicemen being sent to the Pacific Islands.



*Toowoomba War Cemetery*

The war cemetery is situated within the Toowoomba Cemetery on the corner of Anzac Avenue and South Street West. Centrally located among the 44 graves is a Cross of Sacrifice. The burials are those of 34 soldiers, nine airmen and one post-war grave.

## *N*orth Queensland

### **Townsville War Cemetery**

The Townsville War Cemetery is situated within the Townsville Belgian Gardens Cemetery, containing 222 war graves. The burials consist of one sailor and one soldier of the U.K. Forces and nine sailors, 105 soldiers and 106 airmen of the Australian Forces.



*Townsville War Cemetery*

During the war Townsville was a RAAF Base and a base for the new American heavy bombers was constructed there. In 1941 it also became the base of an Area Combined Headquarters, established to ensure naval and air co-operation in trade defence in north-eastern Australia. It was one of the ports of embarkation for troops to New Guinea and the islands, and many transit camps and a Base Hospital for troops, evacuated through sickness and wounds from New Guinea, were in the vicinity.

### Atherton War Cemetery



*Atherton War Cemetery*

Located on the Gillies Highway, the war cemetery adjoins the Atherton General Cemetery. The graves are in three plots, with a Cross of Sacrifice standing centrally at the far end. The area between Atherton and Cairns was used extensively as a training ground during the war for Australian troops involved in action in New Guinea, Bougainville and the later landings at Aitape-Wewak, Tarakan, Labuan and Balikpapan. Australia's 6th, 7th and 9th Divisions were based in the Atherton region and from here the Air Force struck at the Japanese

pressing down from the north and north-west. There are 151 soldiers and 12 airmen of the Australian Forces, plus one member of the Young Men's Christian Association buried within the war cemetery.

### **Cairns War Cemetery**

Located within the Cairns Cemetery, Martyn Street, Cairns, the war cemetery contains the graves of 70 soldiers, 17 airmen and 10 sailors of the Australian Forces and one Dutch sailor. After the first Japanese raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942, a shuttle service of small merchant ships between Cairns and Darwin was introduced. Cairns was also an important Air Base from which two Catalina General Reconnaissance Bomber Squadrons (Nos 11 and 20) operated.



*Cairns War Cemetery*

### **Charters Towers War Cemetery**

During WWII the area around Charters Towers accommodated a number of Army and RAAF units. Army troops were trained at Sellheim, including the 11th Infantry Brigade. After the Japanese entered the war in 1941, Sellheim became a Reinforcement Depot and troops from the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra were staged through to the Atherton Tablelands and New Guinea. It was also the site for a Supply Depot and Ammunition Company, as well as an Ordnance Depot and Army Workshop.

The 116 Australian General Hospital was in Charters Towers, with a Convalescent Depot at Sellheim.

At Macrossin, a United States Air Force School trained RAAF crews on Liberator bombers. The RAAF operated a base at Bedden from 1943–1947 after the US 38th Bombardment Group moved north.

Situated within the Charters Towers Cemetery on Dalrymple Road, the war cemetery contains the graves of 16 soldiers and 17 airmen of the Australian Forces. Four soldiers are buried in the civil cemetery.



*Charters Towers War Cemetery*





## Victoria

### Springvale War Cemetery and the Victorian Cremation Memorial

Located within the Springvale Necropolis, the Springvale War Cemetery contains 611 war graves, made up of six sailors, four soldiers and two airmen of the U.K. Forces; 25 sailors, 386 soldiers and 182 airmen of the Australian Forces; one member of the Salvation Army (attached to the Australian Military Force); one member of the YMCA (attached to the RAAF) and three sailors and one soldier of the Netherlands Force. The names of 72 Service personnel whose remains were cremated appear on the Cremation Memorial near the cemetery.

During the early months of WWII this land was set aside for the burial of men and women of the Services dying in the Melbourne area, by agreement between the Minister for the Army and the Necropolis Trust. Many of those buried there died of wounds in the Heidelberg Military Hospital after return from operational areas, others from sickness and accident.



*Springvale War Cemetery*



*Bairnsdale War Cemetery*

### **Bairnsdale War Cemetery**

Located within the Bairnsdale Public Cemetery on the south-west corner of the Cemetery Extension. It contains the graves of 38 Australian airmen who died through illness or flying accidents while training. A Cross of Sacrifice stands at the far end.

### **Sale War Cemetery**

Situated within the Public Cemetery at the end of a short avenue leading from the Maffra Road to the cemetery area. It contains the graves of 58 Australian Servicemen, of whom 56 were airmen from the RAAF Station at East Sale. The remaining two were soldiers. A Cross of Sacrifice stands in the centre of the area.



*Sale War Cemetery*

## Mildura War Cemetery

Located within the Mildura Public Cemetery on Koorlans Avenue. It contains the graves of 49 airmen and soldiers of the Australian Forces. The majority of the graves are airmen killed in aircraft training accidents. During the war at the RAAF Station at Mildura, the No. 2 Operational Training Unit for fighters introduced a most effective form of gunnery known as 'shadow' shooting.



*Mildura War Cemetery*

## Tatura German Military Cemetery

This cemetery contains the graves of 250 German Servicemen and civilian internees. A memorial located within the cemetery records the names of 27 Germans buried elsewhere in Australia and also commemorates 129 Catholic and 45 Protestant Missionaries. The cemetery

is maintained by the Office of Australian War Graves, on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, for the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.



*Tatura German War Cemetery*



## South Australia

### **Centennial Park War Cemetery and South Australian Cremation Memorial**

Although there are 215 Service personnel buried in the Centennial Park Cemetery, 198 of these are buried in the Centennial Park War Cemetery, within the civil cemetery confines. The war cemetery was established by the Army in 1942 for the burial of those who died of wounds in military hospitals after return from operation, as well as those who died of sickness or accident. The war cemetery was taken over by the Commission in 1946. The majority of the burials are those of soldiers of the Australian Forces.



*Centennial Park War Cemetery*

### **Mallala War Cemetery**

Located on the south-west corner of Mallala General Cemetery in Dublin Road, it contains the graves of 12 airmen of the Royal Australian Air Force. The No 6 Service Flying Training School of the RAAF was located at Mallala during WWII.



*Mallala War Cemetery*

### **Port Pirie War Cemetery**

The No 2 Bombing and Air Gunnery School of the RAAF was based at Port Pirie during WWII. Most of the RAAF casualties buried here died in air training accidents.

Located within the Port Pirie General Cemetery in Morphett Road, the war cemetery contains 22 graves of soldiers and airmen of the Australian Forces.



*Port Pirie War Cemetery*

## Western Australia

### Perth War Cemetery and the Western Australian Cremation Memorial, Nedlands

The Perth War Cemetery contains 493 war graves, including 16 from the First World War. The burials are made up of 14 sailors, one soldier and one airman of the UK Forces; one British Merchant Navy seaman; one man of the Royal Canadian Navy; 23 sailors, 348 soldiers and 78 airmen of the Australian Forces; one sailor and six soldiers of the NZ Forces; one man of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps and two men of the Royal Netherlands Navy.



*Perth War Cemetery*

The cemetery is in Karrakatta, on Smyth Road, Nedlands. It was established by the Army in 1942 for those who died on service during WWII of wounds in the Hollywood Military Hospital after returning from operational areas. The remains of many casualties were also brought in from civil cemeteries and temporary military cemeteries so that they might lie among

their comrades. Among them is 'Bluey' Truscott (Sqdn. Ldr. Keith W. Truscott DFC and BAR, MID) the football star and famous air ace, who was a member, from its beginning, of the first Australian fighter squadron to be formed in the UK. During the battle of Milne Bay his Squadron — No. 76 — together with No. 75 Squadron played a vital part in halting the Japanese advance.

The headstones in the war cemetery are a distinctive grey granite, mined locally in Perth. The cemetery was taken over by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1949.

### **Perth War Cemetery Dutch Annexe**



*Perth War Cemetery Dutch Annexe*

Adjoining the war cemetery, is an enclosure known as the Perth War Cemetery Dutch Annexe where four sailors of the Netherlands Navy and 21 Dutch civilians are buried. They were evacuated from Java in February 1942 but the seaplanes carrying them were sunk by Japanese aircraft in Broome Harbour.



## Geraldton War Cemetery

During WWII the No 4 Service Flying Training School of the RAAF was based in Geraldton. Most of the RAAF casualties died in air training accidents.

The war cemetery adjoins the Geraldton Civil Cemetery, adjacent to the airport on the main road to Mullewa. The main entrance, in the form of a pergola of stone piers and overhead concrete beams, is situated in Eastward Road. A Cross of Sacrifice stands at the southern end, facing the entrance. There are 83 burials, comprising 41 soldiers and 42 airmen, all of the Australian Forces.



*Geraldton War Cemetery*



## Northern Territory

### Adelaide River War Cemetery and Northern Territory Memorial to the Missing

A total of 434 war graves marked by bronze plaques are contained in this cemetery. The burials are made up of 14 airmen of the RAF, 12 unidentified men of the British Merchant Navy; one soldier of the Canadian Army; 18 sailors, 181 soldiers and 201 airmen of the Australian Forces and seven men of the Australian Merchant Navy. The Northern Territory Memorial to the Missing honours a further 292 Servicemen and Servicewomen lost to the north of Australia. The adjacent civil section contains the graves of the nine Post Office staff killed on 19 February 1942 during the bombing of Darwin, one of 63 separate occasions from that date. The civilian casualties of WWII include 31 Aborigines.

During WWII Adelaide River was the headquarters of a large base and the war cemetery was created especially for the burial of Service personnel who died in this part of



*Adelaide River War Cemetery*

Australia. It was used by Australian General Hospitals Nos. 101, 107, 119, 121 and 129 and after the war the Army Graves Service moved into it other graves from isolated sites, temporary military burial grounds, and from various civil cemeteries in the area. The war cemetery was taken over by the Commission in September 1947.

The Adelaide River War Cemetery was entered on the Register of the National Estate in 1984.

### **Alice Springs War Cemetery**

Located within the Alice Springs Cemetery, close to the aerodrome. The plot contains the graves of one sailor, 24 soldiers and three airmen of the Australian Forces. A post-war grave is located in the Church of England plot. The main road running north to Darwin was built during World War II to facilitate the transport of supplies and war material to Australia's most vulnerable area.



*Alice Springs War Cemetery*

## Tasmania

### **Hobart War Cemetery and Tasmanian Cremation Memorial, Cornelian Bay**

This delightful little cemetery looks out over Hobart and up to Mt Wellington and contains 51 war graves, among them nine ex-Servicemen of the 1914–1918 War who died during WWII. Another 24 war graves are scattered throughout the Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery.

During WWII the port was provided with fixed defences for the protection of its shipping.



*Hobart War Cemetery*

### **Launceston War Cemetery**

The Launceston War Cemetery is situated within the Carr Villa General Cemetery. The war cemetery contains 18 graves and a further 39 war graves lie in the Carr Villa General Cemetery. The war graves are those of four sailors, 25 soldiers and 10 airmen of the Australian Forces.



*Launceston War Cemetery*

## **O**ther war cemeteries and plots

Apart from the larger war cemeteries described in this booklet, many of which are located near our capital cities, there are many smaller war cemeteries and war plots in Australia. A list of all war cemeteries and plots is included here for your information.

### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Cemeteries, Plots and Memorials in Australia**

<b>Cemetery or plot</b>	<b>Number of graves</b>
<b>New South Wales</b>	
Albury	96
Bathurst	18
Camden	23
Casino	3
Coffs Harbour	2
Cootamundra	6
Cowra	27
Cowra (Japanese)	523
Deniliquin	29
Dungog	2 + 1 PW
Evans Head	25

**NSW cont.**

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Glen Innes	5
Goulburn	26
Greta	20
Hay	5
Kembla Grange	12
Lismore	2
Maitland East	6
Muswellbrook	6
Narrandera	29
Narromine	12
Newcastle	73
Nowra	35
Parkes	18
Richmond	25
Singleton	3
Sydney	734
Tamworth	28
Temora	10
Tenterfield	8
Tocumwal	18
Wagga Wagga	82 + 1 PW
Wauchope	2

**Victoria**

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Bairnsdale	38
Ballarat	12
Benalla	11
Geelong East	15
Hamilton	4
Lake Boga	7
Mildura	49
Nhill	7
Sale	58
Seymour	19
Shepparton	10
Springvale	611
Tatura (German)	250
Wangaratta	6

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**Queensland**

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Atherton	164
Bundaberg	30 + 5 US
Cairns	98
Charters Towers	33
Gympie	5
Ipswich	68
Kingaroy	22
Lutwyche	347
Maryborough	10
Rockhampton	36
Toowoomba	43 + 1 PW
Townsville	222
Warwick	21
Woombye	26

**Northern Territory**

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Adelaide River	434
Alice Springs	28 + 1 PW

**South Australia**

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Barmera	8
Centennial Park	198
Mallala	12
Mount Gambier	4
Port Pirie	22

**Western Australia**

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Geraldton	83
Perth	493

**Tasmania**

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Launceston	18
Hobart	42 + 9 PW

**Note**

US — United States

PW— Post War

