



Australian Government
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Insights & Understandings



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Acknowledgements

The Office of Australian War Graves acknowledges the Custodians of the lands and waters where the war and post war dead of this nation are at rest. We recognise the continuing responsibilities Custodians have to care for country at these sites of commemoration and remembrance. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extend those respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Nation Peoples.

On behalf of my colleagues, I respectfully acknowledge the Arrernte people. It is a privilege to be in your country, and I thank you for your welcome.

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



**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 an War
Cemetery in Australia. They are all war
dead.

319,000 have died as a result of war.
They are our post war dead.



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CWGC

Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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Townsville War Cemetery



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King George V and Sir Fabian Ware



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587,000 graves

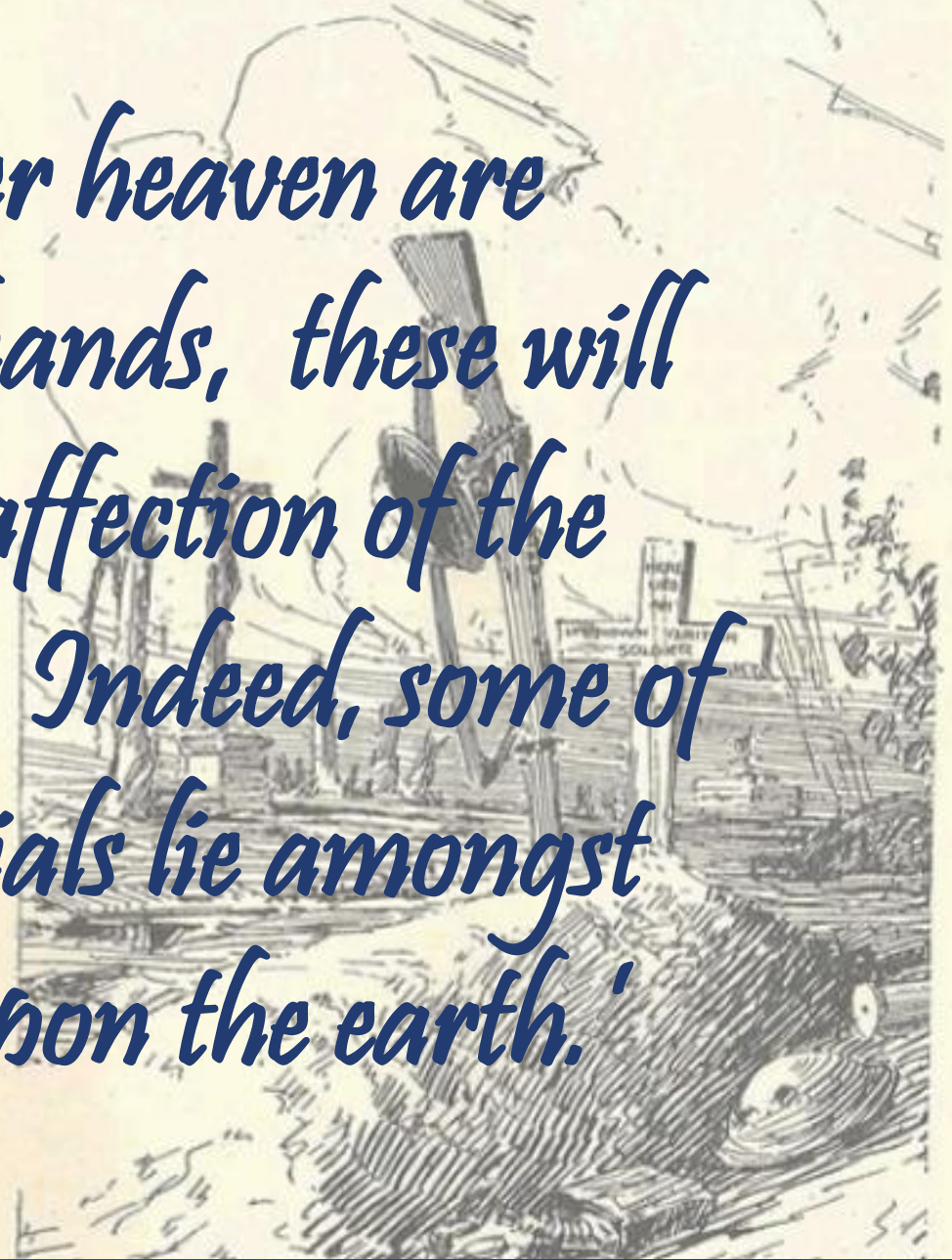
**559,000 casualties
with no known grave**

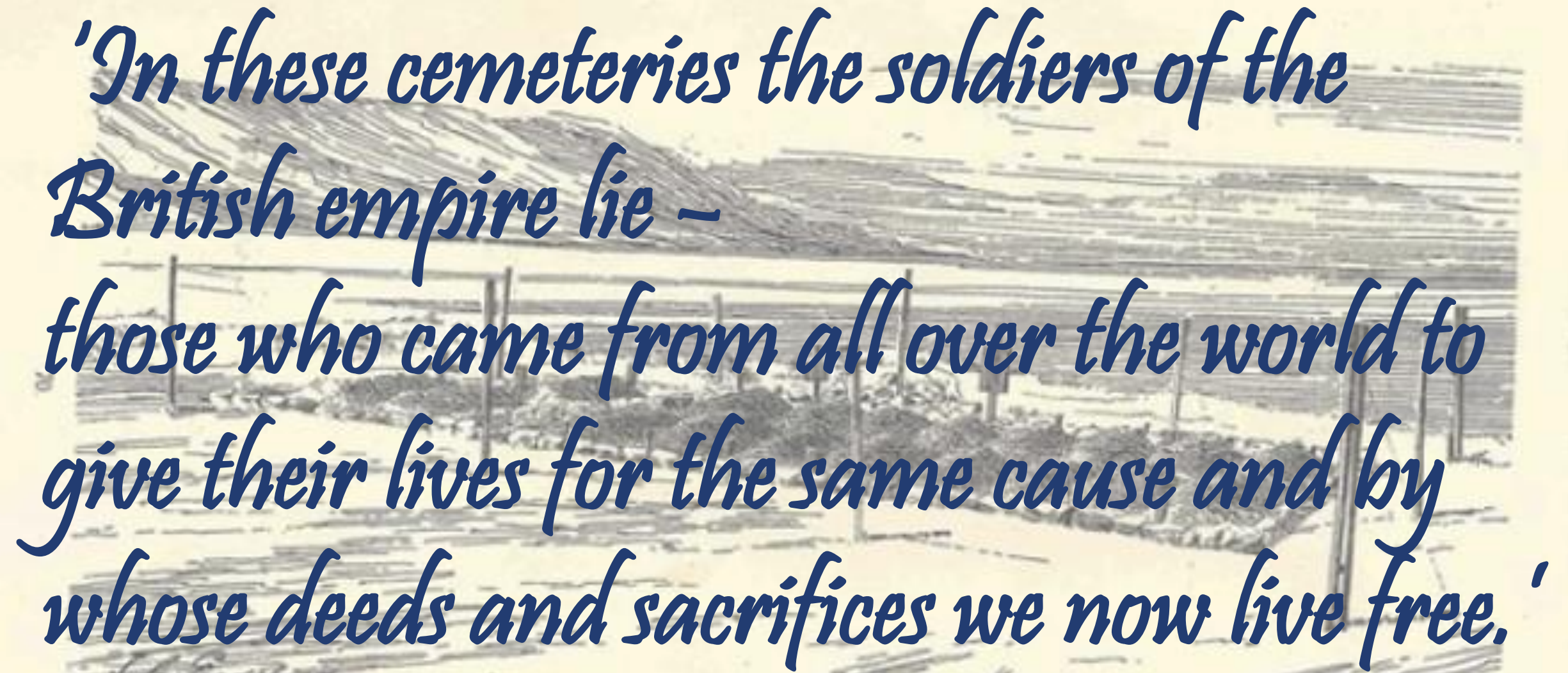
the field of Dernancourt, were found two crosses over the graves of Australian privates buried close to the front line by the Germans. Those who interred them took them for Englishmen, and the crosses were each marked, in pencil: "To a Brave English Soldier."

These graves, the graves of those who were marked "Missing" during the war, whose remains will never be identified, are being tended by the authorities with exactly the same care as those of the known soldiers. The remains of unknown soldiers have been carefully collected from every battlefield—Anzac, Helles, Suvla, Palestine, Pozieres, Fromelles (Fleurbaix), Bullecourt, Flers, Messines, Ypres, Polygon Wood, Incheboigne, Zandvoort, Villers-Bretonneux, Dernancourt, Peronne, and many other known fields—and reverently buried in one of the cemeteries nearest to the place where they laid down their lives.

It is only possible to give a faint idea of these cemeteries as they appear at present. Cemeteries in each district have been chosen for illustration, so that those whose dear ones lie in that neighbourhood may be able to visualize, if not to visit, the place of their loved ones. These cemeteries are controlled by the Imperial War Graves Commission, to whom the Graves Registration Unit hands them over as soon as it has finished its work. The War Graves Commission, on the one hand, and the other Dominions are represented, as a permanent body, which will tend British graves for all time. 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. No difference could be made between the graves of officers and

'If any resting places under heaven are made beautiful by men's hands, these will be, upon which the whole affection of the Empire will lavish its care. Indeed, some of the cemeteries and memorials lie amongst the most beautiful scenes upon the earth.'





*'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.



Springvale War Cemetery, Victoria



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Bomana War Cemetery Papua New Guinea





Adelaide River Cemetery, Northern Territory



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OAWG = CWGC

In Australia, Papua New Guinea
and the Solomon Islands.



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

A veteran of a war or a conflict who is:

- a Victoria Cross recipient;
- in receipt of a Totally & Permanently Incapacitated pension (TPI) at the time of death and where the veteran has seen service in a war or conflict;
- in receipt of an Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) and where the veteran has seen service in a war or conflict;
- in receipt of a temporary Special Rate Pension (TSR) or Intermediate Rate Pension (INT) and where the veteran has seen service in a war or conflict;
- a multiple amputee on Section 27.1 maximum pension rate;
- an ex-prisoner of war;

Or whose death has subsequently been accepted as being due to war service.

**Post War
Commemorations
are mostly located
in general and civil
cemeteries and
crematoriums**



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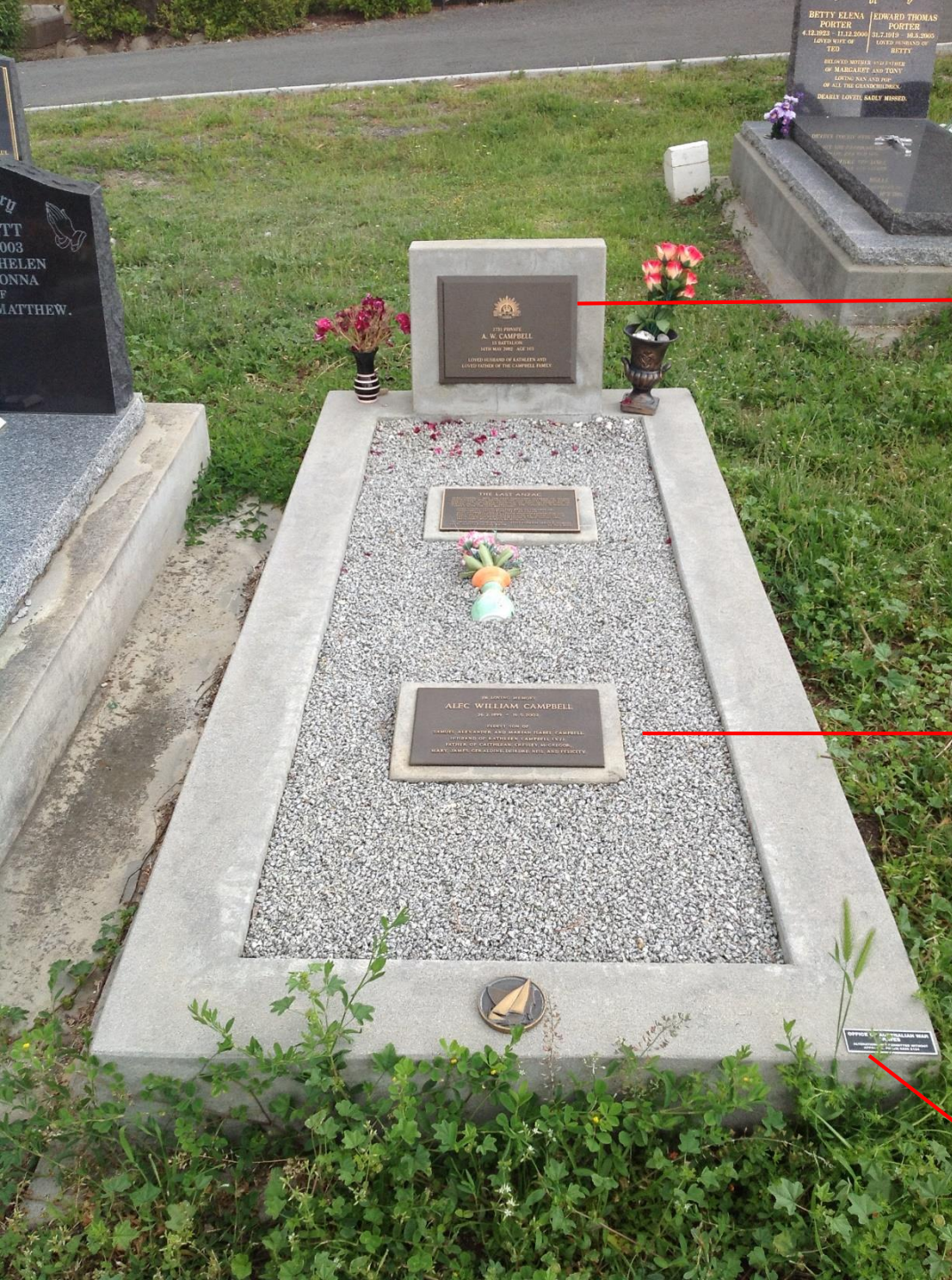
What forms do Official Commemorations take?

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



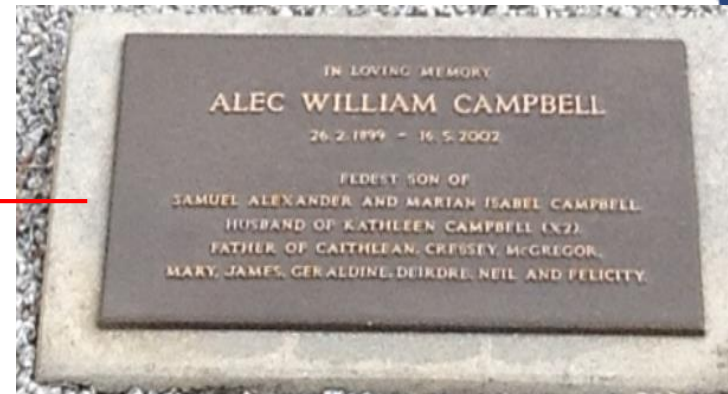
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Official Plaque

- 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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In order to ensure that all veterans are commemorated equally and uniformly, all memorials provided by the OAWG:

- Are uniform in design for each type of memorial and to the area of the cemetery where the memorial is to be placed – so we need your plaque dimensions
- **Remain the property of the OAWG**
- **May not be altered or amended in any way**

Whatever option is chosen by a family or responsible person, the commemoration is maintained in perpetuity by OAWG and remains an asset of the Commonwealth.



Official plaques allow for the recognition of religion



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- 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 of commemoration available.
- **OAWG does not inter ashes in our Gardens of Remembrance.**



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



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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 a service badge on a private grave!

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 by downloading from websites:

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.

All costs and arrangements associated with the private plaque/memorials are the responsibility of the next-of-kin or executor. These commemorations are not maintained by OAWG because they are not official commemorations.

**What about
veterans and
ex-service men
and women
who are not
eligible for
commemoration**



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Can a second burial take place with an official commemoration?

If the cemetery allows it, a 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.

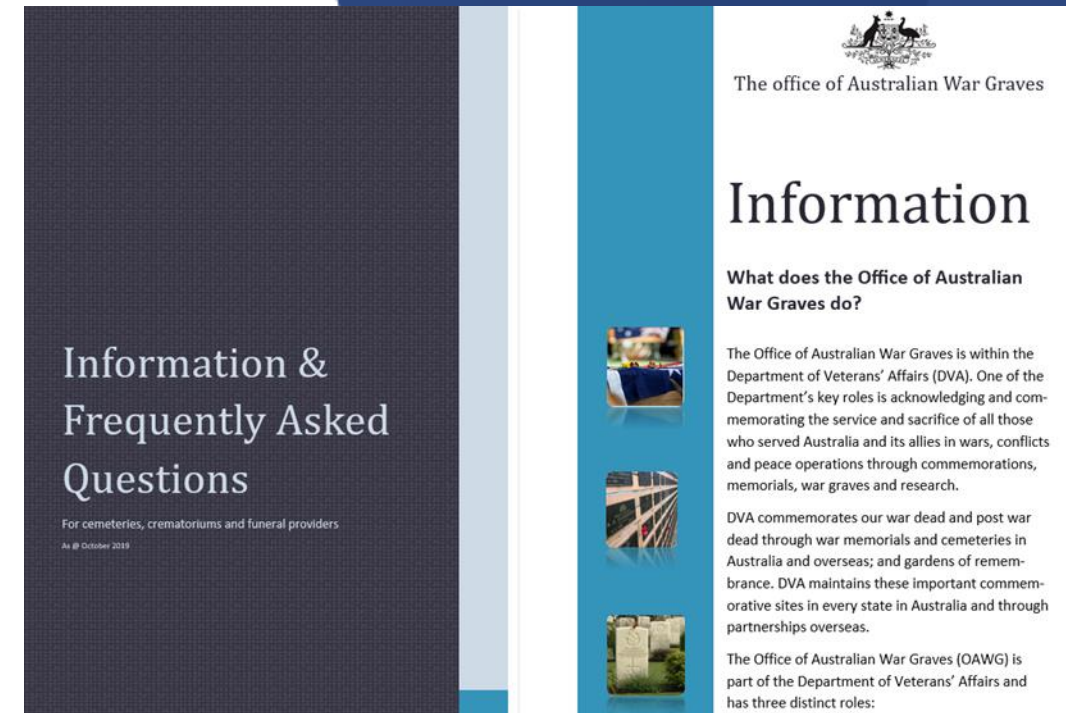


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Do you have more questions?

We've put together some helpful info & FAQs for you. Email wargraves@dva.gov.au to get a copy.



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Thank you

For the work you do identifying veterans and passing on our contact details to them.

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.**



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