



What does the Office of Australian War Graves do?

Overview

The Office of Australian War Graves

- Provides and maintains official commemorations of Australian veterans those who have died in war or conflict and of eligible veterans who have died after war or conflict of causes related to their service in that war or conflict. Refer to *Factsheet WG03: Types of Official Commemoration*;
- Provides permission, on behalf of the Department of Defence, to use the Service emblem on the graves of all veterans;
- Provides a historical research service in respect of those who have died in war or conflict; and
- Provides and maintains official Australian memorials overseas.

Eligibility for Official Commemoration

For further details, refer to Factsheet *WG02: Eligibility for Official Commemoration*.

How can I obtain Permission to use the Service badge?

Families can make application to use the relevant Service badge on the burial plaque or memorial of anyone who served in Australia's military forces.

If you wish to apply, write to The Office of Australian War Graves (see page 3 for address). Include a copy of the veteran's discharge certificate. If this is not available provide as much detail as possible about the veteran's service (eg Service number, rank and unit). The Office will then provide a letter of permission to be given to whoever is arranging the memorial on your behalf.

Permission to use the Service badge or insignia is provided free of charge. However, all costs and arrangements for erecting a private plaque or memorial are the responsibility of the person making the arrangements.

What does the Office of Australian War Graves Do?, *continued*

What Historical information is available?

The Office can provide information about the burial places of the Commonwealth dead of the two world wars and of those Australians killed during other conflicts.

Information pertaining to the individual commemoration of the war dead of the two world wars can also be accessed through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: www.cwgc.org

For those proposing to travel overseas, the Office can provide grave and memorial details, location of cemeteries and, in most cases, names of contacts for further information.

For those unable to travel, the Office can, on request, provide a photograph of the commemoration. This service is free of charge to next of kin. See the 'more information' for section contact details.

What publications are available?

The Office has a number of other publications available. These include:

- War Cemeteries within Australia
- Guide to Australian Memorials on the Western Front in France and Belgium
- Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Australian Memorial Park, Fromelles
- Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum, Thailand
- Sandakan Memorial Park, Malaysia
- Australian War Memorial, London
- Gardens of Remembrance (for each state)

If you would like any of these publications, contact the Office of Australian War Graves or download from the Department's website www.dva.gov.au/commemorations/OAWG. Some publications are also available from your nearest DVA office.

What overseas memorials are the Office of Australian War Graves responsible for?

On behalf of the Australian Government, the Office provides and maintains memorials overseas at sites significant to Australia's military history. Information about these memorials can be obtained from the Office or at www.dva.gov.au/commemorations/wargraves.

What does the Office of Australian War Graves Do?, *continued*

Oral advice

While we make every effort to ensure that you are given accurate information, it is important that you seek written confirmation of oral information or advice before making any major decisions based on that information.

We continually strive to improve the level of service you receive and make this request as an added safeguard for you.

Other Factsheets

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- *Eligibility for Official Commemoration: WG02*
- *Types of Official Commemoration: WG03*

More Information

If you need more information or further assistance you can ring, fax, e-mail or write to:

The Office of Australian War Graves
PO Box 21
Woden ACT 2606

Phone: Freecall 1800 026 185
Direct: 02 6289 6517
Fax: 02 6289 4861
E-mail: wargraves@dva.gov.au
Internet: www.dva.gov.au

All DVA Factsheets are available on request from DVA offices, and on the DVA web site at www.dva.gov.au.

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for country callers.

Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

You can send an email to DVA at: generalenquiries@dva.gov.au

You can get more help from any DVA office.