

The Rich War History of Springvale War Cemetery and Springvale Botanical Cemetery

# Victorian War Heritage



SPRINGVALE  
BOTANICAL CEMETERY

Honouring and celebrating life



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**SOUTHERN  
METROPOLITAN**  
CEMETERIES TRUST

Honouring and celebrating life

The Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) is a purposed, not-for-profit organisation that respects traditions, rites and rituals in relation to death, grief and mourning, and is honoured to be a custodian of significant cultural heritage for the Victorian Community.

Caring for eight cemeteries and memorial parks within Melbourne, SMCT is committed to ensuring that the community is able to Honour and Celebrate the lives of not only those they have loved, but also those who have gone before us.

SMCT's Springvale Botanical Cemetery and the Springvale War Cemetery have a rich war graves history which will be shared through this publication with school children within the Springvale and Dandenong district and members of our community. It is through sharing the stories of the brave servicemen and service women resting peacefully at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and the Springvale War Cemetery that we begin to understand the significant sacrifices that were made for our country.

We are grateful to the Victorian Veterans Council of the Department of Premier and Cabinet for funding this publication, which will encourage visitation and appreciation of Springvale Botanical Cemetery and the Springvale War Cemetery, precious community assets formed over time by our community's rich cultural history.

**Jane Grover, CEO,**

Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust



# Introduction

Victorian citizens have been involved in wars since the nineteenth century and this booklet commemorates the war service of so many individuals who participated in major conflicts. These brave Victorians, both men and women, came from various religious and cultural backgrounds and from numerous sections of our military forces.

This is a 'walking tour' publication that shows you how to find the graves of those who put their lives on the line in their individual efforts to protect Australia from attack.

Many died in conflict and others died later through

injury or illness. Some perished on home soil through accidents and others struggled to survive back here in civilian life. Learning about their individual heroics and struggles helps us to deepen our compassion and understanding of their sacrifices and also enhances our admiration for their courage, resilience and commitment to public duty.

The Springvale War Cemetery is Victoria's official war cemetery, located within the grounds of Springvale Botanical Cemetery (SBC). Springvale War Cemetery is the second largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Australia. This cemetery,



together with the war graves located within SBC, comprise the most comprehensive war graves history in Victoria.

Many visitors to SBC's magnificent botanical gardens are unaware that there is a beautiful, dedicated official war cemetery within its midst, nor that SBC has its own rich war heritage, including the graves of more Victoria Cross recipients than any other cemetery in Victoria.

As SBC and the Springvale War Cemetery were both established in the twentieth century, there are no graves for those who fought in the

nineteenth century wars. However, in the Victorian Garden of Remembrance, adjacent to the War Cemetery, there are some symbolic memorials to those who fought in those early wars. Also, many of those who were killed overseas appear on family headstones. It is worth taking a walk to find them.

The vast majority of graves featured in this publication are associated with the two World Wars, World War 1 (WWI) and World War 2 (WWII), and the Vietnam War. Some soldiers included in this booklet served in both World Wars.

Australia's involvement in WWI began when Britain and Germany declared war on 4 August 1914. The outbreak of war was initially met with considerable enthusiasm but news of the terrible conditions and appalling carnage eventually shattered the romantic notion of war.

On 25 April 1915, members of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) landed on the beaches at Gallipoli in Turkey with troops from New Zealand, Britain and France. While there were very heavy losses on Gallipoli, many Australians thought that the valour and sacrifice shown there symbolised the birth of the nation. In 1916, Australian forces fought campaigns on the Western Front in Europe and in the Middle East.



During 1916 and 1917, losses on the Western Front were heavy with little advancement. The tide turned from late April 1918 when Australians took part in successful battles starting at Villers-Bretonneux, Hamel on 4 July and then in the conclusive Battle of Amiens on 8 August where the AIF under General Sir John Monash played a prominent part in defeating Germany on the battlefield. Germany surrendered on 11 November 1918.

WWI was Australia's worst conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. Over 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. Everyone who served and returned carried the war with them for the rest of their lives.

In WWI Australian women served in auxiliary roles as cooks, nurses, drivers, interpreters, munition workers and farm workers. Nurses were welcomed into the armed forces overseas, but not women from other professions. Australian nurses served in Egypt, France, Greece and India, where they were exposed to shelling and aerial bombardment and outbreaks of disease. Several WWI nurses are included in this booklet.

Australia entered WWII on 3 September 1939, fighting in campaigns against Germany and Italy in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa. After the Japanese attack on the United States on 7 December 1941, and simultaneous invasion of Malaya, the 2nd AIF fought with British forces in Malaya and Singapore, suffered tremendous casualties on the Thai Burma Railway, and then in Papua New Guinea, and Borneo. For the first time, the Australian mainland was directly attacked as Japanese planes bombed Darwin and towns in northwest Australia and Japanese midget submarines attacked Sydney Harbour.



During the war, Melbourne was the headquarters of each of Australia's fighting services, the centre for naval training and many army and air force camp bases. The war in Europe ended on 9 May 1945 with the unconditional surrender of Germany. Japan surrendered on 14 August 1945.

During WWII the role of women in the services and on the home front grew enormously. Women were no longer restricted to nursing, medical and voluntary roles, and they were allowed to join a women's arm of each of the services. A number of such service-women are buried in the Springvale War Cemetery. Women's employment on the home front expanded quickly as men left jobs to fight and women took on many of the jobs traditionally performed by men.

The arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) in South Vietnam in July-August 1962 marked the start of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War (1962 - 1975). Almost 60,000 Australian national servicemen served in Vietnam, with 521 killed and over 3,000 wounded. This war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since WWI. Numerous draft resisters and conscientious objectors were fined or gaoled. Australia's participation in the war was formally ended on 11 January 1973.

The Vietnam War was an unpopular conflict that endured for many years and returned soldiers were poorly treated or shunned by large sections of the community. Springvale graves of soldiers who fought in Vietnam include the first soldier killed in the war and two repatriated soldiers from Vietnam.

This booklet can only pay tribute to a selection of the war dead who are memorialised in the beautiful grounds of Springvale War Cemetery and Springvale Botanical Cemetery. In an attempt to broaden our understanding of service and sacrifice, those

featured include individuals from various cultural and religious backgrounds. We encourage you to honour our servicemen and women by visiting other numerous war graves and memorials, both in Springvale and in other cemeteries throughout Victoria.

**Dr Celestina Sagazio (author)**

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The Cross of Sacrifice in the Springvale War Cemetery was unveiled in 1948. (Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria)

# Springvale War Cemetery

**The Springvale War Cemetery** is the principal war cemetery in Victoria. It is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery administered by the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG). It was built to a standard design for war cemeteries in the Commonwealth.

During the early months of WWII in 1939, six acres (2.4 hectares) of land were purchased from Springvale Botanical Cemetery, which was formerly known as the Necropolis, Springvale. This land was set aside for service burials in the Melbourne area.

The burial area comprises two acres (0.8 hectares), while the Victorian Garden of Remembrance and the

administration section occupy the remaining land. The Springvale War Cemetery holds the graves of many who died from war-related wounds in the Heidelberg Military Hospital after returning from operational areas, and of others who died from accident or sickness.

The War Cemetery contains a total of 612 graves: 607 Commonwealth burials, four Dutch World War II burials and a repatriated Vietnam War soldier. Soldiers predominate, followed by airmen then sailors. The war dead had high and low ranks, ranging from privates to officers. The deceased include a member of the Salvation Army (attached to the



Australian Military Force), Major John Manley, who died in 1946 at the age of 65 (section 2, plot P, row A, grave 9), and a member of the Young Men's Christian Association (attached to the Royal Australian Air Force), Walter Noel Greenwood, who died in 1944 at the age of 49 (1.N.B.12). The Salvation Army and YMCA were among a number of civilian organisations recognised by the armed forces, whose members' graves are considered war graves. There are over 30 women's graves, including members of the Australian Women's Army Service, Australian Army Medical Women's Service, RAAF Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service. The war dead include a number who originally came from various states around Australia. Most were from Victorian suburbs and towns.

The Cross of Sacrifice was unveiled on 5 December 1948 by His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Major General Sir Winston Dugan, in the presence of government and military representatives and leading



citizens. It is a Type A bronze cross reflecting the number of burials between 251 and 2,000 (Types B and C Crosses of Sacrifice have higher numbers of burials in a war cemetery).

The burials in the cemetery stopped in 1947 but a repatriated Vietnam War soldier was buried in 2016. The immaculate lawn is Santa Ana couch grass. The graves have continuous flower borders along the rows of headstones, while hedges and borders of shrubs and flowers form the boundaries of the cemetery.

Behind the Cross of Sacrifice stands a shelter containing the Victoria Cremation Memorial to 75 servicemen, mostly Australian, who died in Victoria during WWII and whose remains were cremated and scattered elsewhere. The vast majority of these

servicemen were cremated at Necropolis, Springvale (now Springvale Botanical Cemetery).

### **Thorold Fink**

A significant soldier remembered on the cremation memorial is Thorold Fink, who was cremated at the Springvale Crematorium, which was part of the original Boyd Chapel complex. Some soldiers were not killed in battle but on home soil through accidents. Fink was one of them.

Fink was born in South Yarra in 1896, the youngest son of Theodore Fink, who was later chairman of directors of The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd.

He had a Jewish background but adopted the Presbyterian faith. He served with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in WWI, was twice wounded, and later played an active role in the affairs of the Returned Soldiers' League. He was a director of The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd.

In WWII Captain Fink was serving as a staff member at the Fighting Vehicles Headquarters. He was killed when the jeep car he was driving on Geelong Road, Werribee overturned on 22 November 1942. He was 45.



### The Victorian Garden of Remembrance

Another important feature adjacent to the Springvale War Cemetery is the Victorian Garden of Remembrance, which commemorates a few from nineteenth century conflicts (British VC recipients and Australian VC recipient James Rogers) and those who died as a result of service in WWI and subsequent campaigns. The original garden was opened in the early 1960s and was extended in 1988. B C Humphreys, Minister for Veterans Affairs, opened the extension on 3 March 1989. The entry building houses the register books which list the wall and row number of each plaque. The almost 60,000 plaques are all official commemorations of veterans who could not be officially commemorated at their place of interment due to family choice or the unknown location of remains. Most of these are post-war commemorations but there are some war dead commemorations (10 WWI and three WWII). There is no provision for placement of remains in the garden. Individual plaques are placed on walls amid flowers and plants.

In the Records Room at the entrance of the War



Cemetery there is a writing desk, which was a gift of the Victorian State Government on behalf of the people of Victoria. It has a visitors' book. A register recording the names of those buried or commemorated in the cemetery is available at the nearby OAWG office. Records are also found on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: [www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty](http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty). The other entrance building is a tool store.

The beautiful, uniform headstones remind us of the rows and rows of thousands of graves of fallen Australian soldiers in France and other countries. The headstones are made of Ulam marble from Queensland. It is a metamorphic rock that is created from limestone after being subjected to extreme heat and pressure.

Note the 'Rising Sun' badge insignia on many Australian Army graves. It has become an integral part of the Australian digger tradition and commonly identified with the spirit of Anzac. The badge has a distinctive shape and is worn on the upturned side of a slouch hat. There have been seven patterns of the Rising Sun. The Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force use different insignias. Most headstones have crosses, however there are a few with the Star of David, symbolising divine protection to Jewish people. Some have no crosses, possibly indicating no religious affiliation.



# Walking Tour Route

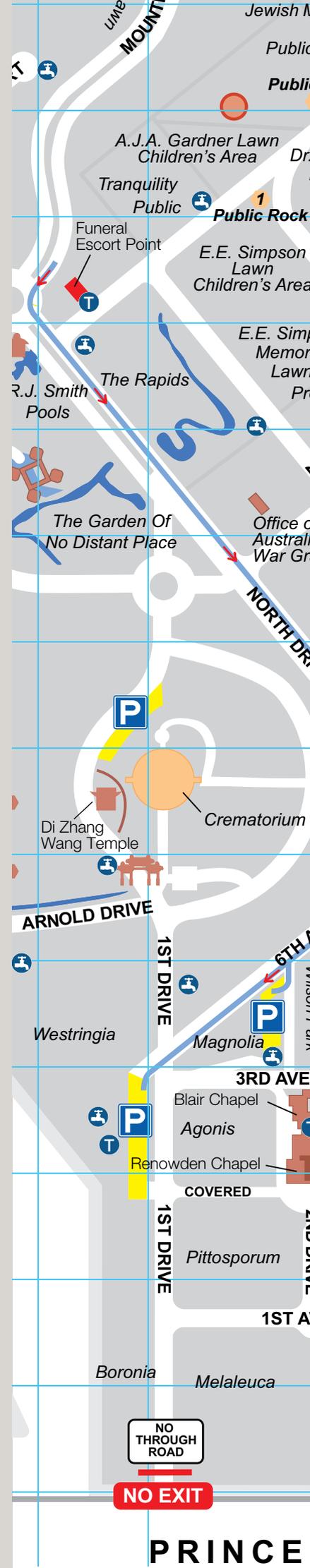
## Springvale War Cemetery

In addition to 612 war graves, the Springvale War Cemetery contains the Cross of Sacrifice, the Victorian Cremation Memorial and two entrance buildings, and is adjacent to the Victorian Garden of Remembrance.

1. Albert Mockridge, section 1, plot R, row A, grave 5
2. Antonio Briglia, section 1, plot T, row D, grave 13
3. Camilla Martron, section 1, plot N, row C, grave 6
4. Charles Oshlack, section 2, plot Q, row A, grave 14
5. Leo Ferrari, section 2, plot B, row B, grave 13
6. Arthur Ruduss, section 2, plot P, row C, grave 1

## Springvale Botanical Cemetery

7. Lone Pine, Thomas Simmons Memorial Lawn
8. Robert Wilson, Presbyterian, compartment N, section 4, grave 9
9. Aneese Jaboor, Presbyterian, compartment N, section 1, grave 12
10. William Hacking, Thomas Simmons Memorial Lawn, row DK, grave 1
11. Richard Kelliher, Thomas Simmons Memorial Lawn, row DC, grave 20
12. Former American War Cemetery, Thomas Simmons Memorial Lawn
13. Elizabeth James, Joshua Jordan Lawn, section AE, grave 28
14. Henry Donath, Joshua Jordan Lawn, row AY, grave 32
15. Henry Boxall, Church of England, compartment A, section 1, grave 3
16. William Little, Church of England, compartment A, section 6, grave 2
17. James Melbourne, Church of England, compartment B, section 16, grave 8
18. Edward Ryan, Roman Catholic, compartment A, section 19, grave 5
19. Bertram Atkinson, Church of England, compartment I, section 1, grave 28
20. Ethel Attiwill, Church of England, compartment R, section 15, grave 31
21. Robert Grieve, Presbyterian, compartment C, section 15, grave 28
22. Andrew Cruickshank, Presbyterian, compartment C, section 15, grave 15
23. Margaret Looker, Church of England, compartment R, section 25, grave 3
24. John McKeddie, Eucalypt, garden 2, bed 12, rose 12
25. Sir Albert Coates, Luculia, garden 1, tree 35 (Algerian Oak)
26. The VC Memorial commemorates Victoria's 39 Victoria Cross recipients who settled or died in Victoria. The remains of five recipients and some family members were placed at the VC Memorial:
27. James Rogers
28. William Ruthven
29. William Dunstan
30. Lawrence McCarthy
31. William Jackson
32. Returned Services Memorial





*Go to section 1 of the war graves.*

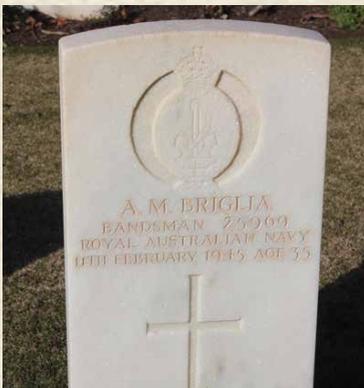
**1: Albert Mockridge**  
**(1.R.A.5)**

Albert Thomas Mockridge who served not only in WWII but also in WWI.

Mockridge was born in Geelong and was an artist. He was an Anglican and married. He served in WWI as a 2nd Air Mechanic with the Australian Flying Corps. During WWII he served with the Australian Headquarters and was posted to several country areas such as Bonegilla and Corangamite. He was appointed Lieutenant and then promoted to Captain. He died of a syncopal attack on 29 September 1942, aged 59.

There are some representatives of other cultures.

**2: Antonio Briglia**  
**(1.T.D.13)**



The grave of Antonio Briglia.

Antonio Michael Briglia (1909 - 1945), son of Giuseppe and Rosina, was born into a musical family with an Italian background in Carlton in 1909. Antonio (Tony) was one of Australia's most accomplished cellists and a member of the ABC and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras. He was a bandsman in the Royal Australian Navy and served on HMAS *Australia* at a transmitting station. The ship had played a leading role in General MacArthur's return to the Philippines and it emerged unscathed from battles with Japanese bombers. Briglia was granted 28 days' home leave and hastened to rejoin his wife and two young boys at his home in South Melbourne. Surrounded by family and friends, he had a joyous homecoming but it was short-lived and ended in tragic circumstances. After a week Briglia complained of severe abdominal pain. He died in Heidelberg Hospital from acute pancreatitis on 11 February 1945. A company from the RAN band acted as pallbearers at his funeral. Senator R V Keane, who was a personal friend, together with leaders of Melbourne's musical world and scores of South Melbourne businessmen and acquaintances, were among the mourners.

One of the women buried in this cemetery is Camilla Analia Martron who had an interesting background. According to

### 3: Camilla Martron

(1.N.C.6)

One of the women buried in this cemetery is Camilla Analia Martron who had an interesting background. According to official records, she was born in Genoa, Italy in 1915 but served with the Dutch forces. She was married, possibly to a man of Dutch origin. Martron enlisted as a nurse with the Royal Netherlands Navy and died on 2 June 1945.

Her headstone has an image of the Dutch Republic lion, a common symbol of the Netherlands. The inscription, De Geest Overwint, means 'The Spirit Wins'.

*Go to section 2 of the war graves.*

### 4: Charles Oshlack

(2.Q.A.14)



The grave of Charles Oshlack.

Charles Bernard Oshlack (1924 - 1943) was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1924 and emigrated to Victoria with his parents five years later. He was of the Jewish faith and lived with his parents in Elwood. He was an 18-year-old student when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). He served in 1 Engineering School, Ascot Vale of RAAF and his rank was Leading Aircraftman. He died of disease (blood poisoning) in Melbourne on 14 November 1943 at the age of 19. His grave has a Star of David symbol. The headstone inscription reads: 'His Duty Fearlessly and Nobly Done Sadly Missed and Remembered.'

### 5: Leo Ferrari

(2.Q.B.13)

This soldier appears to be of Italian and Irish descent.

Leo Ferrari (1920 - 1944) was born in Nathalia, son of Joseph and Ellen Ferrari. A Roman Catholic, he worked as a farm labourer and was unmarried. Private Ferrari enlisted in 1942 and served as a member of the 5th Pioneer and 2/4 Pioneer Battalions. He was sent to Townsville and New Guinea. He was a sleeper cutter. Combat did not end his life, as he perished in an accident. Ferrari died on 18 February 1944 as a result of a head injury caused when he accidentally fell off a bus in Fitzroy while on leave. He was 23 years of age.

## Honouring Vietnam War Soldiers

In 2016 there were official ceremonies, giving Vietnam War soldiers long-awaited recognition. On 21 February 2016, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, the Vietnam Veterans Association of Victoria (VVAA Victoria) held graveside vigils at all resting places of Vietnam war dead throughout Victoria. The Office of Australian War Graves agreed to a request from the VVAA Victoria to hold a vigil at the Victoria Garden of Remembrance for those Vietnam war dead whose graves were not accessible for this purpose. The ceremony became the largest of the grave vigils on the day and was attended by approximately 100 people including dignitaries.

### **New Burial:**

#### **6: Arthur Ruduss**

##### **(2.P.C.1)**

For many years the Vietnam veteran community lobbied successive Commonwealth Governments to bring home those diggers who were killed in Vietnam and Malaya and buried in cemeteries in Malaysia and Singapore.

In June 2016 25 Vietnam war dead and eight dependants from Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia were repatriated to Australia. The Springvale War Cemetery contained no Vietnam war dead until this repatriation program. This resulted in the reinterment of one Vietnam veteran in the cemetery (2.P.C.1). He was Lance Corporal Arthur Ruduss of the 1st Australian Task Force who was killed on its very first operation.

Arthur Ruduss was born in Riga, Latvia in 1936. He left Australia for service on 14 May 1966. He served in Malaya and Borneo before being transferred to Vietnam. He spent only 30 days in Vietnam. He died of shrapnel wounds to the chest from friendly fire in Phuoc Tuy on 12 June 1966. He was 29. His mother did not know he was in Vietnam.

He was originally buried in Terendak Cemetery in Malaysia before it was government policy to repatriate our dead. On 10 June 2016, former original members of 7RAR along with Ruduss' youngest brother, two sisters, nieces and nephew attended the reburial of Ruduss. Current members of 7RAR came to Victoria to act as bearers and an honour guard.

## Springvale Botanical Cemetery

The world-class Springvale Botanical Cemetery was established as a public cemetery in 1901, from land reserved in 1887. The first burial was in 1902. It comprises 169 hectares and features beautiful landscaped gardens and thousands of trees. In 2013 it won a prestigious international award for the quality of its grounds and services.

At the time of writing, there are 51 war dead from WWI – 49 Australian, one New Zealand and one British. There are 100 war dead - 98 Australian and two British from WWII interred in many different areas in the cemetery. There are also 65 WWII dead commemorated on the cremation niche walls of the Boyd Chapel, once the site of a crematorium. In addition, there are many burials of servicemen and women in the cemetery whose deaths were not due to war service, but who are commemorated by graves and plaques provided by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs. Only a selection of these war dead is included in this publication. All war graves can be located via the deceased search function on the cemetery's website ([www.sbc.smct.org.au](http://www.sbc.smct.org.au)).

*Go to the Lone Pine, to the left of the War Cemetery entrance (approximately 20 metres). Look for a plaque at the foot of the tree.*

## **7: Lone Pine, Thomas Simmons Memorial Lawn**



Lone Pine, Thomas Simmons Memorial Lawn

This is a tree grown from a pine cone brought back from Gallipoli. The Cemeteries and Crematoria Association of Victoria (CCAV), an industry group, donated the tree to commemorate the centenary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

The Lone Pine battlefield at Gallipoli was named after a solitary Turkish pine tree that stood there at the start of the fight. The tree was destroyed but two Australian soldiers retrieved pine cones that remained attached to cut branches and brought them home to Australia.

*Walk to the Presbyterian area, the area opposite the administration section of the Springvale War Cemetery. Robert Wilson is buried in compartment N, section 4, grave 9.*

## **8: Robert Wilson (Pres.N.4.9)**



The grave of Robert Wilson

Robert William Wilson (1888 - 1948) served with the 3rd Battalion Imperial Camel Brigade. The Imperial Camel Corps (ICC) was established in January 1916 to fight the revolt of pro-Turkish Senussi tribesmen in Egypt's Western Desert. The first four companies were recruited from Australian infantry battalions recuperating after Gallipoli. Four battalions were eventually formed. The 1st and 3rd were entirely Australian. The ICC's operations in the Western Desert involved long patrols and brief battles with the Senussi. In late 1916 the ICC was transferred to the Sinai Desert and it was employed in the force that advanced north through Palestine in 1917 and 1918.

Wilson was born in Prahran in 1888 and was a baker by trade. He was unmarried and working as a driver when he enlisted in December 1915.

He was sent to Egypt in May 1916. He was originally a member of 1st Infantry Battalion – 13 to 23 Reinforcements and served in Gallipoli. He was transferred with the 3rd Battalion with the 1st Imperial Camel Brigade from 10 April 1917, serving in the Egyptian regions of Abbassia, Zeitoun and Kantara. Kantara was an important point in the defence of the Suez Canal against Turkish attacks. In December 1917 he was wounded in the chest and dangerously ill. He was discharged in March 1918. He resumed his career as a driver and also worked as a linesman. He died in 1948.

This is a standard war grave erected and maintained by the Office of Australian War Graves. Such graves are awarded to those who die in war or conflict and from war-related injuries, including pensioners, multiple amputees, ex-prisoners of war and VC recipients. The standard, simple design available to servicemen and women of all ranks reflects the notion of equality in death.

*Nearby in the Presbyterian area is the grave of Aneese Jaboor in compartment N, section 1, grave 12. It is several rows in front of Wilson's grave.*

**9: Aneese Jaboor  
(Pres.N.1.12)**

Aneese Jaboor was born in Lebanon, then part of Syria and worked as a clerk. Private Jaboor joined the AIF in December 1915, aged 33. Like many Lebanese, he was a Christian, in his case a Presbyterian. Jaboor was a Sapper with the 2 Signal Squadron. A Sapper is a soldier who performed a variety of military engineering duties such as demolitions, bridge building, laying or clearing minefields. After his war service, he worked as an orchardist in Glen Waverley. He died on 1 September 1948, aged 66. His headstone has an interesting inscription: 'Old Soldiers Never Die'.

Note there are a number of other war graves in this section, which you may like to visit.

*Walk back to the Thomas Simmons Lawn where there is a large Monterey Cypress. Find row DK, grave 1 for the grave of William Hacking.*

**10: William Hacking  
(Simm.DK.1)**

Sergeant William (Bill) Francis Hacking (1933 - 1963) was the first Australian soldier killed in the Vietnam War. Government authorities declared that he was killed accidentally in South Vietnam on 1 June 1963. He was aged 30, single and lived in Newport. He was a member of the Australian Army team training Vietnamese in village protection and the use of small arms. This team was highly trained and carefully selected and was sent to Vietnam in an advisory capacity.

American military forces said Sergeant Hacking was accompanying a Vietnamese battalion on an operation 40 miles (64 kilometres) west of Hue when he stumbled and dropped his carbine. The weapon fired accidentally, hitting him in the head. The family was told that Bill was accidentally shot while cleaning his gun. But the family could not accept this, protesting that Bill was a career soldier and very well trained. He had fought in Korea. The family said the story then changed bit by bit. He was shot by one of his men, or had possibly committed suicide. Bill came home in a sealed coffin. Records show that he was interred in the cemetery 13 days after his death suggesting that he was sent home for interment at Springvale. After the funeral, the family received a letter Bill had sent, which stated that he was about to head out to the northern section of Vietnam where the team training (AATTV) soldiers were not supposed to go. Documents relating to his death have been made secret. The official line was that Bill had pulled his gun towards himself, presumably by the wrong end; the trigger was caught in some foliage, the gun discharged and shot him.

*Next on the tour is the grave of Victoria Cross recipient, Richard Kelliher, in this same section. Look for row DC and grave 20.*

**11: Richard Kelliher  
(Simm.DK.20)**



Richard Kelliher VC (Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial 131284)

Richard Kelliher (1910 - 1963) was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery during WWII. Note the special VC insignia that appears on all graves of those who were awarded the prestigious medal. He was born in Ireland and emigrated to Brisbane. He enlisted in the AIF in February 1941. He served in the Middle East and Papua, helping to drive the Japanese from the Kokoda Track. On 13 September 1943, in Lae, New Guinea, Kelliher's platoon came under fire from a concealed Japanese machine-gun post. Five men were killed and three wounded. On his own initiative, Kelliher dashed towards the post, hurled two grenades at the enemy and killed some of them, but was forced back to his own lines. Seizing a Bren-gun, he ran to within 27 metres of the machine-gun nest and silenced it with accurate shooting. He then crawled out under enemy rifle-fire and dragged Corporal Billy Richards to safety, probably saving his life. Kelliher was awarded the Victoria Cross for these efforts.

After long spells in hospital with malaria, Kelliher was discharged from the AIF on 20 August 1945. He moved to Melbourne in 1949 with his new wife and died on 28 January 1963 in the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. In 1966 Kelliher's wife sold his VC and campaign medals to his battalion association, which donated them to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

*The next stop is the former American War Cemetery site in this lawn area. Look for the flagpole with the American flag.*

## **12: Former American War Cemetery**



Former American War Cemetery.

America was a vital ally of Australia in WWII, especially in the Pacific. Springvale Botanical Cemetery briefly contained an official United States Military Cemetery, with burials starting in February 1942 (American Expeditionary Forces). The cemetery trust had a contract with American authorities to exhume and rebury 38 American soldiers during December 1942. Cemetery trustees were informed that the Americans were closing their cemeteries in Adelaide and Alice Springs and were bringing the bodies to Springvale. From early 1943 until six months after war's end all costs associated with the American Military Cemetery at Springvale would be paid by the Australian Government. The Americans were exhumed from April 1945. They were taken to Sydney and shipped back to the US, where family and friends buried them.

An exception was Edward Leonski (1917 - 1942) who was reburied in a military cemetery in Honolulu. Leonski was the notorious murderer of three Australian women, who were all strangled. He was mentally ill when he was approved for military service. The crimes were known as the 'brownout murders' as the unpopular wartime reduction of street lighting helped Leonski to commit the murders. He was hanged at Pentridge Prison and was buried in the cemetery on 10 November 1942 (compartment L, section 8, grave 2).

American authorities offered the flagpole to cemetery officials for historical purposes, and the offer was accepted.

*Walk across the road to the Joshua Jordan Lawn. Look for section AE, grave 28. The grave is on the right – it has a tall headstone with symbols of wood.*

**13: Elizabeth James  
(Jos.AE.28)**

Women have often been neglected in military history but have fared better in more recent histories. Some significant women associated with WWI are interred in Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

Elizabeth Britomarte James (1867 - 1943) was a notable army administrator and political reformer. She became an advocate for the rights of women early in her life. In 1889 she married her cousin George James, a schoolteacher and military instructor with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. They are buried together. During WWI Elizabeth joined her two sons, who had enlisted in England. In London, Elizabeth worked as a journalist before qualifying as an administrator in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. She later commanded No 1 Unit of the Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC) in France.

Elizabeth James also made a notable contribution in the post-war period. She returned to Australia with her invalid sons and founded the Imperial Ex-service Women's Association. She took on a role of protecting the welfare of the settlers' wives on soldier settlement blocks in the Mallee. She was a life governor of various hospitals such as the Royal Women's Hospital and St Vincent's Hospital. She encouraged women to stand for parliament and was involved with many women's groups. She was described as a born administrator. She sometimes appeared arrogant, an impression reinforced by her Oxford-like accent, stately demeanour, and the ebony walking stick she carried. She was appointed OBE on 9 June 1938 and died on 6 November 1943.

*Walk to the grave of Henry Donath in the same area (Joshua Jordan Lawn, row AY, grave 32).*

**14: Henry Donath  
(Jos.AY.32)**

Henry Donath's war experience was unusual. He suffered the ignominy of a dishonourable discharge and then redeemed himself with conscientious care in ex-service organisations for many years.

Donath was born in Fitzroy in 1897 and enlisted in the AIF in 1915. He served in Gallipoli, France, Egypt and various training centres in England. He was taken ill several times but was never wounded. A letter to his cousin, Emma Steinmuller, dated 25 March 1917, reveals his war weariness: 'I can assure you that I shall not be at all sorry to get out of the Army. I must admit that I have been very fortunate. There are not many of the old Gallipoli boys left now. Out of my original section of 16 men, there are only 3 of us left. It must be a great anxiety for Mum. What a happy day it will be when we all step off the transport at Port Melbourne!'

He was court-martialled and sentenced to 90 days detention in 1917 for being absent without leave. Following release and a period in hospital, he again absented himself and was finally discharged in 1920 for desertion.

He went AWOL in 1917 because he became aware that his 'allotment' (a portion of his pay allotted to his mother) had been stopped. He was concerned for his mother, who was dependent on his army pay. It seems that her husband left her around that time. Perhaps his commitment to ex-service family welfare stemmed from this experience. Despite his past, he was highly regarded in ex-service circles.

He held a number of positions, such as member, acting chairman and chairman of the Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board (1944-1965), executive member, Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League

of Australia (1945), president and delegate to the Returned Servicemen's League (RSL), Caulfield and trustee of the RSL Widows' Trust Fund (1964). He was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal in 1953. Henry Donath died in 1970 and his cremated remains are buried with his wife Mary in the cemetery.

*Walk to the Boxall grave, Church of England, compartment A, section 1, grave 3. The grave is across the road from the Metahar House (Jewish Chapel) and at the end of 7th Avenue.*

**15: Henry Boxall  
(CE.A.1.3)**

The Boxall grave has an association with the Boer War of 1899 - 1902 when Britain fought a war with the Boers of South Africa. Victorians were keen to demonstrate their loyalty to the Empire by providing troops to aid the British and, in all, over 3,500 Australians served in South Africa. As soldiers who died overseas in early wars were not repatriated to Australia, sometimes they are remembered on headstones of family graves. The Boer War had 126 casualties from Victoria, including Lance Corporal Henry John Harry Boxall, who died at the age of 29. He was the youngest son of Fannie and Charles Boxall. He had gone to the war with the 5th Contingent in early 1901 and was reported missing in action on 16 April of that year. A military court of enquiry, held in January 1902, found that he had been killed in action the previous April. He was buried in the Middelburg Cemetery in South Africa. His brother, Frederick Charles, is buried in the grave and the family arranged to acknowledge Henry on the headstone's inscription. Note the words on the headstone, 'Died for the Empire'. Incidentally, the first Victorian recipient of the Victoria Cross, Lieutenant LC Maygar, was a member of this same Contingent.

*A short distance around the curved road is the grave of William Little, Church of England, compartment A, section 6, grave 2.*

**16: William Little  
(CE.A.6.2)**

Private William Wilbert Little (1893 - 1919) served in the AIF in WWI and died shortly after the war. He was born in Prahran in 1893 and became a blacksmith. He enlisted in 1915 and was serving in France when he was injured and partly buried by a shell in September 1916. It damaged his heart and he was discharged in 1917. He died at Caulfield Hospital on 8 July 1919, aged only 26. He was admitted as an emergency case, suffering from influenza and pneumonia. The 1918 - 1919 Spanish flu pandemic was the most devastating epidemic in recorded history. More died during the pandemic than in the course of the entire WWI. About 12,500 Australians perished from the pandemic, with about 30 percent of these being Victorians. War medics acknowledged that William Little's death was not directly caused by war service but from a heart condition, which was due to war service, and it accelerated his death.

*Walk along Sixth Avenue, going over 5th Road for Jimmy Melbourne's grave, Church of England, compartment B, section 16, grave 8.*

**17: James Melbourne  
(CE.B.16.8)**



James (Jimmy) Melbourne (c 1876 - 1937) was a notable Indigenous Australian who served in WWI. He was born at York, Western Australia, son of Charles Melbourne and an Aboriginal woman named Sarah. In 1900 he became the first Aboriginal person to play Australian Rules football at a state level, representing West Perth. Melbourne was renowned for his outstanding pace and very good ball handling skills. In 1912 he moved to Melbourne with his wife Florence and worked on the wharves. Melbourne enlisted in the AIF on 21 March 1915 and served at Gallipoli

Jimmy Melbourne (Courtesy of the West Perth Football Club and WAFC)

where he was wounded in battle. He survived the war, however on 13 December 1937 he was murdered at his home in South Melbourne. At the time Melbourne was married to his second wife, Mary Edith, an ex-war nurse. His landlord was convicted of Melbourne's manslaughter.

Melbourne was buried in this cemetery and laid to rest in an unmarked grave for 80 years. In 2015 the WA government and various organisations funded a monument for his grave to ensure that the soldier, footballer and trailblazer was appropriately remembered. The headstone itself contained granite from Ballardong country, his hometown of York. On 18 September 2015 there was a military service held at his grave to erect the headstone to commemorate his legacy and unveil his monument.

*The next grave is Edward Ryan's, Roman Catholic, compartment A, section 19, grave 5.*

**18: Edward Ryan  
(RC.A.19.5)**



Edward Ryan (Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial P01383.013)

Edward John Francis Ryan (1890 - 1941) was born in Tumut, New South Wales in 1890 and was employed as a labourer before enlisting in the AIF in 1915. He was awarded the VC during the allied assault on the Hindenburg defences on 30 September 1918. During the 55th Battalion's attack near Bellicourt, Ryan was one of the first to reach the enemy trench despite heavy fire. A strong counter-attack drove the Australians back to Le Catelet line trenches where a bombing party quickly organised at their rear placed them in a critical position. Ryan quickly organised and led a party to attack the Germans. Reaching the position with only three men, Ryan and his party killed three Germans on the flank and then Ryan alone rushed the remainder with bombs and drove them back. He was wounded but his efforts prevented a highly dangerous situation and enabled the trench to be retaken. On 22 May 1919 Ryan received his VC from King George V at Buckingham Palace.

He was discharged from the AIF in 1920. Unfortunately Ryan had a difficult civilian life and like many returned servicemen, struggled to keep a job. His situation worsened during the Great Depression, when he became destitute for a while. He was given temporary work by the local council and then found employment in a Melbourne insurance office. He was in poor health, tramping the streets looking for work when he was taken to hospital. He died of pneumonia on 3 June 1941 and was buried with military honours in the Catholic section where eight VC winners formed a guard of honour. He was unmarried.

*Go to East Crescent for the grey granite Atkinson grave on the roadside, Church of England, compartment I, section 1, grave 28.*

**19: Bertram Atkinson  
(CE.I.1.28)**



Bertram Atkinson (Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial H05617)

This grave of the Atkinson family includes a dedication to the son they lost at Gallipoli. He is buried at Lone Pine Cemetery at Gallipoli. He was Lieutenant Bertram Atkinson (1888 - 1915), only son of the Reverend James and Margaret Atkinson of Clayton. He was born in Buninyong and worked as a real estate agent. He was married. He served in the 23rd Australian Infantry Battalion and was killed on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 21 September 1915. In 1916 his family and friends placed a stained-glass window in St Matthew's Church, Mulgrave (now Wheelers Hill) to honour him and other fallen soldiers. At the unveiling of the window on 26 March 1916, Chaplain G Green, who was recently invalided home from Gallipoli, spoke about the difficulties of burial on the Peninsula and the use of condensed milk crates for makeshift crosses, marked with indelible pencil to identify the men. He encouraged lasting memorials, such as this one to Lieutenant Atkinson, commissioned by his father and subscribed to by parishioners and residents.

Lieutenant Atkinson was buried in Brown's Dip and in 1923 his body was reinterred at Lone Pine Cemetery.

*Walk behind the grave and around the Fine Leaf Peppermint Gum tree to head to the Ethel Attiwill grave, Church of England, compartment R, section 15, grave 31.*

**20: Ethel Attiwill  
(CE.R.15.31)**



Ethel Attiwill (Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial H06179)

Ethel Attiwill (née Richardson) (1877 - 1942) was a prominent nursing sister and army matron-in-chief. After training at the Austin and Women's Hospitals, she was matron for nine years at Sunbury Hospital for the Insane. In November 1914 she was appointed to the Australian Army Nursing Service, AIF and in December embarked for Egypt as a sister with the 1st Australian General Hospital. She returned to Australia as matron-in-charge of the HMAT *Kyarra*, the first hospital ship returning home with wounded soldiers. She re-embarked from Melbourne in August and transferred to England. Her AIF appointment ended on 7 May 1916.

The next day she was appointed matron-in-chief of the medical services at Army Headquarters, Melbourne, on home service. In this role she supervised administration of military nursing staff around Australia, as well as those on hospital ships and sea transport. She was the first person to occupy this position, which required great organisational and administrative abilities. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross 1st Class in 1917 for her wartime services.

*Return to East Crescent and turn left. Across the road is Robert Grieve's grave, Presbyterian, compartment C, section 15, grave 28.*

**21: Robert Grieve  
(Pres.C.15.28)**



Robert Grieve VC (Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial H00038)

VC recipient Robert Cuthbert Grieve (1889 - 1957) was born in Brighton and became an interstate commercial traveller in the soft goods trade. He served as a Captain in the 37th Battalion, AIF in WWI. On 7 June 1917, during an attack on a German position at Messines, Belgium, Captain Grieve located two enemy machine-gun nests and charged single-handedly, killing both crews while he was under continuous heavy fire. He then reorganised his men and advanced, capturing the original objective of the attack. A sniper's bullet severely wounded his shoulder. He was evacuated to England and returned to his unit but soon suffered acute trench nephritis and double pneumonia. King George V presented his VC to him at Buckingham Palace on 20 October 1917. His VC is unusual because it was conferred on the recommendation of his men, who admired Grieve for his conscientious and understanding style of command. None of his fellow officers had witnessed his bravery as they had been either killed or injured.

Grieve was invalided to Australia in May 1918. He married Sister May Isabel Bowman of the Australian Army Nursing Service who had nursed him during his illness. He established the business of Grieve, Gardner & Co, soft goods warehousemen, in Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Grieve died on 4 October 1957. He was buried with military honours. In 1959, his VC was presented to Wesley College, where he was educated. In 2003 the college presented the medal to the Shrine of Remembrance on permanent loan.

Such bravery seemed hereditary, as his great uncle, Sergeant Major John Grieve, also won the Victoria Cross (Medical) in the Crimean War of 1853-56, which involved the Russian Empire fighting against English, French, Ottoman and Sardinian forces.

*The grave of Andrew Cruickshank (Presbyterian, compartment C, section 15, grave 15) is just to the left of Grieve's monument. The headstone faces away from the road.*

**22: Andrew Cruickshank  
(Pres.C.15.15)**

Private Andrew Hay Cruickshank (1879 - 1949) was born in Port Fairy in 1879. He was a miner by trade and enlisted in the AIF in 1915 at the age of 35. He then served with the 5th Pioneer Battalion in France and was one of the lucky ones, receiving only minor injuries. Cruickshank returned to Australia in 1919 where he continued to make a living as a miner. He died in 1949 at the age of 70 and was cremated in the cemetery.

*Across the road is the grave of Margaret Looker (Church of England, compartment R, section 25, grave 3).*

**23: Margaret Looker  
(CE.R.25.3)**



Margaret Looker (Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial D00781)

Margaret Ffie Looker was born in Melbourne in 1883 and trained as a nurse at the Alfred and Austin Hospitals in Melbourne. She was unmarried and enlisted in August 1915. She served as a nurse in Egypt and then France in 1917 and was wounded. She was promoted to the rank of Sister in 1918. She lost two brothers at the front, while another brother was wounded. She returned to Australia in 1920 and lived in East Malvern. She died in 1962 at the age of 78.

*The cremation memorial of John McKeddie is in the Eucalypt area (garden 2, bed 12, rose 12). Enter the area via Eucalypt Avenue and go to the right to find rose bed 12.*

**24: John McKeddie**  
**(Euc.2.12.12)**

John Edwin (Jack) McKeddie (1902-1980) was a notable army officer and stockbroker. Born in Meeniyan, Victoria, he served in the Militia and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 25 May 1940 as a Gunner. He was commissioned Lieutenant on 15 October and sailed for the Middle East, where he was appointed aide-de-camp to Major General Sir Leslie Morshead and served with him during the siege of Tobruk, Libya. On his advice, his Field Regiment was sent to Tobruk, becoming the only Australian artillery regiment to take part in the siege. McKeddie also served in Egypt, El Alamein and New Guinea.

On 1 October 1943 McKeddie was forward observation officer with a company of the 2/13 Battalion during an attack near Kakakog, New Guinea. He won the Military Cross for 'coolness and devotion to duty' in bringing accurate fire on the enemy, despite being under heavy fire from three sides. He was awarded a bar to his MC when, during another battle near Kuanko village, he fired at the enemy and was largely responsible for breaking it up. After pursuing the Japanese to Sio, his regiment sailed to Australia in February 1944. McKeddie was promoted to Captain that month. He also served in Indonesia. After the war he became a stockbroker and was involved in various military associations and the Legacy Club. He died on 3 November 1980 and was cremated.

*Walk to the Luculia area for the cremation memorial of Sir Albert Coates, under the large Algerian Oak (garden 1, tree 35).*

## 25: Sir Albert Coates

(Luc.1.35)



Sir Albert Coates (Courtesy of the Australian War Cemetery 117416)

Sir Albert Ernest Coates (1895 - 1977) was a notable surgeon who enlisted in the AIF and became a medical orderly in the 7th Battalion. He served at Gallipoli and was one of the last to leave the peninsula on the night of 19/20 December 1915. In 1916 he fought in the Battle of the Somme in France, one of the largest and bloodiest battles of WWI. His superiors were impressed with his skill as a linguist and he worked with the intelligence staff, 1 ANZAC Corps. General Sir John Monash and British authorities recognised his ability and he was invited to apply for a commission in the British Army after the war. But he chose to go home and worked in the office of the Commonwealth censor in Melbourne. He was employed as a doctor at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and lectured at the the University of Melbourne. Later he established the neurosurgical unit at the hospital.

In 1941 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel, Australian Army Medical Corps, and joined the AIF. He served in Malaya and Java. In Sumatra Coates saved many lives with his surgical skill. At the Kilo-30 and Kilo-55 camps on the Burma -Thailand Railway he cared for hundreds of prisoners of war under shocking conditions. His work included amputating legs, and his only instruments were a knife, two pairs of artery forceps and a saw. In 1944 he was chief medical officer of a prisoner-of-war hospital in Thailand. He was appointed OBE in 1946. In that year he was a medical witness at the war crimes tribunal in Tokyo and in 1951 a delegate to the signing of a peace treaty with Japan at San Francisco. He was knighted in 1955.

*Walk across the road (6th Avenue) to the VC Memorial.*

## 26: Victoria Cross Memorial



Victoria Cross Memorial

There are eight Victoria Cross (VC) recipients laid to rest in Springvale Botanical Cemetery, more VC recipients than any other cemetery in Victoria, and most likely in Australia.

The VC Memorial, created by the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT), was unveiled on 10 November 2013. The unveiling ceremony was performed by the Chairman of SMCT, Sue Renkin, the RSL State President, Major General David McLachlan and John Saddington, former SMCT trustee.

The memorial honours the State's 39 Victoria Cross recipients, including six British VC recipients who settled or died in Victoria.

All of the VC Memorial's 39 plaques detail the citation given at the time the VC was awarded, providing valuable insights into the recipient's character.

The remains of five recipients and some family members were placed at the VC Memorial. That is, the cremated remains were removed from their original location in Springvale Botanical Cemetery (and Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park in Ruthven's case) and moved to this location. The five soldiers and families are:

**27: Sergeant James Rogers** (and his wife, Ethel Maud Rogers and son James Callow Rogers)

**28: Sergeant William Ruthven** (and his wife, Irene May Ruthven)

**29: Corporal William Dunstan** (and his wife Marjorie Dunstan)

**30: Lieutenant Lawrence McCarthy** (and his wife Florence Minnie McCarthy)

**31: Private William Jackson**

**27: Private James Rogers**  
**(Luc.1.35)**



James Rogers VC (Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial 042688)

Private James Rogers (1873 - 1961) of the 1st Victorian Mounted Infantry Company served in the Boer War in South Africa and in WWI. Rogers was awarded the VC in support of the army while seconded to the South African Constabulary during the Second Boer War in the Orange Free State, South Africa. On 15 June 1901 the Constabulary No 6 Troop, led by Lieutenant Frank Dickinson and Sergeant Rogers, came under attack from snipers who they pursued. Returning towards the main troop column they again came under attack from about 60 Boers. Rogers displayed conspicuous valour when under heavy enemy fire, he rode in to save Dickinson who was on foot, his horse having been shot from under him. He pulled him up behind him on his own horse and carried him out of danger. While the Boers continued to fire at them, Rogers returned twice more to rescue two police troopers who had let go of their horses when they had dismounted to return fire. He saw two riderless horses bolting past the Boers and rode out and captured those horses, enabling the troopers to remount and escape. Rogers was awarded the VC in Melbourne on 18 April 1902 and returned to South Africa to serve there in the police forces until 1907 when he returned to Australia. In WWI he was commissioned as a Lieutenant of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade Train, was wounded at Gallipoli on 4 August 1915 and returned to Australia. After the war, he was commissioned as a Sub Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve Guard and worked as a range assistant at the Williamstown Rifle Range. Rogers was then commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Army to command the Dock Guard until it was disbanded in 1919. He became an assistant storeman with the Ordnance Branch, Australian Military Forces and later took up farming again. Rogers' VC and other medals are on display at the Australian War Memorial Hall of Valour.

## 28: William Ruthven



William Ruthven VC (Courtesy of the Australian War Cemetery 028659)

The ashes of William Ruthven (1893 - 1970) were originally placed in Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park and then transferred to the VC Memorial. Ruthven was a mechanical engineer and timber worker who served at Gallipoli and France and was promoted to Sergeant. On 19 May 1918, Ruthven took part in an attack near Ville-sur-Ancre. When his company commander was wounded, Ruthven took command and led the attack for which he was awarded the VC. He ambushed an enemy machine-gun post, shot two men and captured six. After reorganising his men, he showed further courage. Armed only with a gun, he shot two men and captured 32. For the rest of the day, while under fire, he supervised consolidation of his men and encouraged them.

He also served in WWII as a member of the 3rd Australian Garrison Battalion and other garrison units, including those at Murchison, the biggest prisoner-of-war camp in Victoria. He was Mayor of Collingwood and Labor MLA for many years. His VC is on display at the Australian War Memorial Hall of Valour.

## 29: William Dunstan



William Dunstan VC (Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial H06201)

William Dunstan (1895 - 1957) distinguished himself at Lone Pine (Gallipoli) at the age of 20. In 1915 Dunstan enlisted in the AIF as a Private and two weeks later he embarked for Egypt as an Acting Sergeant of the 6th Reinforcements of the 7th Battalion. From 5 August 1915 he served at Gallipoli. Four days later the Turks made a strong counter-attack to a newly captured trench by Australian soldiers. Dunstan and others fired at the Turks from the trench. Several bombs burst simultaneously in the trench, killing or wounding five men. Dunstan and Corporal Alexander Burton were rebuilding the barricade when a bomb burst between them, killing Burton and temporarily blinding Dunstan. Dunstan was invalided to Australia and discharged in February 1916.

On 16 June 1916 Dunstan was presented with the VC outside Parliament House, Melbourne by Governor-General Sir Ronald Ferguson.

Dunstan became General Manager of the Herald and Weekly Times and was the father of famous journalist and historian Keith Dunstan. Keith Dunstan served in the RAAF in WWII and admitted that his father's courage set a standard he could never live up to. He recalled that his father had appalling headaches all his life. The VC used to be stored in a box under the stairs and is now on display at the Australian War Memorial Hall of Valour.

### **30: Lawrence McCarthy (Luc.1.35)**



Lawrence McCarthy VC (Courtesy of the Australian War Cemetery P01383.016)

The war service of Lawrence Dominic McCarthy (1892 – 1975) in France was rated by war historian Charles Bean as 'perhaps the most effective feat of individual fighting in the history of the AIF, next to Jacka's at Pozières.' McCarthy was a contractor when he enlisted in the AIF in 1914 and served at Gallipoli with 'C' company (16th Battalion). The Battalion went to France in June 1916 and the following year he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant. On 23 August 1918 McCarthy displayed extraordinary bravery. He commanded 'D' Company, which had achieved its aims, but the battalion on the left was not able to progress. Accompanied by Sergeant F J Robbins, McCarthy attacked the German machine-gun posts that were preventing the advance of the 16th Battalion. They ran into the enemy trench system and destroyed three machine-gun positions. After his colleague was wounded, McCarthy continued on, picking up German bombs and inflicting heavy casualties. In 20 minutes he had killed 20 Germans, taken 50 prisoners and seized 460 metres of the German front. The imprisoned soldiers surrounded him and patted him on the back.

McCarthy returned home on 20 December 1918 and his AIF appointment ended on 6 August 1920. He had married in England and moved from Western Australia to Victoria where he joined the staff of the Sunshine Harvester Works. Then he worked as superintendent of the Trustees, Executors & Agency Co Ltd building, Melbourne until his retirement in 1969. The VC is on display at the Australian War Memorial Hall of Valour.

### 31: William Jackson



William Jackson VC (Courtesy of the Australian War Cemetery P01383.006)

At just 18, John William Alexander Jackson (1897 - 1959) was the youngest Australian to be awarded the VC in the WWI, and his was the first VC to be awarded to a member of the Australian Imperial Force in France. William Jackson enlisted as a Private in the 17th Battalion, AIF, on 20 February 1915 and landed at Gallipoli on 20 August, immediately fighting in the battle for Hill 60. In combat in France on the night of 25-26 June 1916 against Prussian forces, he brought a prisoner back and returned to bring in a wounded man. Again he went out and was carrying in another man, when a bursting shell shattered his right arm. Jackson returned to help, disregarding his own condition, and went out again to help bring back his Sergeant and the wounded man, with one of them recovered. His citation stated, 'His work has always been marked by the greatest coolness and bravery'. On 18 November 1916 Jackson was invested with his VC by King George V at Buckingham Palace.

He was evacuated, his arm was amputated and he returned to Australia in 1917, working in various jobs, including roles as a hotelkeeper and clerk. During WWII he served as an Acting Sergeant in Eastern Command Provost Company (1941 - 42). He moved to Melbourne in 1953 and became commissionaire and inquiry attendant at the Melbourne Town Hall. Jackson's VC remains in a private collection.

The other Victorian VC recipients, Richard Kelliher, Robert Grieve and Edward Ryan, who are buried in Springvale Botanical Cemetery, retain their original graves.

*Next to the VC Memorial is the Returned Services Memorial.*

### 32: Returned Services Memorial



Returned Services Memorial

Another recent Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust initiative was the construction of the Returned Services Memorial, which is located next to the VC Memorial.

This initiative has led to legislative change, whereby all expired ashes of war veterans in Victoria will now be held in perpetuity (for all time) at this location.

Cremated remains normally have a limited tenure of 25 years and they can be transferred to perpetuity status at the wish of the family. However, sometimes family members cannot be located. This legislative change will ensure that all expired ashes of war veterans will be retained as part of Victoria's military heritage without any cost to the family.

The remains are interred in underground vaults and the names of the war dead are inscribed on memorial walls. As memorials continue to expire, the remains will be transferred to the memorial. Original plaque cremation memorials of the war dead have also been retained at the site.

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Springvale Botanical Cemetery burial and cremation records

State Library of Victoria Pictures Collection

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The Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust is a not-for-profit, community based organisation that cares for Bunurong and Cheltenham Memorial Parks, and Brighton General, Cheltenham Pioneer, Dandenong Community, Melbourne General, Springvale Botanical and St Kilda cemeteries.



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