

## War Memorials

On this page:

War memorials fulfil our need to recognise, remember and learn about the profound losses and achievements of war:

*It is not only for ourselves that we have erected this visible remembrance of great deeds, but rather that those who come after us and have not experienced the horrors of war, or realised the wanton destruction and utter futility of it all, may be inspired to devise some better means to settle international disputes other than by international slaughter.*

His Excellency, the Governor Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, at the unveiling of the SA National War Memorial, 25 April 1931.

- [What is a war memorial?](#)
- [Forms and dedication of memorials](#)
- [Memorials to the Missing](#)
- [Australian regional memorials](#)
- [Australian state memorials](#)
- [Overseas war memorials](#)

## What is a war memorial?

A war memorial is a commemorative object intended to remind us of the people who served in and died as a result of war. War memorials may take many forms, but common to all of them is the intention that they remind us of those we have lost to war.

## Forms and dedication of memorials

### Forms

War memorials range in form, from simple memorial plaques and honour rolls to grand museums and monuments. Examples include:

- gates
- columns
- walls
- arches
- crosses such as the Cross of Sacrifice
- obelisks
- statues
- cairns
- stones including Stones of Remembrance
- cenotaphs.

There are places dedicated as war memorials that also serve a further practical purpose, such as:

- gardens
- pavilions
- pools
- halls
- hospitals
- lighthouses.

Despite differing ideas about an individual war memorial's form, purpose, artistic merit, cost or location, all memorials have a shared intention of reminding us of those we have lost to war.

To view different forms and features of memorial, click on the links to overseas war memorial locations on this page.

See also:

- [Gardens of Remembrance](#)
- [Memorials to the Missing](#)
- [First and Second World War Cemeteries](#)

### Dedication

War memorials can be categorised according to:

1. by whom they are dedicated
2. to whom they are dedicated
3. where they are.

#### 1. By whom

There are public memorials, private memorials, official government memorials and unofficial memorials. There are memorials dedicated on behalf of the nation or the State, memorials dedicated by and to specific branches of the services or military units, and memorials dedicated by businesses or by private individuals or families.

#### 2. To whom

There are memorials dedicated to all who have served and others dedicated to all who have died. There are memorials dedicated to those who served or died in particular wars, battles, campaigns or events, while others are dedicated to all who have served or died from a state, town or district. Memorials to the missing commemorate those with no known grave.

Find out more about [Memorials to the Missing](#).

#### 3. Where

Battle exploit or battlefield memorials are sited near where those they commemorate fell in given battles. Prisoner of War (POW) memorials may be at the site of the

former POW camps. War memorials can sometimes be found where units were or are based.

See also:

- [Australian War Memorials \(Anzac Day website\)](#)
- [Memorials on Anzac Parade, Canberra \(National Capital Authority website\)](#)
- [The Australian War Memorial & Anzac Parade \(Department of Environment & Water Resources – National Heritage website\)](#)

## Memorials to the Missing

Vast numbers of casualties of the First and Second World Wars were never found or never positively identified.

Over 35,000 Australians from these wars have no known grave. However, each Australian who has died during war is commemorated by a Memorial to the Missing both in Australia and across the world. See the [Memorials to the Missing](#) page for details of memorials in Australia and overseas.

## Australian regional memorials

Australian regional memorials have long been at the heart of community commemoration of our servicemen and women. Each Anzac Day and Remembrance Day local communities gather around town memorials to commemorate those who left their community to join other service personnel in the defence of freedom.

### Origins, forms and ongoing significance

In many regional towns, even those settled after the First World War, memorials were built to commemorate the impact of the war. Since the Second World War and subsequent conflicts, many of these memorials have been updated and more continue to be built.

In 1966, the policy was introduced of repatriating war dead back to Australia for burial if possible. Prior to that, local war memorials were especially important in giving family and friends a focal point for remembering.

In Australia, generally only the names of those who served and died are inscribed on monuments and honour rolls, preserving them in the local memory. However, some monuments also include the names of people from the district who served and returned. This distinguishes Australia from British military tradition, which gives individual honours on monuments only to the dead.

Regional war memorials come in a multitude of forms. The memorial obelisk is a familiar sight in town centres and parks, as are columns, gates and memorial stones and cairns. Statues of mostly First World War soldiers, known as 'Digger memorials', are also a distinctive feature in regional towns.

An example of a unique regional memorial is that found in the north-western N.S.W. township of Tamworth. With Federal and State assistance, the Tamworth community raised \$190,000, to erect a memorial dedicated to the single horse that returned to Australia from the First World War.

Newcastle sculptor Tanya Bartlett was commissioned to create a statue that commemorated all horses that died in the war. The bronze horse and trooper, with four large bronze plaques which tell of the exploits of the Light Horse during the First World War was unveiled by Major General W.B. Digger James AC MBE MC on 29 October 2009.

Today, as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services continue to draw increasing crowds, regional memorials provide an ongoing focus for commemorative ceremonies. As Australia's population grows and settlements expand, more regional memorials such as the Tamworth memorial are being built to service community needs.

### Grants for local memorials

*Saluting Their Service* (STS) commemorations grants are available to restore, preserve, upgrade and improve access to community war memorials. These grants also provide opportunities to build new community focussed memorials where none already exist.

You can find out more about the eligibility requirements and how to apply for an [STS commemorations grant](#).

### Who can create a local Honour Board or Roll of Honour?

Local organisations or councils wishing to create a local memorial incorporating an Honour Board or Roll of Honour may freely access DVA published Nominal Roll website data. This information may be downloaded, displayed, printed and reproduced for personal, non-commercial use or use within your organisation. DVA asks that you acknowledge the source of any material used.

Because such Honour Boards and Rolls of Honour are not 'official' memorials for which the Australian Government takes responsibility, it is up to you as the project instigator to set your own inclusion criteria, e.g. listing veterans born in the particular area, or those who enlisted from the area etc.

You **do** require permission from the Department of Defence to use the Service badge/s.

See also:

- [Australian War Memorials](#)
- [Register of War Memorials in NSW](#)
- [WA War Memorials](#)

## Australian state memorials

Each Australian state and territory has a principal memorial that serves as a permanent shrine and focal point for the major commemorative ceremonies in that capital city. These memorials were completed and dedicated before the end of the First World War in the 1920s and 30s as the death toll of servicemen and women rose. They represent the homage paid by the governments and the people to their fellow Australians who fought and died on their behalf.

The losses and successes of the Second World War and Australia's later wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations are recognised at the state level by amendments to, and more broadly worded rededications of the principal memorials, together with further specifically dedicated memorials.

Following is a list of Australian state and territory memorials.

### Australian Capital Territory

The Australian War Memorial, dedicated 1941, serves as the centre for commemorations in Canberra.

For more information visit:

- [Australian War Memorial website](#)

- [Australian War Memorials \(Anzac Day website\)](#).

### New South Wales

The Anzac Memorial, first dedicated 1934 and rededicated 1984, is in Hyde Park, Sydney and serves as the centre for commemorations in New South Wales.

For more information visit:

- [Anzac Memorial website](#)
- [Anzac Memorial \(RSL NSW website\)](#).

### Northern Territory

The Darwin Cenotaph, dedicated in 1921, is in Bicentennial Park, at the Esplanade, Darwin and serves as the centre for commemorations in the Northern Territory.

For more information visit:

- [Darwin Cenotaph at NT Heritage Register](#).

### Queensland

The Queensland National Anzac Memorial, dedicated in 1930, is in Anzac Square, Brisbane and serves as the centre for commemorations in Queensland.

For more information visit:

- [Anzac Square War Memorial \(Brisbane's Living Heritage website\)](#).

### South Australia

The South Australian National War Memorial, dedicated in 1931, is on the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide and serves as the centre for commemorations in South Australia.

For more information visit:

- [SA National War Memorial \(Wikipedia\)](#).

### Tasmania

The Tasmanian War Memorial, dedicated in 1925, is in Queen's Domain, Hobart and serves as the centre for commemorations in Tasmania.

For more information visit:

- [Hobart War Memorial \(Cenotaph\)](#).

### Victoria

The Shrine of Remembrance, dedicated in 1934, is in Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne and serves as the centre for commemorations in Victoria.

For more information visit:

- [Shrine of Remembrance](#).

### Western Australia

The State War Memorial, first dedicated 1929 and rededicated in 2005, is in King's Park, Perth and serves as the centre for commemorations in Western Australia.

For more information visit:

- [King's Park and Botanic Garden](#).

## Overseas war memorials

### Memorial restoration and preservation

The Overseas Privately-Constructed Memorial Restoration programme provides grants to assist Australian veterans and other individuals in the restoration and preservation of existing military unit and battle memorials constructed overseas. View [Maintenance of war graves](#) for more information.

### Memorial locations

The OAWG maintains most of the memorials on the following list. It should be noted, however, that not all locations listed here host official memorials. Some are privately built and maintained.

You can also get additional information about Australia's war dead in the countries below by visiting the [Cemeteries Overseas](#) and [Memorials to the Missing](#) pages on this website.

- [Belgium](#)
- [Brunei Darrussalam](#)
- [Crete](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [France](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Libya](#)
- [Malaysia](#)
- [New Zealand](#)
- [Papua New Guinea](#)
- [Thailand](#)
- [Turkey](#)
- [United Kingdom](#)
- [United States of America](#)

**Belgium**

The First World War:

- [1st Australian Tunnelling Company, Hill 60, Ieper \(Ypres\)](#)
- [5th Division Memorial, Polygon Wood, Zonnebeke](#)

You can also see the memorials in historical perspective by visiting:

- [Australians on the Western Front 1914-18](#)
- [Australian Remembrance Trail](#)

**Brunei Darrussalam**

The Second World War:

- [Memorial to Australian Operations in 1945, Pantai Muara.](#)

**Crete**

The Second World War:

- [Hellenic-Australian Memorial Park, Rethymno.](#)

**Egypt**

The Second World War:

- [9th Division Memorial, El Alamein.](#)

**France**

The First World War:

- [1st Division Memorial, Pozières](#)
- [2nd Division Memorial, Mont St Quentin](#)
- [3rd Division Memorial, Sailly le Sec](#)
- [4th Division Memorial, Bellenglise](#)
- [Australian Corps Memorial Park, Le Hamel](#)
- [Australian Memorial Park, Bullecourt](#)
- [Australian Memorial Park, Fromelles](#)
- [Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux | CWGC](#)
- [Mouquet Farm Battle Exploit Plaque](#)
- [Windmill Site, Pozières.](#)

You can also see the memorials in historical perspective by visiting:

- [Australians on the Western Front 1914-18](#)
- [Australian Remembrance Trail.](#)

**Indonesia**

The Second World War:

- [Nurses Memorial \(Vyner Brooke Memorial\), Bangka Island.](#)

**Israel**

The First World War:

- [Australian Memorial, Jerusalem.](#)

**Libya**

The Second World War:

- [Tobruk Memorial.](#)

**Malaysia**

The Second World War:

- [Parit Sulong Memorial;](#)
- [Sandakan Memorial Park, Sabah;](#)
- [Surrender Point Memorial, Labuan Island.](#)

**New Zealand**

- [Australian Memorial, Wellington, New Zealand.](#)

**Papua New Guinea**

The Second World War:

- [AIF Memorial, Lae](#)
- [Coastwatchers' Memorial, Madang, Lae](#)
- [Isurava Memorial](#)
- [Kokoda Memorial](#)
- [Milne Bay Memorial](#)
- [Milne Bay - Turnbull Field Memorial](#)
- [Popondetta Memorial](#)
- [Rabaul 1942-45 Memorial](#)
- [Sogeri Memorial](#)

- [Surrender Memorial, Cape Worn](#)
- [Wau Memorial](#)

#### **Thailand**

- [Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum & Walking Trail and the Burma-Thailand Railway](#).

#### **Turkey**

The First World War:

- [Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli](#)
- [Anzac website](#)

#### **United Kingdom**

The First and Second World Wars:

- [Australian War Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, London](#).

#### **United States of America**

The Vietnam War:

- [Vietnam Veterans' Education Centre \(VVEC\)](#).