

Australian War Graves in Hong Kong

More than 1600 Allied war casualties of the Second World War are buried in the Sai Wan War Cemetery on the North-eastern tip of Hong Kong Island, of whom over 400 are unidentified. The cemetery is long and narrow in shape and descends in terraces towards the sea from its entrance on Cape Collinson Road. It is a peaceful spot and the graves and abundant tropical vegetation are well cared for.

Among the large number of British, Canadian, Indian and Dutch war graves at Sai Wan are 33 Australian war graves. None of the Australians died during the tragic battles for Hong Kong in December 1941 which claimed several thousand Allied lives. All the Australians were brought to Hong Kong for burial from elsewhere in the region immediately after World War II by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Information on each of the 33 Australian dead is provided in the Annex to this note. Some of those recorded as dying in Taiwan, China and Japan were among a group of 450 senior Australian officers, engineers and technicians captured in Singapore and then transported to labour camps in Taiwan, Japan, Korea and China.

Travel Directions to Sai Wan War Cemetery:

Sai Wan War Cemetery is in the east of Hong Kong island, about 11kms from the main business centre. It is most easily reached by first taking the Hong Kong Island line on the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway to its Eastern terminus at Chai Wan. From there one can take a taxi from the rank below the station to the War Cemetery on Cape Collinson Road or board Public Light Bus (Green Maxicab) 16M which runs from the Chai Wan station to Stanley, requesting it to stop at the Sai Wan War Cemetery. Alternately, one can walk, crossing Wan Tsui road, and walking up Lin Shing Road and then turning right into Cape Collinson Road. The Cape Collinson area, with its auspicious sea views, has many cemeteries. Walking up the steep and narrow, one-way, Cape Collinson Road, you first pass the extensive Catholic cemetery on your left and the small Hong Kong Military Cemetery on your right before coming to the Sai Wan War Cemetery further along on your right almost at the top of the hill and before you reach the Muslim and Buddhist cemeteries, also on your right.

Further enquiries can be sent to Derek Cheung, Manager Hong Kong, Commonwealth War Graves Commission on (852) 2557 3498 whose office is opposite the Sai Wan War Cemetery entrance.

Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong
3 May 2004

Australian war graves in Sai Wan War Cemetery, Hong Kong

Total number: 33

	Date & Place of Death	Cause of Death	Gravestone Location
ADAMS, Pte. JAMES WILLIAM, VX/39777. A.I.F. 2/21Bn. Australian Infantry. Age 26. Son of William James Adams and Margaret Euphemia Adams, of Albert Park, Victoria, Australia.	1 st October, 1945 At sea (ex-POW)	Illness	VI. A. 10.
ANDERSON, Gnr. ARTHUR DESMOND THORN, VX42633. A.I.F. 4 A/Tk. Regt. Royal Australian Artillery. Age 20. Son of Arthur Gordon Anderson and Ruby May Anderson, of Balwyn, Victoria, Australia.	4 th November, 1942 Taiwan	Illness	VI. A. 7
BRADBURY, Ldg. Seaman ROWLAND CHARLES COVERDALE, 4654. R.A.N. H.M.S. <i>Moreton Bay</i> . Age 40. Son of Miles Coverdale Bradbury and Catherine Bradbury, of Mt. Hawthorn, Western Australia.	25 th July, 1940 ---	---	VI. A. 11.
BUTLER, Sgt. REX NELSON, SX2600. A.I.F. 8 Div. Amn. Sub. Park, Australian Army Service Corps. Age 30. Son of Arthur William T. and Margaret Mary Butler.	18 th August, 1943 Philippines / Malaya	Killed in action	II. B. 5.
COOPER, Gnr. RONALD SIMMONS, VX58497. A.I.F. 4 A/Tk. Regt. Royal Australian Artillery. Age 25. Son of Andrew Dresser Cooper and Madge Eileen Cooper, of Gardenvale, Victoria, Australia.	10 th September, 1945 Japan	Accidental	VI. A. 5.
DESMOND, Ch. Engr. JAMES. Australian Merchant Navy.	9 th October, 1945 Died in Hospital Luzon, Philippines	---	I. E. 10.
GILDING, Cpl. JACK LIVINGSTONE, SX10013. A.I.F. 8 Div. Amn. Sub. Park, Australian Army Service Corps. Age 26. Son of George Jasper and Kathleen Gertrude Gilding, of Woodville, South Australia.	10 th September, 1945 Taiwan	Accidental (after recovery)	VI. A. 6.
GOOD, W/O. CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL, 417476. R.A.A.F. Age 21. Son of William Duncan Good and Magdalen Good, of Brighton, South Australia.	13 th November, 1945 Leyte, Philippines	Accidental	I. D. 10.
HALL, A.B. G. J. Australian Merchant Navy. U.S.A.T. <i>Wichita</i> . Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hall, of Mackay, Queensland, Australia.	8 th July, 1945 Leyte, Philippines	Drowned	II. E. 14.
JAMES, Sgt. ALBERT ARTHUR, NX60056. A.I.F. 2/19 Bn. Australian Infantry. Age 33. Son of Albert and Elsie Margurite James; husband of Minora May James, of Kogarah, New South Wales, Australia. (Father of Clive James, prominent Australian expatriate writer).	10 th September, 1945 Japan	Accidental (after recovery)	VI. A. 2.
JENKINS, A.B. THOMAS H. Australian Merchant Navy. Age 35. Husband of Mabel Heather Jenkins, of Homebush, New South Wales, Australia.	13 th November, 1945 ---	---	I. D. 11.
JONES, W/O. LLOYD GEORGE, 425645. R.A.A.F. Age 26. Son of Arnold William and Edith Emily Jones, of Tully, Queensland, Australia.	13 th November, 1945 Leyte, Philippines	Accidental	I. D. 8.

	Date & Place of Death	Cause of Death	Gravestone Location
KING, A.B. WALTER. Australian Merchant Navy, s.s. <i>Elisha Whitney</i> . Age 49. Son of Walter and Fanny Louisa King; husband of Dorothy Amelia King, of Enfield, New South Wales, Australia.	14 th November, 1945 Leyte, Philippines	Died in an air crash	I. D. 7.
LAW, Pte. FREDERICK THOMAS, NX52301. A.I.F. 2/19 Bn. Australian Infantry. Age 42. Husband of Winnifred Margaret Law, of Balmain, New South Wales, Australia.	8 th April, 1943 Formosa	Illness	VI. A. 9.
LITTLE, A.B. FRANCIS CYRIL, H2051. R.A.N.R. H.M.A.S. <i>Yunnan</i> . Age 21. Son of Amos Henry and Daisy Theodora Little, of Dromedary, Tasmania, Australia.	3 rd October, 1945 ---	Drowning	I. E. 4.
LUDVIGSEN, 2 nd Officer LUDVIG. Australian Merchant Navy. s.s. <i>China</i> . Age 32. Son of Jens Andreas and Elena Margrethe Ludvigsen; husband of Ethel Patricia Ludvigsen, of Dulwich Hill, New South Wales, Australia.	11 th July, 1945 Mindanao, Philippines	---	I. D. 13.
MARSHALL, Ch. Refrig. Engr. LEONARD. Australian Merchant Navy. Age 35. Son of Henry and Mary A. M. Marshall, of Laurieton, New South Wales, Australia.	19 th January, 1946 Died in Rujon (?)	Died of injuries	I. E. 11.
MARTIN, Sgt. CECIL, NX31696. A.I.F. 2/20 Bn. (Tulip Force) Australian Infantry. Age 26. Son of George Robert and Ada Elizabeth Martin, of Lismore, New South Wales, Australia.	15 th July, 1942 China (buried in Christian Burial Ground near Tungku, Kiansi, China)	Illness	I. D. 5.
NEILL, Gnr. AUBREY CHARLES, NX24931. A.I.F. 2/15 Fd. Regt., Royal Australian Artillery. Age 33. Son of Archibald Charles and Miriam Neill, of Gosford, New South Wales, Australia.	5 th October, 1943 Taiwan / Japan	Illness	VI. A. 8.
NOBLE, Sgt. RICHARD THOMAS, NX35741. A.I.F. 2/30 Bn. Australian Infantry. Age 37. Son of Richard Thomas Noble and Elizabeth Noble; husband of Evelyn May Noble, of Temora, New South Wales, Australia.	10 th September, 1945 Taiwan	Accidental	VI. A. 3.
PIGDON, Col. DOUGLAS CLELLAND, VX39275, E.D. A.I.F. 13 Gen. Hosp., Australian Army Medical Corps. Age 53. Son of Thomas Miers Pigdon and Elizabeth Kate Pigdon; husband of Beatrice Pigdon, of Narre Warren, Victoria, Australia.	6 th July, 1945 Mukden, Manchuria	Illness	IV. B. 1.
PRYOR, F/Sgt. ROBERT GEORGE, 437058. R.A.A.F. Age 21. Son of Harold Rupert Torr Pryor and Florence Maud Pryor, of Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia.	25 th February, 1945 Indo-China	Aerial Combat	VII. D. 7.
RAWSON, W/O. HAYDN SELBY, 300549. R.A.A.F. Reserve. Age 26. Son of Ernest Henry and Violet Elaine Rawson; husband of Constance Viva Rawson, of Cardwell, Nottingham.	13 th November, 1945 Leyte, Philippines	Accidental	I. D. 9.
ROGERSON, W.O.II. HARRY, VX35009. A.I.F. 2/29 Bn. Australian Infantry. Age 44. Son of James Brown Rogerson and Margaret America Rogerson; husband of Hilda Mary Rogerson, of Oldham, Lancashire.	10 th September, 1945 Japan	Accidental (after recovery)	VI. A. 4.
SANDERY, Ch. Engr. NIEL. Australian Merchant Navy. U.S.s. <i>City of Huston</i> . Son of William Joseph and Effie Sandery; husband of Isabel Mary Sandery, of Double Bay, New South Wales, Australia.	12 th January, 1946 China	---	I. C. 2.

	Date & Place of Death	Cause of Death	Gravestone Location
SAVAGE, A.B. STUART WILLIAM, B2083. R.A.N.R. D.E.M.S. <i>Bishopdale</i> . Age 25. Son of Walter William and Margaret Savage, of Woolloongabba, Queensland, Australia.	14 th December, 1944 ---	---	II. E. 12.
SHEIK, Pumpman CONER A., 20109. Australian Merchant Navy. D.E.M.S. <i>Bishopdale</i> .	16 th December, 1944 San Pedro Bay, Philippines	---	II. E. 13.
SLY, F/Lt. NEIL MERSON, 413269. R.A.A.F. Age 23. Son of Herbert Henry and Jessie Ogston Sly; husband of Patricia Madge Sly, of Parkes, New South Wales, Australia.	24 th July, 1945 Near Tacloban, Leyte, Philippines	Flying battle	I. D. 6.
SMITH, NORMAN (served as PEDDINGTON, Radio Operator W. F.). Australian Merchant Navy. s.s. <i>China</i> . Age 31. Son of Thomas Alexander and Jean Veronica Smith, of Chelsea, Victoria, Australia.	11 th July, 1945 Mindanao, Philippines	---	I. D. 12.
STEWART, Oiler, CYRIL, TC13316. Australian Merchant Navy. Age 47. Son of James and Annie Stewart, of Matraville, New South Wales, Australia; husband of Annie Stewart.	7 th February, 1946 Manila, Philippines	---	I. E. 12.
VAGG, F/Sgt. MERVYN REX, 430230. R.A.A.F. Age 20. Son of Cecil Mervyn and Mabel Blanche Vagg, of Elwood, Victoria, Australia.	25 th February, 1945 Indo-China	Aerial Combat	VII. D. 9.
WAGNER, Lieut. CHARLES ARTHUR, NX29683, D.C.M. Mentioned in Despatches. A.I.F. 2/18 Bn. Australian Infantry. Age 27. Son of Edward and Annie Eliza Wagner; husband of Audrey Thurza Wagner, of Woollahra, New South Wales, Australia.	21 st December, 1943 Philippines (ex Malaya)	Killed in action (escaped Prisoner of War)	I. B. 6.
WARMER, F/Sgt. ERIC FRANCIS, 419146. R.A.A.F. Age 20. Son of Harry Francis and Mabel Warmer, of South Yarra, Victoria, Australia.	25 th February, 1945 Indo-China	Accidental	V. D. 8.

Sources:

Sai Wan Bay Cemetery, Hong Kong and Sai Wan Bay Memorial (Hong Kong: Lane Publishers, 1995)

Roll of Honour Database, Australian War Memorial

Statistical Summary:

Place of death	
Philippines	13
Taiwan	5
Japan	3
Indo-China	3
Mainland China	3
At sea	1
Unknown	5

Classified by Service	
Navy	3
Army	13
Air Force	7
Merchant Navy	10