

# Self Guided Driving Tour

## MILITARY MEMORIALS in the National Capital

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**Your self guided driving tour provides you with background information on many of the military memorials found in Canberra, Australia's national capital.**

Your self guided driving tour of the military memorials in the national capital provides background information on many of the military memorials found in Canberra, Australia's national capital.

Central to the commemoration of service and sacrifice in the national capital is the Australian War Memorial. The memorial, at the northern end of Walter Burley Griffin's land axis, is located at the base of Mount Ainslie. Opened on 11 November 1941, the memorial is the national focus for the commemoration and remembrance of Australians who have served and died for Australia. Their names, stories and medals are held at the memorial, as are the weapons and machinery of war.

Many other memorials relating to service and sacrifice can be found throughout the national capital. These range from the RSL Memorial Grove located on the Federal Highway to the north of the city, through to the Canberra and District National Service Memorial, located to the south in Tuggeranong. Memorials are also situated in the grounds of the Royal Military College of Australia (Duntroon) and in the nearby suburb of Russell. Of significance is the Australian-American Memorial located at the northern end of Kings Avenue. Nearby in Kings Park, on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin, are memorials to those who lost their life on the *HMAS Canberra* and sailors of the Merchant Navy.

**A self guided walking tour of Anzac Parade is available to allow you to discover these national military memorials.**

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## **1 2/10th BATTALION ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL**

### **Federal Highway – Majura**

The 2/10th Battalion Association Memorial is dedicated to the members of the 10th Battalion of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force who died on active service during World War II. The battalion saw service in England, Egypt, the Middle East, Papua New Guinea and Borneo.

During its term of service (1939-1945), the battalion earned 12 Battle honours and won 30 decorations and 51 Mentioned-in-Dispatches.

The memorial is composed of a marble plinth, on a brick base, which lists on either side the names of the battalion's six Canberra regional members who lost their lives during World War II.

## **2 RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE MEMORIAL GROVE**

### **Federal Highway – Majura**

Established by the ACT Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL), this grove commemorates those Australian servicemen and women who have died in the service of their country.

Conflicts Australian armed forces have served in include: Second Boer War (1899–1902), World War I (1914–1918), World War II (1939–1945), Korean War (1950–1953), the Malayan Emergency (1948–1960), confrontation in Malaysia and Borneo (1963–1966) and the Vietnam War (1962–1973), as well as numerous peacekeeping missions around the world.

The RSL badge (at the top of the grove's commemoration stone), is a symbol of readiness to render service to 'the Crown, country and former comrades'. The wattle represents Australia, while the leek, rose, thistle and shamrock represent the links with Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland respectively. The servicemen and woman march together with their arms linked in friendship showing that, within the RSL, all services and ranks are united in service.

## **3 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL GROVE**

### **Federal Highway - Majura**

The Royal Australian Air Force Association (ACT Division) Memorial Grove is surrounded by a pathway leading to a number of plaques commemorating Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) units, schools and schemes. In the centre of the grove is a sandstone plinth topped with a metal cross. On the plinth is the badge of the RAAF Association (ACT Division) and a plaque commemorating the service of the men and women of the RAAF.

The two black granite blocks at the entrance to the grove are from the Royal Australian Air Force Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra. They were transferred when the Anzac Parade memorial was re-designed in 2002.

The memorial is located on the Federal Highway, renamed Remembrance Driveway. Australian recipients of the Victorian Cross (VC) are remembered with rest areas and lookouts from Canberra to Sydney. Adjacent to the grove is a rest area dedicated to Wing Air Vice Marshal Hughie Edwards VC, a highly decorated World War II airman who was later Governor of Western Australia.

## **4 SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN**

### **Veterans Park – Civic**

This memorial is a living tribute to the memory of those members of the Special Air Service Regiment who have given their lives in the service of their country, both overseas and in Australia.

The memorial, a stone and concrete wall topped with a granite plinth, bears the regimental badge and the regiment's roll of honour, listing the names of those who have died, and the dates and locations of their deaths.

In the garden directly behind the memorial, a Leonard Cheshire rose has been planted for each name listed on the memorial. This rose was named after Group Captain the Lord Cheshire, a distinguished British airman during World War II. After witnessing the dropping of the nuclear bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, on 9 August 1945, Cheshire radically changed his life. He dedicated the rest of his life to working for the disabled and terminally ill, founding the Leonard Cheshire Foundation charity.

## **5 KOREA AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA MEMORIAL**

### **Veterans Park – Civic**

Positioned in the centre of Veterans Park, this memorial commemorates the contribution of the servicemen and women of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force in the Korean War (1950–1953), the Malayan Emergency (1948–1960), confrontation in Malaysia and Borneo (1963–1966) and the Vietnam War (1962–1973).

The memorial, a circular concrete pool with a fountain, contains a plaque on its eastern side commemorating those who died in the service of Australia during the four campaigns.

## **6 THE ABORIGINAL MEMORIAL PLAQUE**

### **Mount Ainslie – Campbell**

The Aboriginal Memorial Plaque commemorates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have served in the Australian armed forces. Their contribution began as trackers with Australia's contingent in the Second Boer War in South Africa (1899–1902). Approximately 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders served with the 1st Australian Imperial Force in World War I (1914–1918). About one third of these were casualties and one a prisoner-of-war.

During World War II (1939–1945) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders served in the Army's 2nd Australian Imperial Force as well as in the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force.

Since 1946, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have also proudly served with distinction as members of the Australian Defence Force in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq.

## **7 REMEMBRANCE NATURE PARK**

### **Treloar Crescent – Campbell**

The Remembrance Driveway (Federal Highway) extends 320km from Macquarie Place in Sydney, to Canberra's Remembrance Nature Park, located behind the Australian War Memorial. Inaugurated in 1953, the driveway is a living memorial to those Australian servicemen and women who have served Australia during wartime, and on peacekeeping missions.

The driveway incorporates a series of groves, scenic lookouts and picnic rest-areas along the Federal Highway which are named after Australian Victoria Cross (VC) recipients. The final VC picnic rest-areas are in Remembrance Nature Park. One is named after Richard Kelliher VC, who in 1943 successfully saved the life of his section leader under heavy fire in Papua New Guinea, and the other is named after Reginald Rattey VC, whose bravery in battle allowed his company to continue an attack near Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, in 1945.

Many Australian VC recipients are also remembered with street names in the suburb of Campbell, all of whose street names have a military connection. Curtin, Fadden, Gowrie, Hackett, Hughes, Pearce, Russell and Watson are Canberra suburbs that also have streets named after recipients of the Victoria Cross.

## **8 THE VICTORIA CROSS MEMORIAL**

### **Victoria Cross Park – Campbell**

The Victoria Cross Memorial commemorates those Australians who have been decorated with the Victoria Cross. The medal, recognising acts of valour, was instituted in 1856 and made retrospective to 1854 to cover the Crimean War. The Victoria Cross may be awarded to civilians, if serving with the armed forces, or awarded for acts of bravery undertaken in peace time. Queen Victoria stated that she *'... expressly desired that the decoration should be highly prized'*.

Of the 96 crosses awarded to Australian service personnel, 28 have been awarded posthumously.

The memorial consists of two crescent-shaped stone walls. A plaque on top of one of the walls lists the names of all the Australian recipients of the Victoria Cross, and the wars and campaigns in which they were awarded. In the centre of the paving is a design of the Victoria Cross; a Maltese Cross bearing the Royal Crest (a lion upon the St Edward Crown) and below, a scroll bearing the words For Valour.

## **9 ST JOHN'S WAR MEMORIAL**

### **Anzac Park West – Reid**

This memorial, situated on the north-western side of the church's outer wall, is dedicated to the 60 local parishioners who lost their lives during World War I (1914-1918). The parishioners included locals from around the area, as well as staff and officer cadets from the Royal Military College (Duntroon). One of the fallen listed is Major General William Throsby Bridges, the founder of Duntroon College and the first commander of the Australian Imperial Force.

St John's Church is one of the oldest buildings in Canberra and was consecrated in 1845.

## **10 PRISONER-OF-WAR NATIONAL MEMORIAL**

### **Miles Road – Duntroon**

Almost 35 000 Australian servicemen and women have been taken prisoner during four wars; the Second Boer War (1899-1902); World War I (1914-1918); World War II (1939-1945); and the Korean War (1950-1953). Their service and sacrifice is remembered with this memorial. The memorial is one of the chapels built by allied prisoners in the prison-of-war camp at Changi, Singapore.

The chapel was designed in 1944 by Hamish Cameron-Smith, an officer in the Royal Engineers, and built by fellow prisoners who scrounged the required materials. After the war, the chapel was dismantled and

brought to Australia, where it remained in storage until 1988. It was then re-assembled by troops of the Royal Australian Engineers, at its present location.

A board adjacent to the memorial contains photographs of the chapel in its original setting in Singapore.

## **11 GENERAL BRIDGES' GRAVE**

### **General Bridges Drive – Duntroon**

Major General William Throsby Bridges was born in Scotland on 18 February 1861. He immigrated to New South Wales in 1879 and in 1885 was commissioned into the New South Wales Artillery.

In January 1909 Bridges became the first Chief of the General Staff of the Australian Army and in 1910 was directed to establish an Australian military college. On 27 June 1911 the Royal Military College was opened at Duntroon, with Bridges as its first Commandant.

In August 1914, upon the declaration of war, Bridges was ordered to raise a force for service in Europe. He named the force the Australian Imperial Force and was appointed as its Commander. On 15 May 1915 Bridges was hit by a sniper at Gallipoli and died whilst being evacuated to Egypt. His body was returned to Australia (the only casualty at the time to be returned) and buried at Duntroon, in the grounds of the college he helped to establish.

General Bridges' grave was designed by Walter Burley Griffin, the winner of the design competition for the plan of Canberra. Completed in 1920, it is the only work in the city attributed to him.

## **12 OFFICER TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS MEMORIAL TABLETS**

### **Royal Military College Flag Station – Duntroon**

These tablets were placed in memory of the Australian Army Officer Training Establishment graduates who have died on active service, war service or United Nations peacekeeping duties. The establishments represented are the Royal Military College (established at Duntroon in 1911), the Officer Cadet School (Portsea, Victoria: 1952–1985) and the Officer Training Unit (Scheyville, New South Wales: 1965–1973).

The three centre tablets contain the badge of the Royal Military College, whilst the left tablet bears the badge of the Officer Cadet School and the right tablet bears the badge of the Officer Training Unit.

To the left at the rear of the tablets is the bell from the passenger ship MV Duntroon. The flagpole behind the tablets is listed as an Australian Army Flag Station. Australia's first flag stations were established in 1873 and there are currently 12 stations around the country.

## **13 OFFICER CADET SCHOOL – PORTSEA MEMORIAL**

### **Lavarack Road, Royal Military College – Duntroon**

The Portsea Memorial, commonly referred to as the 'Portsea Wall', was built to honour the Officer Cadet School Australian Army graduates who died on active service during the confrontation in Malaysia and Borneo (1963-1966) and the Vietnam War (1962-1973). It also recognises the overseas graduates from the New Zealand Army, the Royal Thai Army, the Malaysian Army, the Papua New Guinea Army and the Philippine Army, who also died on active service for their respective countries.

The upper block of the wall displays the Officer Cadet School badge and the dedication: 'In Memory of Graduates who Died on Service'. The front of the wall carries memorial plaques for 20 school graduates who died on operational service for their respective countries.

## **14 ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY NATIONAL MEMORIAL**

### **Mount Pleasant – Duntroon**

Gunners of all ranks, who have given their lives in the service of Australia are commemorated with this memorial.

The outer wall is symbolic of the forts that in the past defended many Australian ports. Inside this wall are eight panels listing the conflicts in which Australian gunners have played a part. These are flanked by other panels bearing one of the regiment's motto Ubique (Everywhere) and its battle honour. The memorial plinth incorporates commemorative and descriptive plaques, and the Regimental Badge.

The centre is flanked by two rifle-muzzled 64 pounder guns, which were originally part of the Sydney Harbour defences. Gun salutes are still fired from the memorial on appropriate occasions.

## **15 ROYAL NETHERLANDS AND EAST INDIES FORCES MEMORIAL**

### **Cnr Sellheim Avenue and Northcott Drive – Russell**

The Royal Netherlands and East Indies Forces Memorial commemorates the servicemen and women of the Dutch forces which operated from Australia between 1941 and 1945.

The Dutch, along with the Americans, were the only non-Commonwealth countries to establish bases in Australia during World War II.

The memorial consists of two crescent-shaped walls with a mosaic map of the South-West Pacific Zone (the area of operations) by David Humpheries. The inside of the southern wall comprises five panels, the first displaying a shield bearing the bronze lion from the Netherlands Coat of Arms. The other four panels are the badges of: the Royal Netherlands Navy and Naval Air Service, the Royal Netherlands East Indies Army, the Royal Netherlands East Indies Air Force and the Netherlands Merchant Navy.

## **16 AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN MEMORIAL**

### **Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Square – Russell**

This memorial symbolises both the deep gratitude felt by Australians to American service personnel for their assistance during World War II (1939–1945) and the close ties which were established during that conflict.

The memorial's hollow octagonal column stands 73m tall and is made of aluminium sheeted panels mounted on a steel framework. The panels were sandblasted to give an appearance of stone.

The Australian-American Memorial is located in the northern end of Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Square. Blamey was the commander of Allied Land Forces South West Pacific during World War II.

At the base of the column is a circular wreath in memory of those who died during World War II. The column is surmounted by a bronze sphere and a stylised figure of the American Eagle.

## **17 HMAS CANBERRA MEMORIAL**

### **Kings Park**

The HMAS Canberra Memorial commemorates both the ship, Canberra, and those who served in her. Commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy in 1928, the Canberra was a Kent class cruiser.

From the outbreak of World War II, Canberra patrolled the coast of Western Australia before being dispatched in 1940 to serve with the Royal Navy in both the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

In 1942 the Canberra escorted Australian troops to Singapore. Then, with the United States Navy, Canberra took part in the Battle of the Coral Sea and supported United States Marines at Guadalcanal. On 9 August 1942, at the Battle of Savo Island, the Allied fleet was surprised by a Japanese fleet of seven cruisers. The Canberra was hit 24 times within less than two minutes and 84 men, including the ship's captain, were killed.

As a mark of respect, America re-named one of its ships, then under construction, the USS Canberra. The base of the memorial is in the shape of a ship and its five-tonne anchor and chain, of the type that was carried on the HMAS Canberra, represents the Navy as a whole.

## **18 MERCHANT NAVY MEMORIAL**

### **Kings Park**

The Merchant Navy Memorial, located at the edge of Lake Burley Griffin because of the association with water, commemorates the contribution made by the Australian merchant navy during both world wars. The important and vital role played by the merchant navy during these conflicts, involving personal sacrifice and heroism, has largely gone unrecognised over the years.

The overall design of the memorial portrays the globe spinning on a north-south axis. The central panel at the rear of the memorial bears the badge of the merchant navy and is flanked on both sides by six panels, representing ships' bows. The curved tops represent the waves of the sea. The pattern on the paving represents the various camouflage patterns used by merchant ships during World War I. The red crosses represent the merchant navy-crewed hospital ships. The two concrete and glass drums, at the extreme front flanks of the memorial (the larger one also acting as the base for the flagpole) represent navigational compass cards.

## **19 SPANISH CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL**

### **Lennox Gardens – Yarralumla**

The Spanish Civil War Memorial was erected in memory of the 70 Australian men and women who took part in the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939). To many, the war was the first conflict in the war against fascism, which ended with Germany's defeat in 1945. Over 50 000 supporters, from 53 countries around the world, travelled to Spain to help defend the Republic against General Franco's Nationalist forces.

The memorial consists of sandstone blocks and red bricks.

It contains a bronze, three-dimensional map of Spain showing the locations of the major battles, and two plaques, one in Spanish and one in English, describe the war and the events that led to it.

The Australians who went to Spain did so as individuals and not as members of the Australian armed forces.

## **20 RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE MEMORIAL DRINKING FOUNTAIN**

### **Parliament Drive – Barton**

This memorial drinking fountain was a gift to the people of Australia from the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL). It is located in the heart of the national capital surrounded by Parliament House, the High Court and other national institutions: buildings which represent the democracy that Australian service personnel have fought and died for.

Made from black granite, the sculpture contains a drinking fountain. The carved section represents the rugged cliffs of Gallipoli, a reminder of the beginnings of the ANZAC legend and the roots of the RSL. On the memorial's forward-sloping face are four bronze sculptures, representing the sacrifice of life.

## **21 KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL – CANBERRA SERVICES CLUB**

### **Manuka Circle – Manuka**

This memorial was dedicated as a tribute to the Papuans who assisted the Australian troops on the Kokoda Track from June 1942 to October 1945.

The Papuans worked as stretcher-bearers, porters and general labourers for the Australian Army, and were regarded with great respect and admiration. Forty-six Papuans were killed in combat supporting the Australians, and a further 162 died from illness or as a result of accidents.

The bronze memorial is loosely based on a famous photograph of Raphael Oimban leading a blind-folded Australian, taken in Papua during World War II.

## **22 AIR DISASTER MEMORIAL**

### **Fairbairn Pine Plantation – Majura**

On 13 August 1940 a RAAF bomber on a flight from Melbourne crashed near this site. On board the aircraft were three Federal Government cabinet ministers — James Fairbairn, Minister for Air, Brigadier Geoffrey Street, Minister for the Army, and Sir Henry Gullett, Vice-President of the Executive Council — and the Australian Army Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Brudenell White. All on board, including another passenger and five crew members, were killed.

The memorial consists of a granite rock incorporating a memorial plaque. To the right an aeronautical design feature incorporates an interpretive plaque and a line illustration of a Lockheed Hudson bomber, like the one that crashed.

Visitors wishing to visit the memorial should contact ACT Forests on (02) 6207 2486 to obtain a key for vehicle access.

## **23 EDDISON PARK MEMORIAL**

### **Launceston Street – Phillip**

The Eddison Park War Memorial was unveiled in 1995 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The memorial honours the men and women of the Australian armed forces who served during this war.

On the memorial's concrete obelisk is a commemorative plaque and, at the base of the obelisk are the badges of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force.

## **24 EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL GRAVES/Woden Cemetery – Woden**

Section five of Canberra's Woden Cemetery contains the graves of a number of Australian servicemen who died on active service during the Vietnam War (1962–1973).

Each grave is marked with a Commonwealth War Graves white marble tombstone listing the name, date of birth and death, service branch or, in the case of soldiers, corps or unit, of the serviceman. The headstones also have the badge of the relevant service: the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army or the Royal Australian Air Force.

These graves are intermingled with those of other Australian veterans who, having served their country, have died at home.

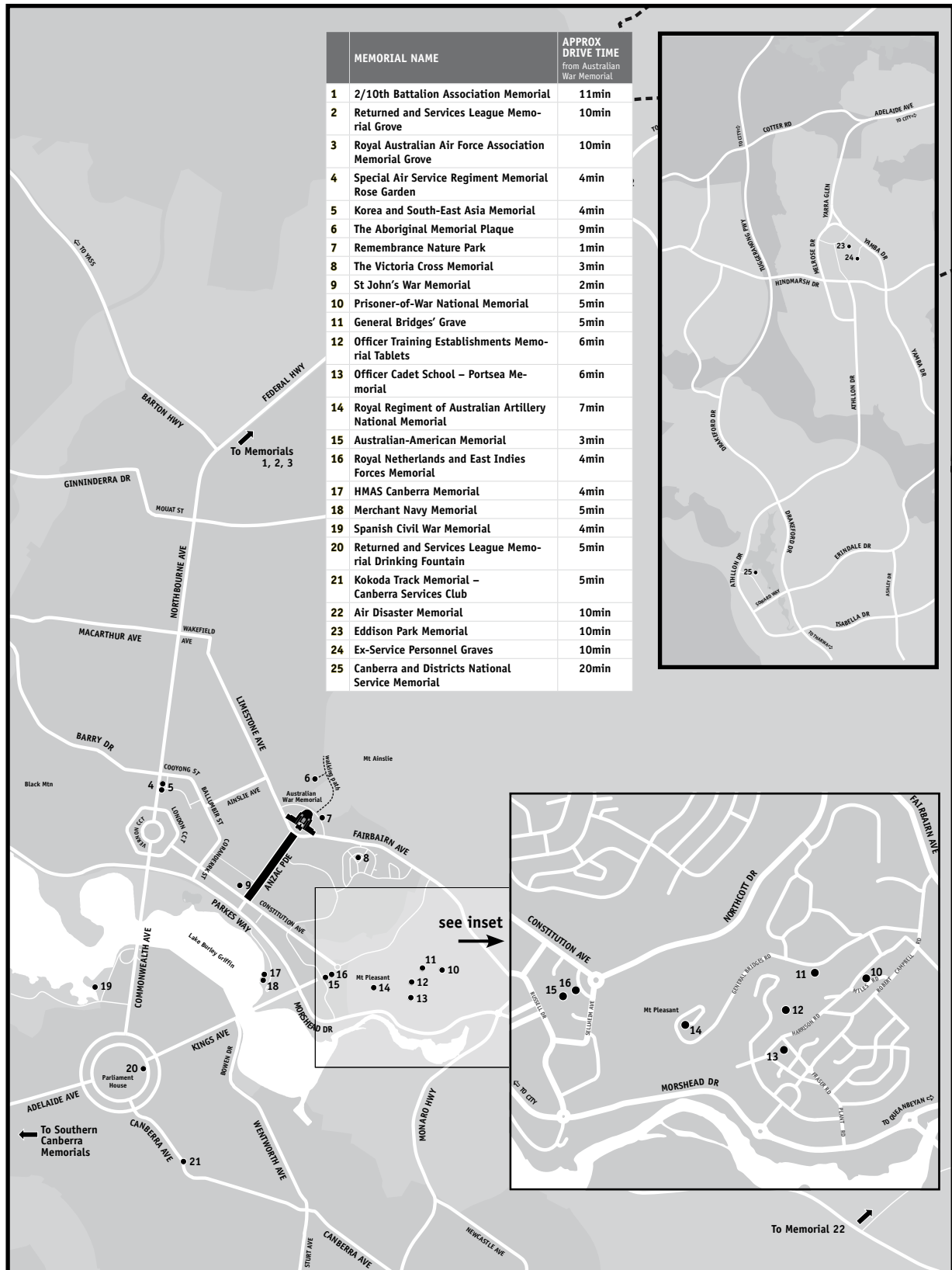
## **25 CANBERRA AND DISTRICTS NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL**

### **Tuggeranong Town Park**

The Canberra and Districts National Service Memorial, a yellowstone rock, honours the men from Canberra and surrounding districts who were conscripted for compulsory military service in the Australian Army. The memorial also acknowledges those members of both the Regular and Reserve armed forces with whom the national servicemen served.

**This ends the Military Memorials in the National Capital  
Self Guided Driving Tour**

# MILITARY MEMORIALS in the National Capital



## AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE BADGE DESCRIPTIONS

While exploring the military memorials in this driving tour, you may notice the following defence force badges:

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Within a roped-edged oval, a stockless chain-cabled anchor, the Commonwealth Star and the words 'Royal Australian Navy' – all topped with the British crown.

Since its adoption in 1949, the Royal Australian Navy badge has been modified three times. It is not known where the design came from, although it is quite possible its origins came from the Royal Navy.

### AUSTRALIAN ARMY

The British crown, behind, a rising sun with protruding rays. Below, a scroll bearing the words, 'The Australian Army'.

The distinctive Rising Sun Badge, worn on the upturned brim of a slouch hat, is readily identified with the spirit of Anzac. The original badge was designed and created in haste for the first Australian contingents raised for service in the Second Boer War (1899-1902). After several modifications, in 1991 the badge was returned to the design worn by soldiers in both World Wars.

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

A circle, inscribed with the words 'Royal Australian Air Force', topped with the British Crown. Within the circle is a wedge-tailed eagle in flight. Beneath the circle, on a scroll, the Royal Australian Air Force motto *Per ardua ad astra* (through struggle to the stars).

The Royal Australian Air Force badge was accepted in 1939. The motto of the force, also that of the Royal Air Force, is derived from Rider Haggard's novel, *The People of the Mist*.

On many of the memorials throughout the national capital, the phrase, 'Lest We Forget' can be found. It was taken from the poem 'Recessional', written by Rudyard Kipling for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria:

*Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget, lest we forget!*



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