



National Boer War Memorial Association

Patron

**Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC
Chief of the Defence Force**

BOER WAR DESPATCHES **March 2015 VICTORIA & TASMANIA**

VICTORIAN EDITOR PO Box 2006, Blackburn South 3130

Phone (03) 9890 2465



2015

A BIG YEAR FOR BOTH THE GALLIPOLI CELEBRATIONS AND THE BOER WAR

FATHERS OF THE ANZACS

About 30 percent of Boer War veterans served again in the First World War. Many officers and senior NCOs had war experience in South Africa and the AIF was fortunate to be seeded with such men. We recognise them as the fathers of the 1st AIF. A good number were decorated for bravery in both wars.

**Lt. Colonel Leslie Cecil Maygar, VC, DSO, VD.
Three times Mentioned in Despatches,**

Born in Kilmore Victoria in 1872, he enlisted in the Victorian Mounted Rifles in 1891. He volunteered for the early Boer War contingents but was not accepted. He embarked in February 1901 as Lieutenant, 5th Victorian Mounted Contingent and for the next twelve months was involved in severe action in the Transvaal, and later in Natal. In August 1901 Maygar was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Victorian Cross, at Geelhoutboom 23rd November 1901. He had galloped out and ordered men of a detachment post, which was being outflanked, to retire. One trooper's horse was shot from under him, with the enemy within 200 yards. Lieutenant Maygar dismounted and lifted him on to his own horse, which bolted into boggy ground, causing both of them to dismount. On extricating the horse and finding that it could not carry both, Lieutenant Maygar put the man on its back, and told him to gallop for cover at once, he himself proceeding on foot. All this took place under a very heavy fire. Between wars Maygar resumed work as a grazier at

Euroa and while serving as Lieutenant with 8th Light Horse was promoted Captain in 1905. In World War One he was a member of the party which laid out the first Light Horse camp at Broadmeadows Victoria.

On August 20th 1914 he was appointed Captain, Officer Commanding B Squadron, 4th Australian Light Horse and sailed for Egypt.

At Gallipoli he was given command of the 8th Light Horse as Lieutenant Colonel. He commanded 40 man detail during the evacuation on Gallipoli with instruction to hold the trenches at all cost till 2.30 am. His regiment then served in Sinai and Palestine. Temporary commanded 3rd Light Horse Brigade on two occasions. At the 2nd battle of Gaza Sir Henry Gullett recorded that Maygar was always very bold

in his personal leadership. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in June 1917. At the Battle of Beersheba in Palestine on 31 October 1917 Lieutenant-Colonel Maygar was severely wounded by an attacking German aircraft using bombs and machine-guns. His arm was shattered and his horse bolted with him into the darkness. He was found later that night but he died the following day having lost too much blood. He is buried in the Beersheba War Cemetery.



Leslie Maygar VC,

ANZAC DAY MARCH

**Read carefully
Time & Place have changed**

Our descendants and supporters can sleep in a little longer this year if they wish as our step-off time has been moved on to 12.20pm. Our assembly point has also been moved. We will now assemble on the south side of Flinders Street adjacent to Federation Square (marked in dark green on the map below). Because the step off time is 12.20 we will be there before noon so we hope to see you all about then. Look for the usual lead banner pictured below.

We follow the WW1 descendants in the march and will be halted immediately behind them on the shrine forecourt, at the foot of the main steps. The Commemoration Service, led by the Governor of Victoria, will then commence.

Boer War 1899 - 1902

MAFEKING

KIMBERLEY

LADYSMITH

ELANDS RIVER

CAPE COLONY

RHODESIA

RHENOSTER KOP



PINK HILL

TRANSVAAL

ONVERWACHT

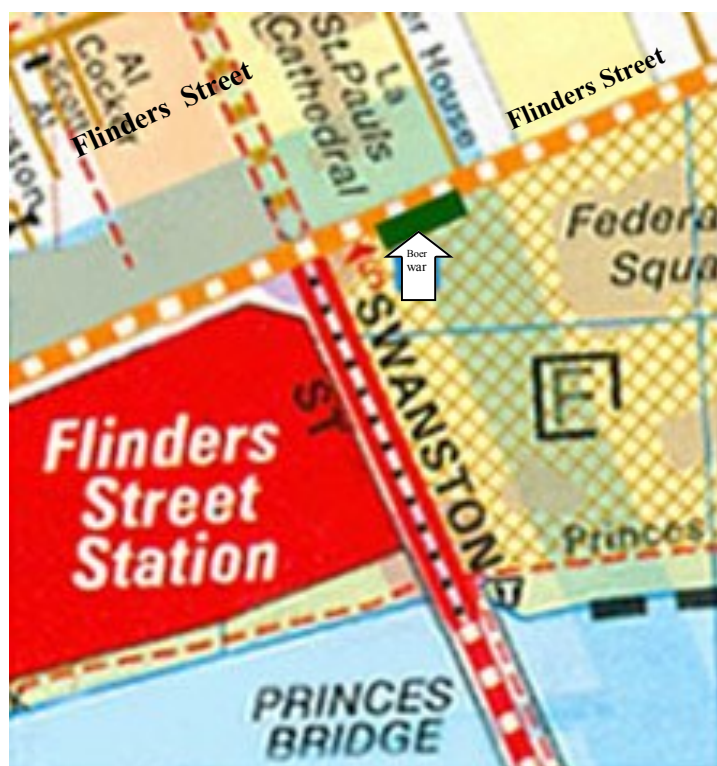
KOSTER RIVER

WILMANSRUST

WITTEBERGEN

PIETERSBURG

6 VICTORIA CROSSES TO AUSTRALIANS



BOER WAR DAY

The actual date for Boer War Day is 31 May when the peace treaty was signed but we always celebrate it on the last Sunday in May for obvious reasons. This year the last Sunday in May falls on the 31st May. It is a good time to contemplate the end of this conflict and the homecoming of our soldiers and nurses.

Apart from the nearly 1000 who paid the supreme sacrifice, many returned with crippling wounds and severe mental trauma, the seriousness of which was not properly understood in those days.

It will be our great honour this year to welcome 2013 Australian of the Year. Ita Buttrose AO, OBE who will be flying down from Sydney to deliver the main oration at the Shrine of Remembrance Service.

Master of Ceremonies will again be Lt Colonel Neil Smith and we will have radio broadcaster Don Kinsey back with us this year.



Ms Ita Buttrose AO, OBE

The religious part of the 2015 Commemoration Service will be in the hands of RAAF Chaplain. Father John Healy, who is also the parish Priest at Laverton.

The march will commence at the lower end of the Shrine forecourt at 12.20pm but please try to get there early as the line up generally takes some organising.

The march will be led by the Creswick Light Horse mounted troop, followed by the Rats of Tobruk Pipes and Drums, the Australian Great War Association group in uniform then the Boer War Banner shown opposite followed by any distinguished guests who wish to march. They will be followed by the white Boer War Association banner and the descendants and supporters, scouts, guides etc.

Medals should be worn (your own medals on the left side and family medals on the right side). At the Eternal flame where the service is held there will be a few hundred seats. Young people as asked to give priority to older people for these. Light refreshments will be available after the Service.

**REMEMBER
SUNDAY 31 MAY
12 noon at the lower end
of the Shrine forecourt
SHOW THAT WE CARE**

BOER WAR DAY SERVICES TASMANIA

As usual there will be two services in Tasmania:

HOBART 31 May

The service will be held at the BOER WAR MEMORIAL in the DOMAIN and will commence at 12 noon on Sunday 31st May. The address will be given by our very capable Tasmanian representative, Reg Watson, and the Master of Ceremonies will be Lieut Colonel Chad Sutton (ret)

LAUNCESTON 14 June

Service at the BOER WAR MEMORIAL in CITY PARK. It will be held on Sunday 14 June and will also commence at 12 noon. The address will again be given by Mr Reg Watson and the MC for this day will be Dr Frank Madill AM

An updated reprint of Reg Watson's publication, *HEROES ALL* which lists all Tasmanians who lost their lives in the Boer War (with biographical notes) will be available at both events.

PRESENTATIONS

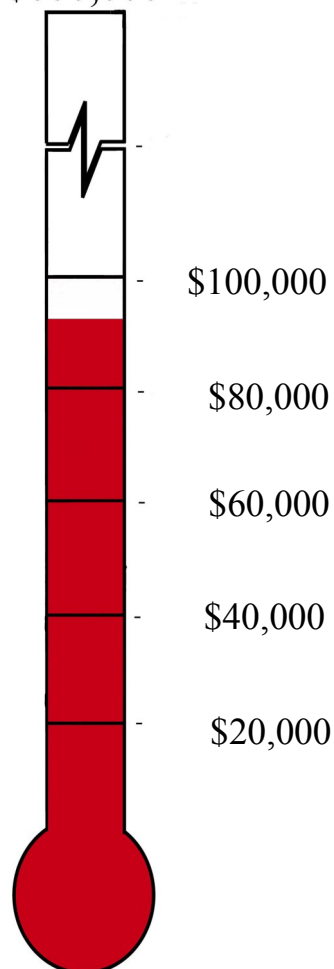
to
**YOUR CLUB or
COMMUNITY GROUP**

The Association can provide a most interesting presentation for your social group. This covers Boer War history, where to find information on family veterans who served, details of the new memorial etc.

If you belong to Rotary, Lions, RSL, sporting club etc. and would like to have a presentation (speaker, DVD etc) at one of your meetings please contact us at the address or phone number on the front of this newsletter or 9802 0926

VICTORIAN TARGET

\$600,000



MEMORIAL and FUND RAISING

We are making steady progress in Victoria thanks to you, our local supporters, but we are still trying to leap over that \$100,000 bench mark.

If any of our descendants and supporters can come up with suggestions which might help the cause to honour our Boer War servicemen and women, please call us and share your ideas,

A double sided leaflet detailing our newest efforts is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have a Boer War veteran in your family tree we strongly recommend that Memorial Medallion. It really is something you and your family will be proud to own and hand down to later generations.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL UPDATE

Good progress is being made with the bronze mounted troopers for the National Boer War Memorial. All the bronze casting work on the first horse has been done and the assembly work is well on the way.

The foundry has now got the various parts tacked together and the welding of some joins has been completed and finished off. When all the joins have been fully welded and the surfaces finished, the final step, applying the patina to the bronze surface, will see the full 1.5 times life size mounted trooper ready for transporting to Canberra. There it will be stored at the Australian War Memorial until all four horses are ready for installation at the memorial site in ANZAC Parade.

It is expected that this first of the bronzes will be finished by about 15 April when it can be taken to Canberra. That stage alone will present many interesting challenges.



The size of the mounted troopers can be appreciated with foundry man, Cameron, standing by.

While all this is happening the sculptor, Louis Laumen, has been working on the half life size model of the second mounted trooper. When this is completed he will progress to the full 1.5 times life size clay model which is created using a pantograph to scale up from the smaller model for fine accuracy.

All this work, together with site operations, will cost about five million dollars before we have the magnificent memorial which is planned. It will be a fitting tribute to those Australian men and women who answered the call when we faced our first armed conflict as a Nation.



We are proud to have an eminent sculptor like Louis Laumen to create these figures. They then could not be in better hands than those of Cameron McIndoe, boss of the Fundere Studios Foundry at Sunshine. They have great and long time experience in turning the work of top artists into magnificent bronze figures which will last a millennium.

Your ongoing help today is vital if we are to see this magnificent Memorial completed. Please continue your very much appreciated support. It is really needed.

BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION TIES

These quality ties in the colours of the Queens South Africa medal ribbon are available at \$25 each plus postage. Please contact Paul Lenehan 02 94273781 or by email



Promotional Merchandise

WHEN ORDERING PLEASE USE FORM ON NEXT PAGE
AND COMPLETE ALL DETAILS

**SUPPORT THE NATIONAL
BOER WAR MEMORIAL**



**South
Africa
1899
to
1902**

Vinyl Car Sticker
10mm X 10mm, \$2.00

Metal Lapel Pin 25mm \$2



Boer War Day Badge \$8



\$8

Key
Rings



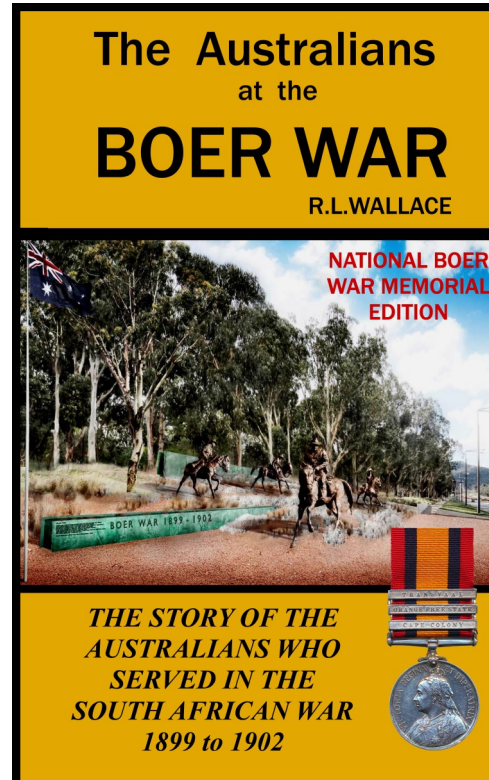
Quality Pens—



Attractive Wooden Plaque:(new version with metal replica medals containing the bars earned by your ancestor): Please provide veteran's details below.

The photo can be replaced with a motif or a badge if arranged when ordering. Price \$90 + \$5 per bar after the first two.

Phone 03 98902465 for more details and special order form.



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\$48
See
back
page



Clear Crystal Glass Memorial—Laser Etched

130mm X 155mm X 30mm....Weight 880 grams

In lined presentation case. (Image has been shown with dark background to highlight engraving. Please provide details below with order. Can be supplied without badge or with the April 1902 pattern ACH Badge instead of that shown. \$120 +PP&I \$22 in Victoria (may be slightly higher in other States).

VETERAN INFORMATION

(Please print)

Given Names

Surname:.....

Rank:.....

Regimental number:

Unit:

Second tour if applicable

Rank:.....

Regimental number:

Merchandise Order

...Pens - Maroon & Gold @ \$10 each \$.....
Car Stickers @ \$2 each \$.....
Lapel Pins (*circular metal*) @ \$2 \$.....
Enamel BW Day badge \$8 \$.....
Key Ring \$8 \$.....
 Book (*use order form*) \$48 \$.....
Wooden Plaque \$90 + \$5 per bar after two
 Supply details as per reverse page \$.....
Crystal Glass Memorial \$130 each
 Please complete details on reverse \$.....

POSTAGE

Badges (up to 4) \$2.50
 Pens (up to 2) \$2.50
 Stickers only \$1.00
 BOOK (up to 2) \$12
 Crystal Glass Memorial \$22.00
 Wooden Plaque \$10 (+ \$5 for each
 additional if mailed together) \$.....
 (if purchasing multiple items contact
 03 98902465 for P&P savings)

Sub-total \$.....

(Circle one) Mr Mrs Dr Ms Miss

Other

Given Names:

.....

Surname: ..

.....

Address: .

.....

Suburb:State :.....

Postcode:H Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

I enclose a cheque for \$

Payable to:

National Boer War Memorial Association- Vic,
P O Box 2006, Blackburn South, 3130.

Please do NOT send cash in the mail

HOW FREEMASONRY SAVED THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG FROM CERTAIN DESTRUCTION IN 1900

The major churches and the Salvation Army have always done much to alleviate the sufferings caused by war. In 1900 it was Masonic intervention which saved the City of Johannesburg.

The Commander in Chief in South Africa, Lord Roberts, was a Mason and by a stroke of good fortune, so was Kruger's 'Special Commandant' in Johannesburg and virtual Governor, Fritz Krause. He was also Treasurer of the 'Doornfontein Lodge'.

As Roberts army was on the doorstep of the city (he was camped with his army at Germiston Lake) Krause no doubt was receiving instructions from Pretoria which were anathema to him.

He refused to blow up the gold mines on the Rand and even overpowered and arrested Judge Antonie Kock to prevent it happening.

Krause then rode to Robert's camp at Germiston and met with the General. By this time both men were aware of the others involvement in Freemasonry and a very friendly meeting took place.

Krause rode back to Johannesburg with a signed armistice agreement in his saddle bag. The terms of the agreement were that Roberts would hold back his army for 24 hours to give Krause time to get the Boer Commando out of Johannesburg.

It all happened as arranged and Roberts entered Johannesburg and received the surrender of the City without a shot being fired.

The Boers branded Krause a 'traitor' and Whitehall thought it was the biggest mistake Roberts had made in his whole career. They believed he had let the Boers escape with all their armaments and all the gold mined in Johannesburg during the previous month.

With the benefit of hindsight all would agree that the arrangements worked out between Krause and Lord Roberts brought about the inevitable and saved very many lives on both sides and a great deal of destruction in that city.

The Boers would surely have moved any gold out of the City well ahead of the final days before a major assault on it.

Future governments and citizens of South Africa had good reason to be grateful to Fritz Krause, Lord Roberts, and their Masonic connections for the great disaster which was averted through their co-operation.

RESEARCHING BOER WAR VETERANS IN YOUR FAMILY

By RD

Information on your ancestor who fought in the Boer War and information on his/her role in the Boer War are two different areas of research.

If you wish to check whether your ancestor fought in the Boer War there are a number of sources that will confirm this: The best known is Lieutenant-Colonel P.L.Murray's *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa*, published in 1911 for the Department of Defence. This source will give you his rank, regimental number, unit and a brief account of the unit's actions in the war. One problem is that there is no alphabetical list so it is a matter of working through all the rolls and hoping that you can find him. If you know his unit then it is a simple task.

Another valuable source which includes the contents of Murray can be found on the internet. Get into Google and type in Oz Boer and you will get the site run by Colin Roe which does list names alphabetically. He also runs a similar site which includes units other than Australian. Once again go to Google and type in SOTQ. This should pop up and it is a matter of following the prompts and typing in what information you have. Both sites are free to access.

If you know what unit your ancestor fought with and you want to know details of the campaigns in which he fought then this information is exceedingly sparse. The AWM does not have anything on an individual Boer War soldier's service history. The National Archives of Australia does have copies of muster rolls and medal rolls and these will be an invaluable source of information on an individual in that you will find information on his next of kin (invariably his parents); his age (and/or birth date), his religion, his previous military or militia service, his height, chest measurement and sometimes his weight. Most National Archives depots have copies of these rolls.

The National Archives branch in Melbourne is housed in the same building as the Public Records Office which will provide more details on parents, siblings, census details etc. This building is to be found in North Melbourne and there is free public parking available.

Campaign details then are not available from any public source. For these you need to consult either regimental histories or diaries and letters that might be in the public domain. However, for the latter this is of little value unless the writer is from the same unit as the soldier you are researching. The most useful source is the regimental history and for Victoria there are a number of publications which should aid a researcher:

in 2016. There is no history on the Victorian units in the Australian Commonwealth Horse, other than the brief sketches in Murray and a handy roll of all ACH published by George Newbury in 1990.

For the campaign history of men who served in South African Colonial units there are very few which will help with identifying Australians in the unit. There are exceptions: For the Bushveldt Carbineers, you can use Woolmore, W. *The Bushveldt Carbineers and the Pietersburg Light Horse*, published in 2002. The same author also produced a regimental history of Steinaeckers Horse, titled *Steinaecker's Horsemen*, published in 2006. Both the above units had many Australians in the ranks.

For Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry (which included over 200 Australians) you can find a general account plus a regimental roll in Droogleever, R.W.F., *Thorneycroft's Unbuttoned*

John Price published *Southern Cross Scots* in 1992, which covers those Australians who served in the Scottish Horse. A roll of those Victorians who served in the unit can be found. In 1980 the same author published *'They Proved To All The Earth'* listing all the Victorians who died in the Boer War and providing grave & monument details etc.

World War 1 records can also expose information on whether a man has had Boer war experience. On his attestation form, a question specifically asks whether a man has had previous service in HM Forces. These WW1 Records can be accessed through the National Archives Record Search database. The absence of any mention of previous service did occur because some men who were over-age lied about their age upon enlistment.

See page 8 for local history resources.

TASMANIAN PREMIER DEMONSTRATES SUPPORT FOR BOER WAR MEMORIAL

On 5th February the Association's National fund raising committee held a function in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, for prominent Australians who are supporting our cause to build a National Memorial for the Australians who served from 1899 to 1902. The list of attendees proved to be an impressive Who's Who.

The Premier of Tasmania, The Hon Will Hodgman, was present and later, in a call to Michael Crouch offered to see where Tasmania could help. Former Governor General, Michael Jeffrey, was there as was former Chief of the Defence Force, General David Hurley, and many others. Great to see such genuine interest from these supporters.

RESEARCH ARTICLE Cont.

Local Histories have been most useful and provide information on local lads: Here is a comprehensive list of those:

"Our Boys - letters from the Front" by Peter Stevenson, covers Inglewood District's contribution to the Boer War.

"Bacchus Marsh and the Boer War - a Community's response" compiled by four writers, published for the Bacchus Marsh and District Historical Society.

"Forgotten Heroes" by Florence Breed. Privately published. Covers the contribution of men from the District of Donald, southern Victoria.

"Murray Country Heroes" by Stan Clarke. Published by Yarrawonga-Mulwala RSL, 1995. Covers the service of men from Yarrawonga-Mulwala in both World wars but has a substantial chapter on the Boer War.

"Kerang Soldiers of the Queen" by Colin Heggen, 171 pp., privately published 2008. Looks at the soldiers from Kerang Shire

"Mystic Soldiers of Empire" by Colin Heggen, 192 pp. The Military service of Mystic Park residents in the Boer war, 1st and 2nd World Wars, privately published, 2001.

"The Ferntree Gully Shire - men who served in the Boer war 1899-1902", by Catherine Turnbull.

"Wimmera-Mallee Volunteers to the Boer War 1899-1902", privately printed, Warracknabeal, 2002, Hortham Historical Society.

"The Shire of Lillydale and its military Heritage", Volume 1, by Anthony McAleer

"Essendon and the Boer war", by Lenore Frost.

"Volunteers to Veterans", by Steve Strevens, Swan Hill & District.

"Shoulder to Shoulder", by Ron Blair, privately published, 2000. Covers a military history of the Baw Baw Shire and includes a record (rolls) of the men and women who served from the former shires of Buln Buln, Narracan, Walhalla and Warragul.

"Moe & District at War" ed. Graham Goulding on behalf of the Moe and District H.S. and Moe RSL, c.2008. Covers servicemen from the district, Boer war through to Vietnam. Largely extracts from the *Narracan Shire Advocate*.

"All but One Came Home" compiled by Margaret Williamson, Cindy Parker and Lisa Pickersgill, privately published by the Pyramid Hill & District HS, 2008. Covers Boer War stories of men who lived in the Pyramid Hill and Durham Ox area. Extracts taken from the *Pyramid Hill Advertiser*.

"Trentham at War" by Ina Bertrand and Jan Robertson and published by the Trentham & District Historical Society in 2012, covers the Boer War and both World Wars.

TASMANIANS Should also consult:

'Tasmanians in the Transvaal War' by Bufton

An excellent resource with individual photos of all the volunteers

'Heroes All' Tasmanian casualties in the Anglo-Boer War by Reg a. Watson

THE AUSTRALIANS AT THE BOER WAR

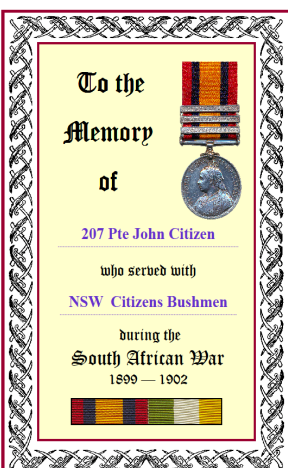
by R.L.WALLACE

A GREAT GIFT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

FREE CERTIFICATE To those who have or can register with us a Boer War veteran from their family tree, a free certificate as shown below will be included which will make your copy of "The Australians at the Boer War" a permanent memorial to your relative who served. All proceeds from this Memorial Edition go towards the National Boer War Memorial.

Price \$48

Postage \$12 for up to 2 books



TO NBWMA(Vic), PO Box 2006, Blackburn South, VIC. 3130

Please send me a copy of 'The Australians at the Boer War' Enclosed is a cheque / postal order for \$60 for the book and postage. My postal address is:

Name.....Street.....

Town / Suburb.....State.....Postcode.....

I will require the Memorial Certificate:

Name of ancestor.....

Unit served in.....

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH IN MAIL