

*LEST WE FORGET*

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MEMORIALS  
26<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION MEMORIAL,  
KINGS PARK**

The 26<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Battalion Memorial is located to the south-southwest of the WA State War Memorial in Kings Park, Perth. The Memorial's inscription reads:

This Plaque is dedicated  
to the gallant Men of the 26<sup>TH</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion AIF  
who under inspired leadership  
served with distinction in Dutch New Guinea  
Torres Strait, Bougainville and Rabaul 1939-46  
and to members who made the supreme sacrifice  
Lest We Forget

Two of the Soldiers listed in this document (Privates Headland WX22674 and Smith WX26214) enlisted from Western Australian and consequently theirs are the only names inscribed on the WA State Memorial.

Two Battalions with the number 26 – 26<sup>th</sup> and 2/26<sup>th</sup> - were raised in Queensland during WWII. The 2/26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was sent to Malaya in July 1941 and its Soldiers fought until Singapore was surrendered in February 1942. The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, a Militia Unit, undertook garrison duties in Northern Australia and Dutch New Guinea until it was deployed to Bougainville Island in December 1944, and to Rabaul in September 1945.

The Local Roll of Honour or Place of Birth from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) WWII Nominal Roll is shown for each Soldier. This document can be searched by text. Further biographical and Service information for each Soldier may be found on the National Archives of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the DVA Websites.

**26<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION  
BATTLE HONOURS**

Bonis-Porton: 7-11 June 1945

**26<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION  
ROLL OF HONOUR**

**1942**

BRACHON George Thomas  
Q109323 Accident  
(Drowned): 14Mar42  
Emerald QLD

MURRAY Thomas Q31306  
Accident: 25May42  
Hughenden QLD

SIMPSON Arthur Leonard  
Q109375 Illness: 28Aug42  
Townsville QLD

PHILLIPS Vincent Patrick  
QX17863 Illness: 27Oct42  
Born Nanango QLD

**1943**

WILLIAMS Ernest John  
Q109321 Accident: 4Jan43  
Clermont QLD

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MEMORIALS  
2/26<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY MEMORIAL, KINGS PARK

1945

SMITH Leslie Harold  
WX26214 Wounds: 7Jan45  
Cunderdin WA

CRONE Arthur Q138854 KIA:  
23Feb45 Bouldercombe QLD

MEIERS David John Q31228  
KIA: 23Feb45 Charters  
Towers QLD

McQUARRIE William Murdock  
NX192323 KIA: 25Feb45  
Newcastle NSW

BURTON Gordon Robert  
SX39305 KIA: 27Feb45  
Adelaide SA

SMITH Vincent Edward  
QX54167 KIA: 27Feb45  
Brisbane QLD

SOURIS Euripides Q266166  
KIA: 27Feb45 Brisbane QLD

ALFORD Ian Fitzgerald  
QX52947 Wounds: 1Mar45  
Longreach QLD

BRADY Thomas Graham  
SX31225 Wounds: 1Mar45  
Henley Beach SA

GREGURKE Brian Ralph  
SX39147 KIA: 3Mar45  
Orroroo SA

BOURKE Edward James  
NX154720 KIA: 5Mar45  
Rockdale NSW

DRUHAN Percy Edward  
NX25702 KIA: 6Mar45  
Bellingen NSW

DYER Graham Charles  
SX39037 KIA: 6Mar45  
Wolseley SA

RODGERS Andrew James  
QX50768 Wounds: 7Mar45  
Barcaldine QLD

SCOTT Leonard Eustace  
Q109179 Wounds: 7Mar45  
Barcaldine QLD

MURRAY William Alexander  
Robert QX49969 KIA:  
8Mar45 Born Townsville  
QLD

BARKER Horace John  
QX37335 KIA: 14Mar45  
Bowen QLD

COMPTON John Winzar  
QX36516 KIA: 14Mar45  
Winton QLD

COULTER Lionel Edward  
SX30415 KIA: 14Mar45  
Ceduna SA

McATEE Terence QX51799  
KIA: 14Mar45 Caboolture  
QLD

FERGUSON Victor McDonald  
VX113937 KIA: 15Mar45  
Swan Hill VIC

MURPHY Victor Raymond  
VX93483 KIA: 22Mar45  
Dandenong VIC

FITTLER Allen Roy Q109090  
KIA: 24Mar45 Clermont  
QLD

COLES George James  
QX60241 Illness: 30Mar45  
Charters Towers QLD

GRAHAM Andrew Matthew  
NX153002 KIA: 19May45  
Lismore NSW

HEADLAND Arthur Henry  
Neville WX22674 KIA:  
21May45 Hamilton Hill WA

COOKSEY Robert George  
NX143839 Wounds:  
25May45 Auburn NSW

LEWIS Victor Henry QX55804  
KIA: 26May45 Rockhampton  
QLD

BEATTIE Thomas QX60338  
Wounds: 27May45 Kingston  
QLD

SORENSEN Roy Colin  
QX53857 KIA: 29May45  
Kingaroy QLD

FRENCH Leslie Gordon  
NX155781 KIA: 5Jun45  
Rydalmere NSW

KENNEDY John Martin  
NX8709 KIA: 5Jun45  
Petersham NSW

SETTER Ernest Joseph  
QX44477 KIA: 5Jun45  
Longreach QLD

PEFF Leslie Lawrence Maitland  
QX36467 KIA: 6Jun45  
Blackall QLD

**Bonis-Porton: 7-11 June 1945**

MATTHEW William Donald  
DX861 KIA: 7Jun45  
Adelaide SA

NEELSEN Howarde Edwin  
QX45359 Wounds: 14Jun45  
Townsville QLD

LAIRD Hector Michael  
VX148500 KIA: 18Jun45  
Lethbridge VIC

GARDNER Eric Wilberforce  
V281113 Accident: 24Sep45  
Caulfield VIC

1946

TRAEGER Mervyn Colin  
Conrad SX39071 Accident:  
2Mar46 Edillilie SA

SAUNDERS Vivian Q30889  
Illness: 13Aug46 Born  
Torrens Creek QLD

FORSTER Thomas Murray  
Q31214 Illness: 10Dec46  
Born Townsville QLD

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**Further Information**

Australian War Memorial 26<sup>TH</sup> Battalion Web Page <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U56107>

The actions in which these Soldiers listed on the Roll in this document were lost are described in detail in the Official Histories that may be viewed on the Australian War Memorial Website as follows

Australia in the War of 1939-1945 <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1417305>

Please contact [Website@highgate-rsl.org.au](mailto:Website@highgate-rsl.org.au) to advise of errors or omissions, or to suggest improvements to this document