

CHAPTER 9

COMMEMORATION OF THOSE WHO DIED

9.1 This Chapter extends the Review to consider how those who died during post-Armistice service should be honoured.

9.2 There was a concern to establish a definitive list of those who died post-Armistice in service-related circumstances, to establish where they are buried, and to ensure that they are appropriately commemorated.

9.3 Many Korean veterans raised this issue in submissions and evidence. The issues of concern raised by veterans groups include:

- clarifying the number and names of Servicemen who died during the post-Armistice period;
- establishing how they died and where they are buried; and
- inclusion of those who died on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

9.4 Although not specifically mentioned in our Terms of Reference, the Working Party considered that the opportunity should be taken to clarify these issues. As the Co-Chairs said in the opening statement at each of the public hearings:

“We have been encouraged to interpret the Terms of Reference freely, to give effect to the wish of the Minister to be advised how those Australian servicemen and women who served in post-Armistice Korea should be recognised, and to this extent we shall be extending the Review to consider how those who died during this service should be honoured.”

[See Appendix 5 for the full text of the opening statement.]

9.5 The Working Party has established that 18 Australian Servicemen died on Korean service after the Armistice and are buried at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Pusan, South Korea; or at the British Commonwealth Forces Cemetery, Yokohama, Japan. During this service, two British Servicemen attached to Australian units also died. Annex 9A at the end of this Chapter lists the name, unit, rank, Service number and date of death of the Australian Servicemen. It also shows where they are buried, whether they are commemorated on the Roll of Honour at the AWM, and whether they are on the Korean Nominal Roll maintained by DVA. Two photographs of the relevant section of the Post-War Plot at the British Commonwealth Forces Cemetery, Yokohama, are included in Annex 9B at the end of this Chapter.

9.6 Only two of these Servicemen (Privates Wilson and Shepherd of 3 RAR) are currently commemorated on the AWM Roll of Honour. Private Wilson died on 30 July 1953 and Private Shepherd on 16 September 1953.

9.7 The other 16 Australian post-Armistice deaths occurred between January 1954 and November 1956. These Servicemen are not on the AWM Roll of Honour. The Working Party has carefully considered the case for including them on the Roll of Honour, and has concluded that this option is not feasible under current criteria.

The mission of the AWM is to commemorate the sacrifice of Australians who have died in war. The Roll of Honour is intended to be available only to those who meet the eligibility criteria established for the AWM, as set out on the AWM website:

“Background

“Just outside the Memorial's Hall of Memory, where the remains of the Unknown Soldier rest, there is a long series of bronze panels recording the names of Australia's war dead. This is known as the Roll of Honour.

...

“Eligibility for inclusion

“The Roll of Honour includes people who died:

- as a direct result of active service with Australian forces, or while on transfer, and
- within specified periods in a war or warlike operation in which Australians were involved.

“Others who died during these periods of conflict may be included in the Commemorative Roll.

...

“Specified Periods

“The official commencement and cut-off dates for inclusion in the Roll of Honour and the Commemorative Roll are as follows.

Conflict	Commencement of Hostilities	Cessation of Hostilities
Sudan	1885	1885
China	1900	1901
South Africa	11 October 1899	31 May 1902
First World War	4 August 1914	31 March 1921 (Disbandment of AIF)
Second World War	3 September 1939	30 June 1947 (Disbandment of AIF)
Korean War	27 June 1950	27 July 1953
Malayan Emergency	16 June 1948	31 July 1960
Indonesian Confrontation	24 December 1962	11 August 1966
Malay Peninsula	19 February 1964	11 August 1966
Vietnam War	3 August 1962	29 April 1975
Thailand	25 June 1965	31 August 1968
Somalia	20 October 1992	30 November 1994
East Timor	16 September 1999	18 August 2003
Afghanistan	11 October 2001	Ongoing

9.8 The eligibility criteria for the Commemorative Roll are as follows:

“Background

“The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour. It includes those Australians who died while members of Allied Forces, the Merchant Navy, philanthropic organisations attached to the forces, or as war correspondents or photographers.

...

“Eligibility for inclusion

“The following eligibility criteria apply to the inclusion of names on the Commemorative Roll:

- death was war-caused and suffered during continuous, full-time service
- the person was born in Australia or the last place of domicile was Australia
- the date range in which death occurred must be the same as that for the Roll of Honour.

“Those who died during these periods of conflict while serving in the Australian Armed Forces will be included in the Roll of Honour.”

9.9 The Working Party concluded that it would not be appropriate to recommend any further action regarding the inclusion of the names of those who died post-Armistice on the Roll of Honour at the AWM. Their service falls outside the period of the Korean War listed in the table of specified periods for this purpose. Given the Working Party’s conclusion in Chapter 5 that service in Korea between the Armistice and 19 April 1956 was non-warlike, and that service from 20 April 1956 was peacetime service, we are unable to propose any change in the eligibility criteria in relation to Korea.

Recommendation

9A. The Working Party recommends that it should be accepted that the inclusion on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial of the names of those who died in post-Armistice Korean service is not within the current criteria of the Australian War Memorial, and that it is not feasible to change these criteria.

9.10 In researching the names of the 18 who died post-Armistice, the Working Party also became aware of the names of 20 other Servicemen who died pre-Armistice and are buried at the British Commonwealth Forces Cemetery, Yokohama. Some of these Servicemen were assigned for and serving in Korea; some were in training in Japan; and some may have been serving in support of Korean operations. This list, which is also included in Annex 9A, does not include members of BCOF, or dependants who died and are buried in Japan.

9.11 The Working Party is mindful that 16 of the post-Armistice dead, and 11 of those who died pre-Armistice and are buried overseas, have no formal commemorative memorial in Australia. Although they are commemorated overseas, they currently have no collective recognition in Australia. The Working Party considers that they should have a joint commemorative memorial plaque at a location in Australia that is significant to their service. This would not only facilitate the celebration of their service to the nation, but would also be a place where surviving relatives, friends and the veteran community can pay their respects. For many who do not have the opportunity to travel overseas, there needs to be a focus in Australia for their grief and commemoration.

9.12 In addressing the question of a memorial plaque, the Working Party developed the view that it should contain the names of those who meet the following criteria:

- they were all members of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army or the Royal Australian Air Force;
- they died while serving in Korea or Japan;
- they are buried at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Pusan, South Korea or the British Commonwealth Forces Cemetery, Yokohama; and
- they have no formal commemoration in Australia.

9.13 The options considered by the Working Party included:

- commemoration in the Garden of Remembrance in the relevant Australian capital city; or
- a commemorative plaque in the AWM Sculpture Garden in Canberra.

9.14 We consider that the latter option would be more appropriate as a single national focal point for the commemoration of those who died in Korea or Japan and have no other commemoration in Australia.

9.15 The Working Party will also provide the results of its efforts in this area to DVA so that its Nominal Roll, and the records of the Office of Australian War Graves, can be updated.

9.16 For this report we have focussed on those with a Korean service connection, but there should be a Government position to recognise through a plaque those who died in Japan without having had a Korean service connection.

9.17 Australia has an unknown number of Australian Servicemen and women who have been buried or cremated at locations overseas. They are probably commemorated overseas but may not be recognised in Australia. The full list of these Service personnel is not available from the Office of Australian War Graves. An understanding of why these Servicemen and women were overseas at the time of their death may reveal whether there is a need for them to be commemorated within Australia as a national commitment. A Review may lead to correction of this anomaly. This could lead to an extension to recognise the need to commemorate all Australian Servicemen and women who have died and are buried or cremated overseas and are not commemorated in Australia. This would require further research beyond the scope of this Review.

Recommendations

- 9B. The Working Party recommends that:
- a. consideration should be given to a national plaque with the names of all Australian Servicemen who died in post-Armistice Korean service and are buried and commemorated overseas but not on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, to be established in the AWM Sculpture Garden in Canberra, with Commonwealth Government and veteran support;
 - b. the Department of Veterans' Affairs should update the Nominal Roll for the Korean War to record the deaths of those who died in post-Armistice service; and
 - c. further research should be undertaken with a view to identifying how to appropriately recognise in Australia those Servicemen and women who have been buried and commemorated overseas and are not currently recognised in Australia.

