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# Robinvale Memorial Gateway



Robin 3.jpg



Robin 4.jpg



Robin 5.jpg



Robin 6.jpg



Robin 7.jpg

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## Location

Caix Square, Villers Bretanneux Walk ROBINVALE, SWAN HILL RURAL CITY

## Municipality

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Property Number

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## Veterans Description for Public

The Robinvale Memorial Gateway, in Caix Square on the Villers Bretonneaux Walk, was opened by Madame Huguette Pillon on 5th May 1984. The gateway marks not only the First World War theatre of war but a friendship between Villers - Bretonneaux and Robinvale as sister towns, who were 'twinned' in 1984.

Robinvale is named in memory of Lieutenant George Robin Cuttle, who was killed in action during air combat over France in 1918. Cuttle was born in 1896, the second son of Hubert and Margaret Cuttle who had a general store (Cuttle's Malle Stores) at Ultima near Swan Hill. His father made him manager of a large property at Euston across the Murray River from what is now Robinvale in 1914 when he was just 18.

On the outbreak of the First World War, Cuttle, who was 203 centimetres and over 100 kilos, tried to enlist in the AIF but was rejected. Perhaps he was too big. But he was also very determined. He travelled to England and tried to enlist in the Royal Flying Corps, but was again rejected as too heavy and tall for the flying machines. Instead he joined the Royal Field Artillery in July 1916 and served on the Somme, where he was awarded the Military Cross.

In late 1917, conditions for entry to the RFC had changed, and Robin joined as an observer. He was flying with 49 Squadron, flying DH9 bombers. Returning from a mission on 9 May 1918, the aircraft was shot down. The bodies were never found and Cuttle is remembered on the Arras Flying Memorial and the Ultima War Memorial.

After the war, in 1923, Robin's parents and brother Robert went to France to search for him. At Caix, 10 kilometres from Villers-Bretonneux, they found evidence of the wreck.

In 1924, the Cuttles were planning to develop the land they had acquired on the bend in the Murray once the railway reached there. The story goes that at the opening of the land sale at the new station, Robin's mother embroidered a piece of hessian with flowers and the words Robin Vale - (Farewell Robin) and so it came about. Another story is that the post office originally known as Bumbang was renamed Robinvale for the same reason. The Cuttles built a new home named Robinswood there.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*