
Bruce Steel Kingsbury Memorial



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Location

Dandenong Ranges National Park FERNTREE GULLY, KNOX CITY

Municipality

KNOX CITY

Level of significance

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Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 155410

Property Number

Veterans Description for Public

The Bruce Steel Kingsbury Memorial commemorates the life of Kingsbury, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his heroic actions against the Japanese on the Kokoda track, at the Battle of Isurava in March 1942. The memorial plaque rests on the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk in the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Kingsbury was part of the 2nd/14th Battalion which was significantly outnumbered by Japanese forces who were attacking the battalion's positions. On March 29th, the Japanese threatened to take the Australians' headquarters when Kingsbury launched an attack shooting a Bren gun and single-handedly killing thirty Japanese soldiers. As Kingsbury continued to inflict fire on the Japanese, allowing the Australians to move forward, he was shot by a single Japanese sniper. He died as he was carried to the Aid site.

Kingsbury's actions are considered a turning point in the Battle of Isurava which meant the Australians were able to secure the defence of their Headquarters and halt the Japanese destruction of the battalion. He was awarded the Victoria Cross on February 9th 1943, which his family received on his behalf. It was the first Victoria Cross to be awarded to a soldier in the Pacific and the first awarded on Australian Territory.

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/>