

Wangaratta High School Memorial Gates



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Wangar 15.jpg



Wangar 16.jpg

Location

Edwards Street WANGARATTA, WANGARATTA RURAL CITY

Municipality

WANGARATTA RURAL CITY

Level of significance

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Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 156733

Property Number

Veterans Description for Public

The Wangaratta High School Memorial Gates, on Edwards Street, are dedicated to the memory of former

students who fell in the First World War, Second World War and Vietnam. Of the Wangaratta High School students who fell in the Second World War, none were in the 2/24th. The battalion's flag, however, the original of which was with troops at Tobruk, is used during the school's Anzac Day ceremony.

Eleven of the fourteen students remembered on the memorial were members of the RAAF, sometimes attached to RAF units. They lost their lives all over the world. Flying Officer William Emery lost his life serving with 460 Squadron RAAF over Belgium on 15 June 1943. He is buried at Heverlee War Cemetery, near Leuven, Belgium.

Sergeant Edgar Davy Francis died accidentally while on 6 (Pilots) Advanced Flying course. He is buried at St Peters Cemetery, Little Rissington, in England. His brother, Flying Officer Alan Henry Francis, 460 Squadron, was killed when his Lancaster aircraft was shot down near Bochum in Germany on 18 November 1944. All seven crew, six of whom were Australians, were killed. Francis was the navigator. Francis is buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Germany.

Flying Officer Donald Stephen Lade was killed on 12 September 1944 flying Lancaster with 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron RAF. He is also buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

Sergeant Geoffrey Douglas Mummery joined the AIF as a signaller in 1942, but transferred to the RAAF. He was wireless operator on a 61 Squadron RAF Lancaster shot down over Hamburg on 7 March 1945. He is buried in the Becklingen War Cemetery 85 kilometres north of Hanover. The cemetery overlooks Luneburg Heath, where Field-Marshal Bernard Montgomery accepted the German surrender from Admiral Karl Doenitz on 4 May 1945.

Flight Sergeant Edmond William O'Dwyer was killed in an accident with 20 Operational Training school on 22 July 1944 in Scotland. He is buried in the Lossiemouth Regional Cemetery, Scotland.

Sergeant Neil Wedgwood Reid, aged 19, was killed in an accident with 20 Service Flying Training course in the Middle East on 5 September 1944. He is buried in the Alexandria (Chatby) War Cemetery.

Flying Officer Alan Robert Webster was killed in action on 11 August 1944 flying Beaufighters with 30 Squadron RAAF.

Private Bernd George Fritz Binder 9RAR was accidently killed on 27 October 1969 and is buried in the Wangaratta Cemetery.

Sapper Terrence James Renshaw 1 Field Squadron was accidently killed on 30 May 1967 and is buried in the Wangaratta Cemetery.

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/>