Michaelis Hallenstein Memorial

Michaelis Hallenstein
Memorial.jpg

Location

Dynon Road MARIBYRNONG, MARIBYRNONG CITY

Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

Level of significance

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Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number   162166

Property Number

Veterans Description for Public

The Michaelis Hallenstein Memorial, on Dynon Road, was unveiled in 1920 in honour of the employees of Michaelis Hallenstein Co. Pty Ltd, who died serving in the First World War. The memorial is a simple upright, granite pillar with the names of those employees listed.

Michaelis Hallenstein Co. Pty Ltd was a tannery, glue and gelatine business with branches around Australasia and an office in London. It commenced operations in 1864 in Footscray when Isaac Hallenstein joined with his uncle Moritz Michaelis. The families lived in St Kilda mansions, including Linden and Woonsocket. Michaelis, who died in 1902, had seven daughters and four sons. Four of his grandsons served in the Australian or British forces, and three were killed.

Lieutenant Dalbert Isaac Hallenstein was a 21 -year -old accountant with the family firm. He served in the 64th City of Melbourne Regiment from 1911 and enlisted on 16 January 1915. He saw action at Gallipoli, was wounded in 1917 and was killed instantaneously when hit by a fragment of a high explosive shell on 2 September 1918 while going forward in the attack on Peronne. He was serving with the 5th Machine Gun Battalion, and was buried at Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension.

Lieutenant Hallenstein's cousin, Grant Moritz Michaelis was a lieutenant with the Royal Engineers and was 20 when he was killed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli. He is buried in the 7th Field Ambulance Cemetery. Grant's brother Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was 24, a manager at the family tannery and married to Kathleen when he enlisted in the 6th Field Artillery Brigade on 23 August 1916. He had served in the 11th Light Horse in the citizen military forces from 1912. His wife wrote on the Roll of Honour register that he had been the youngest to enter Harrow School in England and that the headmaster had reported, "His last year has been a great success. He has triumphed over difficulties and shown both tact and strength...he has shewn himself loyal, true-hearted and modest."

Frank sailed from Melbourne on 23 December 1916 and became dangerously ill before he had a chance to get to France. He died of meningitis at Tidworth Military Hospital and was buried at the Willesden Jewish Cemetery.

The fourth grandson, (Sir) Archie Reuben Michaelis (1889-1975) was working in the London office at the outbreak of the war. He served with the Honourable Artillery Company in the Middle East and trained for the Royal Flying Corps in 1917, but he became seriously ill with malaria and influenza and was repatriated in 1919. Sir Archie was later a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Victoria for the United Australia Party and later the Liberal Party for St Kilda from 1932 to 1952. He was Speaker of the House from 1950 to 1952.

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/