



## **Australian Imperial Force Private Headstones - Not Permitted**

The following transcribed letters reflect the Commonwealth War Graves Commission decision and practice to not permit families of servicemen lost during WWI to raise private headstones to their loved ones. As described they would be allowed a short inscription to be added to the Portland Stone Headstones that the Commission were to erect in their cemeteries around the world.

### **Letter 1.**

Dear Madam

Forwarded herewith is a photograph and description of the locality of the grave of the late No. 2353 Private A. Moore, 42nd Battalion.

A special branch of the Adjutant-General's Department of the British Army has been created for the purpose of suitably caring for these last resting places, and while it is not possible to arrange for the distribution of flowers, plants, or wreaths for individual graves, where the military conditions allow, cemeteries are being planted with flowers and shrubs, and carefully tended.

The erection of permanent memorials is not at present permitted, and application for such should be deferred until the conclusion of the hostilities, when any requests of this nature should be made to The Director of Graves Registrations and Enquiries, War Office, Winchester House, St. James Square, London, England

Yours faithfully  
Major, Officer I/C Base Records

**Letter from 1918 found in Service Record file for Pte A. Moore, 2353, 42nd Battalion, A.I.F.. Buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire**

### **Letter 2.**

Officer I/C Base Records  
Department of Defence  
Melbourne

A communication has been received from Mr. Robert McKellar, Meereek, Apsley, Victoria, requesting information regarding the erection of private memorials.

The Imperial War Graves Commission has decided to adopt a uniform headstone for all Australian graves and consequently private memorials such as desired are not allowed.

Relatives may have inscribed on the Headstone any text or line of sentimental interest provided such inscriptions do not exceed 66 letters. The approximate cost will be 3½ d per letter.

Applications regarding the inscriptions should be addressed to Secretary, Imperial War Graves Commission, Winchester House, St. James's Sq., London, S.W.

May Mr. McKellar be advised accordingly please.

**Letter from 1919 found in Service Record file for Pte William Charles Gordon Meiklejohn McKellar, 4581, 29th Battalion, A.I.F.. Buried in St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire**