

# EQUAL IN THEIR SACRIFICE

## Cornerstone of the Commission's philosophy

**20 Nov 1917 Commonwealth War Graves Commission first meeting:  
'no distinction should be made between officers and men.'**

**General Macready**

**1918 'what was done for one should be done for all... equal treatment in their graves.'**

**Sir Fredric Kenyon**

...The graves will, wherever possible, face towards the east, and at the eastern end of the cemetery will be a great altar stone...bearing some brief and appropriate phrase... At some prominent spot will rise the Cross, as a symbol of the Christian faith and of the self sacrifice of the men who now lie beneath its shadow.

**Lieutenant Colonel Sir Frederic Kenyon's report to the Commission 1918**

Each grave would include the soldier's name, rank, age, date of death, national emblem, unit and the number by which he has been canonised in the Roll of Honour.

Religious symbol and a personal message from the families were sometimes included.

Suda Bay, Crete. The Cross of Sacrifice is found in every Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery. It was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

### **What of the Missing?**

The only inscription on these headstones is 'A Soldier of the Great War'. These were casualties who were not able to be identified. However, their names are recorded on one of the Commission's memorials to the dead.

**Does it make any difference to you that there are no symbols?**

**How does it make you feel seeing the symbol of a fern, a maple leaf, or a springbok?**

THEY ARE NOT MISSING  
-THEY ARE HERE