



Visit to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Korea in Sept 2016

The United Nations Memorial Cemetery is located in the City of Busan, Republic of Korea. It is a burial ground for United Nations Command casualties of the Korean War. It is the only United Nations cemetery in the world and contains 2,300 graves of the fallen soldiers. Laid out over 14 hectares, the graves are set out in 22 sites designated by the nationalities of the buried service members. The Korean War claimed 34 New Zealand and 281 Australian soldiers.

In September 2016, David Bolam-Smith, who is a member of the RSA and of the Christchurch-Sonpa Gu Sister City Committee, visited South Korea and the city of Busan. As part of that visit he organised a visit to the cemetery as an ex-soldier in the NZ Army, to place an Anzac Poppy on the New Zealand Memorial and to pray for the fallen soldiers and world peace. Mr Bolam-Smith said, "The warmth of the Korean people's welcome and their gratitude to the New Zealand soldiers for their sacrifice was overwhelming."

These words are inscribed on the Wall of Remembrance at the Memorial Garden Cemetery:

'We engrave your names in our hearts with love. We inscribe your names in our land with appreciation'