

**Willesden Jewish Cemetery,
Willesden, Brent, London
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



31586 SERJEANT

F. M. MICHAELIS

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

14TH MAY, 1917 Age 24

He Gave His Life

For His Country

Deeply Loved And Mourned

Frank Moritz MICHAELIS

Frank Moritz Michaelis was born at St. Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria on 22nd June, 1892 to parents Frederick David and Esther Zillah Michaelis (nee Phillips).

Frank Moritz Michaelis attended Wesley College, Melbourne & Harrow School, England. According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Frank was the “*youngest boy to enter Harrow School, Eng, of which he became head of the Headmaster’s House, the last report from the Headmaster containing the following words:- “His last year has been a great success. He has triumphed over difficulties and show both tact and strength. It is difficult to estimate what the house owes to him. He has shown himself loyal true-hearted and modest.”*

The 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Balaclava, subdivision of St. Kilda West, Victoria listed Frank Moritz Michaelis, Tanner, Orwell, Robe Street, St. Kilda.

Frank Moritz Michaelis was a 24 year old, single, Farmer (According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Frank was a Manager of the family Tannery at Footscray & was also an Accountant) from 19 Robe Street, St. Kilda, Victoria when he enlisted on 23rd August, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 31586 & his religion was Jewish. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs K. L. Michaelis, c/o- F. D. Michaelis, 382 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria. Frank Michaelis stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served as a volunteer with the 11th Light Horse for 10 months in 1912.

Frank Moritz Michaelis was posted to Field Artillery at Maribyrnong from 6th September, 1916 for recruit training.

Frank Moritz Michaelis was appointed Acting Corporal on 28th November, 1916 with 12th Reinforcements of 6th Field Artillery Brigade.

Frank Moritz Michaelis attended a Class of Instruction for N.C. Officers and passed a qualifying examination for the rank of Sergeant – dated 12th December, 1916.

Frank Moritz Michaelis married Kathleen Louise Hart on 12th December, 1916 in Victoria.

Newspaper Notice – *The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 December, 1916:

MICHAELIS – HART – On the 12th December, at *Orwell*, Robe street, St. Kilda, by the Rev. T. D. Danglow, M.A., Sgt. Frank M. Michaelis, younger son of Mr and Mrs F. D. Michaelis, to Kathleen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Hart, 9 Greenknowe avenue, Pott’s Point, Sydney.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

1 22521

Orwell, Robe Street, St. Kilda

(Photo taken 1945 - used as a Convalescent Home for Royal Australian Navy)

Gunner Frank Moritz Michaelis embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Orontes* on 23rd December, 1916 with the 6th Field Artillery Brigade, 12th Reinforcements. He was appointed Acting Sergeant for Voyage only & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17th February, 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0702

A group of seven sergeants waiting to board on the troopship RMS Orontes. Identified back row right: 31661 Wheeler Sergeant (W/Sgt) William Richardson.

*All others are Master Gunners as denoted by their cloth gun badges on their right sleeves. Front row second left has a metal gun badge. Known to be amongst the group but exact positions unknown are: 31436 Sgt Keith A'Beckett Klingender, of Toorak, Vic, of 9th Reinforcements of 14th Field Artillery Brigade; 31586 **Sgt Frank Moritz Michaelis, farmer of St Kilda, Vic of 12th Reinforcements of 6th Field Artillery Brigade.**; 31361 Sgt Arthur Ernest McKean, clerk of Albert Park, Vic, of 12th Reinforcements of 4th Field Artillery Brigade (possibly centre front).*

Acting Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was marched in to No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse from Australia on 18th February, 1917.

Acting Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was sent sick to Devon Military Hospital on 17th February, 1917 from Camp 3, Parkhouse with Mumps. (Dates as per Casualty Form – Active Service). He was discharged from Hospital to Perham Downs on 28th February, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Acting Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot on 1st March, 1917 & marched out to Parkhouse on 3rd March, 1917.

Acting Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was marched out from No. 3 Camp at Parkhouse on 26th March, 1917 & marched in the R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 28th March, 1917.

Acting Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was on command at Course of Instruction at Tidworth on 7th May, 1917.

Acting Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 10th May, 1917 – seriously ill with Pneumonia.

Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis died at 4.50 pm on 14th May, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Acute Meningitis.

A death for Frank M. Michaelis, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire, England.

Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was buried on 17th May, 1917 in Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, Brent, London, England – Plot number Jewish Block. J. Row F. No. 27 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of A/Sgt. Frank Moritz Michaelis - *Coffin was good, Elm. The deceased N.C.O. was buried with Military Honours. Firing Part comprising members attached to the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F., London, and also a party of mourners (deceased's comrades) from the R.B.A.A. Unit stationed at Tidworth under the command of Lieut. Taylor were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag & covered with several lovely floral tributes. Prior to the interment a Service was held in the Jewish Hall at the Cemetery. Relatives present at the funeral were Mr & Mrs F. A. Michaelis (Uncle & Aunt) of Ritz Hotel, London and several friends. Memorial to be erected by relatives.*

Newspaper item - Jewish Herald, Victoria – 27 July, 1917:

Obsequies of the Late Sergt. Frank Michaelis

The late Sergeant Frank Michaelis, who died from Meningitis at the Delhi Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, was buried with full military honours in the Cemetery at Willesden, London, on 17th May. Twenty-five of the deceased soldier's most devoted comrades accompanied the cortege to London, where Australian Headquarters had arranged for a firing party and buglers to participate in the solemn obsequies at Willesden, at which many of the relatives and friends of the late lamented Sergt. Michaelis were present.

The Rev. Ephraim Levine, M.A., Minister of the New West End Synagogue, who officiated at the funeral, delivered the following oration at the graveside:-

"We are met here to-day to consign to their last resting place upon earth, the remains of Frank Michaelis. The occasion is one of extreme sadness. There is always a touch of pathos when we are face to face with death. These are the thoughts of the life that is ended, of those who remain behind, and there is the cleavage between the life upon earth and the passing to the realms beyond. Even at a time like this, when death meets us at every turn, and the grim spectre confronts us from day to day, our very familiarity with it does not rob it of its solemnity. The soldier who falls on the field of battle, giving his life in defence of a righteous cause, evokes our admiration and our sorrow. He departs amid a halo of glory. How sad it is to speak of one who was ready to make the great sacrifice, but whom it has pleased God to take ere he had time to mingle with the clash of arms.

"Frank Michaelis was no ordinary youth. In his early boyhood he came to England, the land that was always so dear to him, and here he received his education. At Harrow, that great public school, so many of whose brave sons have fallen fighting England's battle, he attained distinction and popularity among masters and boys alike. Wherever he went his presence radiated brightness and charm, and he returned to Australia, leaving behind him hosts of friends, to whom the sad intelligence of his untimely death will come at a terrible shock.

"Out there, bearing the honoured name of Michaelis, he carried on the traditions of his family. In his keeping the honour, the charity and the commercial integrity for which they are renowned were indeed safe. The call of duty found him ready. Leaving home and parents, and a young wife, after a brief spell of married happiness, he hurried to England with his comrades. Fate decreed that, his life should end here, and with genuine sorrow we now bid him a tearful farewell.

"The hand of death has lain heavily on dear England, and in thousands of homes, both here and in the antipodes, and the furthest outposts of the Empire, the voice of lamentation is heard. When will it all end? The future, God alone will decide; we can only bow in submission before the will of a mind superior to our own. Frank Michaelis was esteemed and beloved by the officers and men of his regiment. They are here to-day to testify to that love and admiration for his character. Yet in this moment of our grief there is joy to think that both in his life and in his death he presented the finest type of a loyal Jew and an English gentleman.

"May God take his soul into his keeping, and may the Divine Comfort assuage the grief of those, who mourn the loss of the gifted youth whose life promised so much, but whose death, alas, has come so early. -Amen."

Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sgt. Michaelis widow - Mrs C. L. Brendon (remarried), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent November, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis – service number 31586, aged 24, of 6th A.F.A. Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Frederick David and Esther Zillah Michaelis; husband of Kathleen L. Michaelis, of 382 Lonsdale St., Melbourne. Born at St. Kilda, Victoria, Australia.

Sergeant F. M. Michaelis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 14.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. M. Michaelis is remembered on the Wesley Collegians Roll of Honour, located in Wesley College Memorial Chapel, Prahran, Wesley College, Melbourne, Victoria. The Frank Michaelis Prize at Wesley was named in his honour.





Roll of Honour in Wesley College Memorial Chapel, Prahran (Photos from Monument Australia)



Frank Moritz Michaelis is remembered on the Melbourne Cricket Club Roll of Honour 1914-1918.



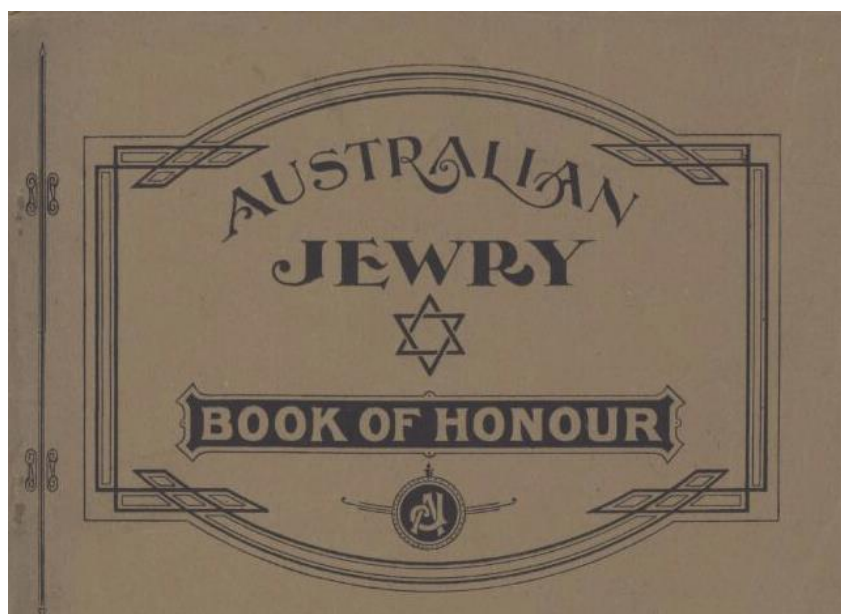
MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

F. Michaelis is remembered on the Employees of Michaelis, Hallenstein Co. Pty Ltd War Memorial, located at Hopkins Street, Footscray, Melbourne, Victoria.



Employees of Michaelis, Hallenstein Co. Pty Ltd War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

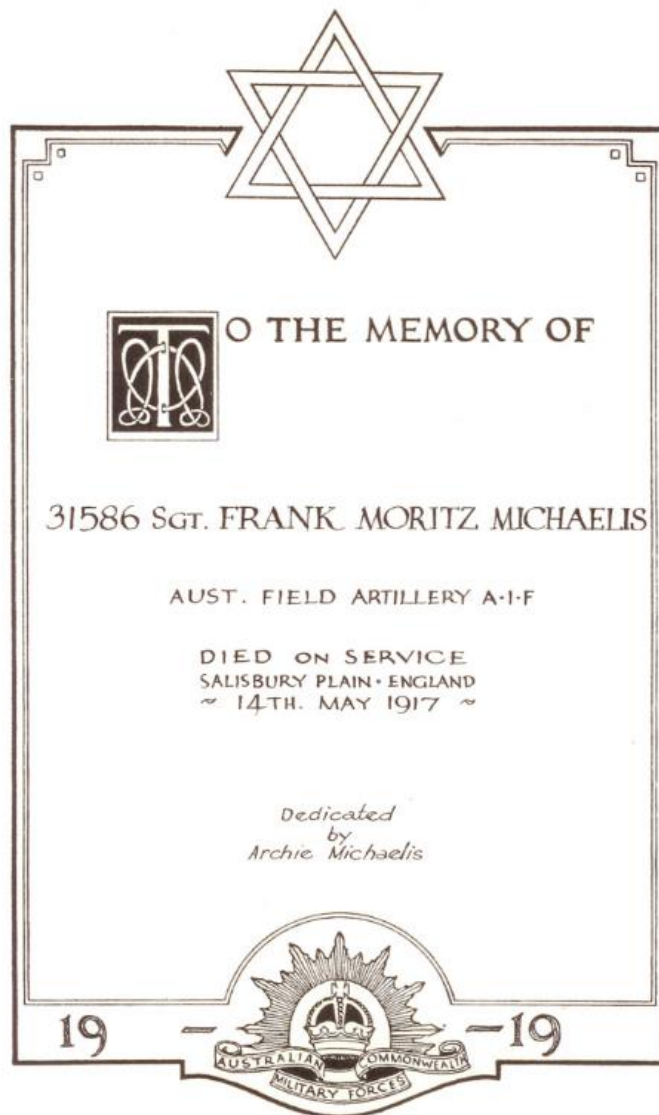
Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis is remembered in the Australian Jewry Book of Honour – The Great War, 1914-1918 compiled by Harold Boas.





MICHAELIS, Frank Moritz, A/
Sergt., 6th Army Field A'ery.

Australian Jewry Book of Honour – The Great War, 1914-1918

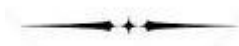


(38 pages of Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Sergeant Frank Moritz Michaelis



Newspaper Notices

DEATH OF BOMBARDIER FRANK M. MICHAELIS

FOR DUTY'S CAUSE

It is with profound sorrow that we learn the fatal news, communicated to us by the Rev. J. Danglow, of the death from sickness of Bombardier Frank M. Michaelis, the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Michaelis, of St. Kilda. The whole community will mourn in sincere sympathy with the respected family, distinguished for its services to Judaism and its philanthropic generosity, in the grievous affliction that has befallen it. Two of its young scions, blessed with the happiest prospects of a prosperous and beneficent life, have been offered up on the altar of duty and patriotism — Grant Michaelis on the field of battle, and now his cousin laid low in hospital while preparing to fight for his King and country.

It is but a very few months since Frank Michaelis joined the Artillery of the Australian Imperial Forces and left for the front, having previous to his departure wedded a fair and gracious bride. He carried with him the best wishes of all, for his beautiful character made him beloved by all ; but, unfortunately, even while on board ship, his health became affected, and when he arrived in England he was obliged to seek medical advice. What seemed at first a slight attack of pneumonia developed into a more serious malady, and the end came, as stated in a cable message from his uncle, on Monday last. We are told that "man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward," and there are few to whom the truth of this does not come home in these bitter times. It is only perfect faith in the mercy and wisdom of Providence that can sustain our spirit, and that trustful resignation to the Divine Will enjoined by our religion which teaches us to meet our keenest sorrows with the words, "Blessed be the Righteous Judge."

Frank Michaelis will always be remembered in this community as a young man who gave every promise of becoming one of its staunchest supports. He followed the example of his parents and the other members of his family in devotion to Judaism and the interests of his brethren in faith. In particular he took a deep interest in the Jewish Young People's Association, and, as its president, worked with energy and intelligence for its advancement and success. His death will be felt deeply by the institution, for which he had laboured so well and so faithfully.

It is only consolation from on high that can assuage the grief of the sore-stricken parents, the brother and sisters, and the young widowed wife. Yet the thought that it was the inspiration of a loyal and sacred duty that fired the heart and mind of their loved one to encounter the dangers which led to the supreme sacrifice cannot fail to spiritualise his memory and to pour a hallowed balm upon their wounds. They may be assured that his soul rests in peace together with the souls of the many brave, noble, and patriotic men who have shed honour upon humanity.

(Jewish Herald, Victoria – 18 May, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

"The Unreturning Brave" – Byron



By the death of Sergeant Frank M. Michaelis, at Salisbury Plains, England, Footscray is the poorer by one of its most popular employers of labor. He was the second son of Mr and Mrs F. D. Michaelis of Robe street, St. Kilda, and up to the time of his enlistment had for 5 years been learning the business at the Tannery. He was only 24 years of age

and was educated at Wesley College and afterwards at Harrow, England. He was beloved by all who knew him, and the employees of the tannery, amongst whom he worked just as one of themselves, held him in high esteem. When the news of his death was received on Wednesday Messrs. Michaelis, Hallenstein & Co. closed the works for the day. Before leaving, however, the whole of the employes met together under the flag in the Tannery gardens and after tributes to the worth of the deceased soldier had been paid by several speakers a motion of sympathy was passed to be forwarded to the widow, parents and family. Mr and Mrs Michaelis have only one other son, Lieut. Archie Michaelis, and he has been on active service since the day after the outbreak of war. Another director, Mr Ed. Michaelis, lost his eldest son at Gallipoli. It will be remembered that Sgt. Frank Michaelis was "sent off" at a pleasant function at the Barkly Theatre some 10 months ago.

(Advertiser, Footscray, Victoria – 19 May, 1917)

AN APPRECIATION

As one who was closely associated with the late Sergeant Frank M. Michaelis, ex-president of the Jewish Young People's Association, in the inner workings of the Association, I feel that his loss can scarcely be fully realised. His noble bearing, his truthfulness and sincerity, his good influence, his modest character, his generous manliness, his kindly love and sympathy for our people made him beloved by all with whom he came in contact. At the general meetings, his impromptu speeches were always looked forward to with relish. His natural and spontaneous fund of humour was inexhaustible. He had a style quite his own. I-le could also be serious when the occasion so demanded, and we greatly valued his counsel, which at all times was just, clear-headed and impartial ; but he ever seemed ready to see and relate the brightest and most humourous side of any subject, no matter what it was.

He had the interests of the Association ever at heart. Nothing, however great or small was allowed to pass without his giving the matter his full time and attention. As an example of his noble and beautiful nature, let me just ___ one of the many good actions be, in his ___ life accomplished. At a general meeting of the Association, it was resolved to send New Year's gifts to our members at the Front. It was suggested to send them "en bloc" to Chaplain D. I. Freedman ; otherwise, to obtain the accurate address of each member meant a great amount of time and labour. Nothing daunted, our late president wrote personally to the relatives of each member, and thus we were able to despatch gifts separately to every member, whose very grateful acknowledgments of same have been received. He also insisted in defraying the cost of sending these individual parcels, as his present to the boys for whom he had the greatest admiration. This is only a typical instance of the very many good deeds his kindly nature did perform. His purse was ever ready to assist the needy and the cause of our suffering people.

We shall miss him much ; but, as was said recently of another of our brave heroes who gave his life in the cause of liberty, so truly can it be said of him—"Being made perfect in a short time, he fulfilled a long time."

It would be a fitting act of grace if the J.Y.P.A. would found some prize, which could be competed for annually by its members, and called the "Frank Michaelis Prize," in order to perpetuate the memory of one who strove so sincerely and whole-heartedly for the welfare of our young Jewish people. F.R.

(Jewish Herald, Victoria – 1 June, 1917)

THE LATE SERGT. FRANK MICHAELIS

TOUCHING PULPIT REFERENCE

From the pulpit of the St. Kilda Synagogue last Sabbath week the Rev. J. Danglow, M.A. spoke as follows of the death of Sergt. Frank Michaelis:-

Although unwilling to break a single ray in that sunshine which should always illumine the truly Jewish Sabbath, I cannot refrain from referring this morning to the very sad and irreparable loss which has just been sustained, not only by this congregation, but by the community generally, through the early death of one of our best and bravest—Sergt. Frank Michaelis, the second son of the esteemed treasurer of this congregation, and a grandson of its principal



THE LATE SERGT. FRANK MICHAELIS.

founder, the late Mr. Moritz Michaelis.

Possessed of a personality which was both beautiful and strong, our late lamented brother—so firm in his integrity, so sweet in his disposition, so sound in his judgment, so modest and unassuming always in his demeanour—won for himself an extraordinary popularity among all who had the privilege to know him.

All his life he was a source of increasing joy to his devoted parents and dear ones, and a credit to his faith and people. Whilst a scholar at Harrow, England's famous Public School, he won for himself the proud position of Head of his House, and the second highest place in the whole school—a rare honour indeed, especially for a Jew, to achieve.

Returning to Australia, he closely identified himself with our communal life, and at the time of his enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force he was president of our Jewish Young People's Association, in the activities of which he consistently evinced the keenest interest.

Our departed brother was undoubtedly one of the most promising of our young men. We had come to regard him as one of the future pillars of our community. Alas ! that his place shall know him no more.

We are painfully sensible of our great loss. Let us, however, take comfort in the thought of what we have also gained. By his ready response to the call of King and Country, and by his cheerful self-sacrifice upon the altar of the highest patriotism, he has bequeathed to ___ and to all later generations a glorious example of civic virtue, a glowing ideal of heroic loyalty and devotion to duty which shall stand for ever.

Although he was not spared to take his place upon the battlefield, he did his duty none the less, and the name of Frank Michaelis, equally with the names of those of our other fallen gallant sons across the seas, shall stand for ever inscribed upon the imperishable roll of Australia's greatest heroes and Israel's noblest sons.

We tender our most heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved parents and family, and the sorrowing young widow, and fervently ___ that the Almighty may grant them His Heavenly comfort and strength wherewith to bear their great grief with fortitude. As for our late dear brother, we pray that God may rest his dear soul in peace.

(Jewish Herald, Victoria – 1 June, 1917)

THE 304th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

A-Sgt. F. M. Michaelis, Melbourne

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 2 June, 1917)

Wills and Estates

Frank Moritz Michaelis, formerly of Footscray, merchant, left personal estate valued at £4269 to his widow and children.

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

OF

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH SOLDIERS

WHO HAVE DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR KING AND COUNTRY

.....

MICHAELIS, Sergeant Frank

.....

(*Jewish Herald*, Victoria – 4 October, 1918)

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL SCROLL TO LATE SERGEANT FRANK M. MICHAELIS

On Tuesday, the 22nd October, a very impressive ceremony was held at the Footscray tannery, when nearly 300 of the staff, foremen, and employees of the different departments of Messrs. Michaelis, Hallenstein and Co.'s factories, met to pay tribute to the memory of their late comrade and co-worker, " Mr. Frank."

The weather was propitious, and the men congregated in the yard behind the main office, on the wall of which the tablet had been erected. Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Michaelis, the parents of the deceased soldier, and Mrs. Cohen, his sister, were present, as also Messrs. Reuben, Edward, and Donald Hallenstein.

The proceedings commenced with introductory remarks by Mr. G. Harrison Russell, who thanked God for the memory of Mr. Frank's life, and for the self-sacrificing spirit and sincere regard for all which he displayed. Those who had worked with him had realised his true nobility of character and his many outstanding good qualities, and they felt that they were the poorer for his passing.

Mr. Louis Benjamin followed with a few appropriate words, and proceeded to unveil the copper scroll, which is enclosed in a plain kauri frame, the whole being covered with glass. The entablature, with repousse medallion encircled by a wreath of laurel leaves, with raised copper architraves, bore a bust representation of the deceased in the uniform of the A.I.F., with the following inscription:

Dulce et Decorum est pro Patria Mori.

In Affectionate Memory of Sergeant Frank M. Michaelis, A.I.F.,

Who gave his life for King and Country,

14th May, 1917.

"To know him was to love him."

Erected by his fellow-workers.

Messrs. Wm. Pickett, Charles Johnstone, S. Furneaux, Albert Kaye, George Crocker and Ernest Hopkins also spoke, each touching upon the excellent qualities of the deceased soldier.

Mr. F. D. Michaelis, managing director of the firm, and father of the late Mr. Frank, feelingly replied, and expressed his keen appreciation of all that had been said about his dear son.

(*Independent*, Footscray, Victoria – 9 November, 1918)

Similar but longer versions were printed in:

(*Advertiser*, Footscray, Victoria – 9 November, 1918) & (*Jewish Herald*, Victoria – 15 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MICHAELIS – A tribute to the memory of Sergeant Frank. M. Michaelis, who died in England, on May 14, 1917, while on active service. (Inserted by Arthur Benjamin).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 May, 1919)

Sergeant Frank Michaelis is remembered on the family headstone in St. Kilda Cemetery, Melbourne, Victoria.





Family Headstone in St. Kilda Cemetery, Melbourne

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Serjeant F. M. Michaelis does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Gave His Life For His Country

Deeply Loved And Mourned

Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, Brent, London, England

Willesden Jewish Cemetery contains burials of both wars. Of the 33 First World War graves, six form a small plot by the assembly hall and 22 of the 78 Second World War burials form a separate plot. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. In place of the more usual Cross of Sacrifice, a specially designed memorial to men and women of the Jewish faith who lost their lives in both wars stands opposite the Second World War plot. The memorial is in the form of an obelisk and was the first Jewish national war memorial to be erected in the United Kingdom. *(Information from CWGC)*



Willesden Jewish Cemetery & below 3 Australian Headstones from left *(Photos by julia&keld)*



Photo of Serjeant F. M. Michaelis' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, Brent, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)