

DONALD V. BLACK

12/2/1944 Dear Mr Morton. Should it meet with your Council's approval the Staff of the Gardens desire that permission be given them to dedicate a tree to their late fellow employee, Donald V. Black. They will, I am sure, gladly bear the cost of a simple bronze name plate as a tribute from them to his memory. The tree suggested is already in position and growing and is in every way a suitable tree symbolic of his young life. It is further suggested that a simple Dedication Service be held on a suitable Sunday afternoon terminating with the sounding of the Last Post. The wording of the tablet is my own and of course is subject to any alteration you may think fitting. Yours sincerely, Tom Toop.

16/3/44. Letter from Ernest Low (Chaplain) Military Camp 107 Convalescent Depot Ballarat.

To Colonel Morton, Town Clerk, Ballarat.

Re, Memorial Tree and Tablet Dedication.

Dear Sir.

With Captain Gilbert I visited the Gardens this morning and with Mr Lindsay, the Curator, discussed the Ceremony of Dedication next Sunday. I enclose a copy of :-

1. The suggested plan of Service.
2. The suggested positions each unit will be asked to occupy.

If you require a bugler please let me know.

The plan of positions is not drawn to scale and the band may seem remote. This is not so and I think you will find the suggested positions satisfactory

A Director of Ceremonies to guide the specially interested personnel and their respective positions would help. Shall I attend to this?

Yours sincerely.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE MARCH 19<sup>th</sup> 1944 3.00 p.m. Ballarat Gardens.

Assemble

God save the King



Hymn - 4 verses "O God our Help."

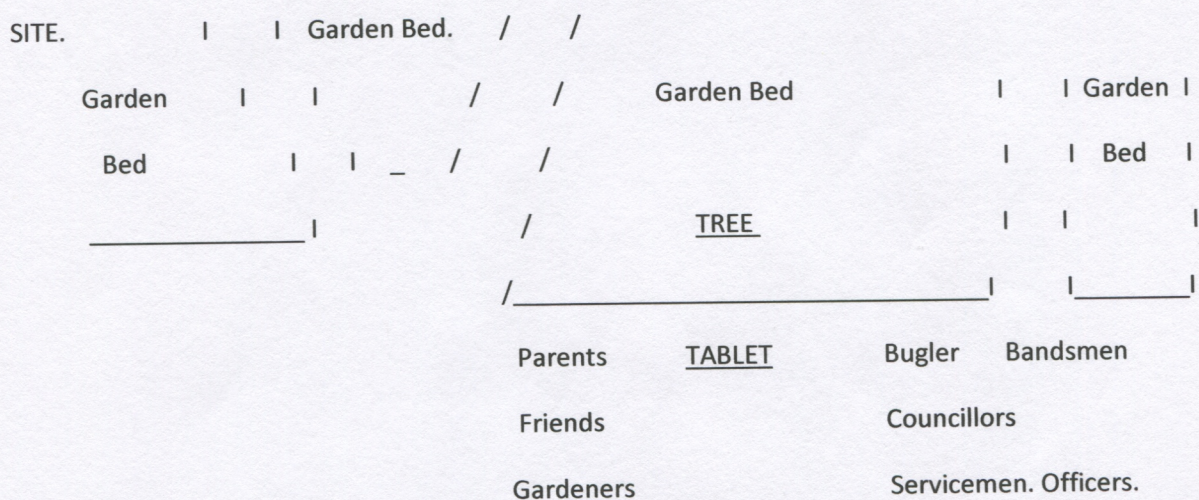
Address by Chaplain E.S.Yeo.

Unveiling of Tablet by His Worship the Mayor and any words of address he may desire to say.

Dedication of Tree and Tablet by the Chaplain (includes one minute's silence)

Bugler to sound the Last Post and Reveille.

Band music.



TABLET

"This tree is dedicated to the honor and memory of Donald V. Black of the Staff of these Gardens.  
Private 2/43 Battalion A.I.F. returned M.E.c/o ng 1941 - 1944. Obit 8/2/44 "

EULOGY

The late Donald Black was a member of the 2/43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion A.I.F. He was born in Ballarat and was 22 years of age when he was fatally injured in Melbourne when on leave from New Guinea recently.



He had never been away from home until his enlistment. He did not wait for Call Up but joined the Forces on reaching the age of 18 years.

He embarked for overseas and served with his unit in the Middle East for approximately 9 months then he returned to Australia with the 9<sup>th</sup> Division about 12 months ago.

After a short leave he returned to his unit and proceeded to New Guinea on active service. He served there for 12 months in various parts and returned to Victoria on leave when he was fatally injured.

As a lad he occasionally attended the Burnbank Sunday school and was an exceptionally good boy being passionately fond and considerate of his mother who states there could not be a kinder or more lovable boy.

He joined the Gardens staff as a small lad about 7 1/2 years ago (1936. Jg) and proved to be most suited to the work. He was keen and industrious and became very intelligent in the work to which he was put to. Whilst at the Gardens he developed physically and became very keen.

Whilst on leave recently he expressed to Mr Toop that he was looking forward to the time the war would be over so that he may return to his position on the Gardens staff.

He was a favourite on the football field and as a boy was a good boxer.

The tree to be dedicated is an oak and one of rare varieties, the name of which will be known later by Mr Toop.

The memorial tablet is being donated by the staff of the Botanical Gardens with whom he was associated.

The Curator intimated that had he lived and been spared to return to his duties he would have proved to be a very valuable member of the Gardens Staff.

*Note by Morton :- The Guard of Honor is comprised of Repatriation personnel. We have prisoners in Germany.*

Service entries for Donald Victor Black :-

Date of Birth	13/11/1920	SX 18223
	13/11/1021	VX 64223

Died 8/2/1944      Dedication 19/3/1944