



MY CROSS-LAYING EXPERIENCE

By
FAY PEARCE

So, I have this Aunt, who also happens to be my (Fairy) God Mother - always busy, never stops, but always has time for me!

When Kate asked me to help out with the Anzac Cross Laying Project, it was a 'no brainer' to say yes - I was aware of how much time and effort she (and Husband Richard) continually put in to support/create/run the whole Anzac Remembrance CLO. What I didn't realise until now, was how important and poignant the Anzac Remembrance CLO is - it's not until you become invested in it, that you appreciate just how much these fellows did for us and that it is absolutely right that we keep their memory alive.

My task was to put crosses on five graves, in three locations in Somerset. Having done a bit of back ground research with regards to cemetery locations and likely plot areas, I set off on my trek. I imagined that it could possibly be quite difficult to find the graves but actually their simplicity in design speaks both volumes and clarity wherever they are positioned. I thought that the ones I was looking for would be the only ones there but of course, unfortunately, this is far from the case.

The first two were together at Burnham -on-Sea cemetery - Flying Officer James Albert Sayer age 26 and Sergeant Frederick Max Donohoe age 30 - both from the Royal Australian Air Force.



There is something calming about knowing that they are lying side by side, only they and the other souls around them knowing exactly what they had been through. I placed the crosses, took some photos, thanked them for their service and recited the Lord's Prayer - it felt like the right thing to do.

The next two were four plots apart in the same row, at Bridgwater cemetery - Sergeant Ivan Waddell Storey age 21 - Royal Australian Air Force and Pilot Officer James Jack Joseph Grevatt age 24 - Royal New Zealand Air Force.



Sergeant Ivan Waddell Storey RAAF



Pilot Officer James Jack Joseph Grevatt

There were many more similar graves in this location, so easy to see this time, tuning in to what I was looking for. The crosses were duly laid, thanks expressed and again the Lord's Prayer recited.

The final one was a little further away in Taunton, but was easy enough to find - Flight Sergeant William Robertson Swan age 20 - Royal Australian Air Force - again, a few similar graves around the same area so all were thanked and recited over for good measure.



Sergeant William Robertson Swan RAAF

I think the thing that struck me the most, was the age of these chaps, so young, and so much undiscovered in life by losing their lives at such an early age. One can only imagine what these amazing young men may have achieved in life if they had been given the chance. We should never forget what they were willing to do for us and our decedents, to allow us to prosper and thrive.



Bridgewater Cemetery, Somerset

It was a real honour to be part of the 'Cross Laying Team' - and I never will forget.

