

The Requiem

On this day, above all days, we recall those who served in war and who did not return to receive the grateful thanks of the nation.

We remember those who still sleep where they were left - amid the holly scrub in the valleys and on the ridges of Gallipoli - on the rocky and terraced hills of Palestine - and in the cemeteries of France, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

We remember those who lie asleep in ground beneath the Libyan desert, in North Africa, the mountain passes and olive groves of Greece and Crete, and the hills of Lebanon and Syria.

We remember those who lie buried in the jungles of Malaya and Burma - in New Guinea - and in the islands of the Pacific and in our own far North.

We remember those who lie in unknown resting places in almost every land, and those gallant men and women whose grave is the unending sea.

Especially do we remember those who died as prisoners of war remote from their homeland, and from the comforting presence of their kith and kin.

We think of those of our women's services who gave their lives in our own and foreign lands and at sea, and of those who proved to be, in much more than name, the sisters of our fighting men.

We recall, too, the staunch friends who fought beside our men on the first ANZAC Day - men of New Zealand who helped create the name of ANZAC, and those who served the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and other Allied Forces.

We think of those gallant Australians who died in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and in peacekeeping and peace enforcement commitments, assisting to defend the Commonwealth, and other countries of the Free World, against common enemies.

We think of every man and woman who in those crucial times died so that the lights of freedom and humanity might continue to shine.

We remember those Defence and civil personnel who lost their lives during peacetime service and whilst on humanitarian missions.

May these all rest proudly in the knowledge of their achievements, and may we and our successors in that heritage prove worthy of their sacrifice.