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The National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary

ANZAC CENTENARY INFORMATION SHEET **october 2010**

On 25 April 2010 the Australian Government announced the formation of the National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary. The Commission comprises: Warren Brown, editorial cartoonist and journalist, National President of the RSL, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Ret'd), National President of the RSL, former Prime Minister the Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser PC AC CH, former Prime Minister, the Honourable Bob Hawke AC, Major Matina Jewell (Ret'd), former ADF member and peacekeeper and Kylie Russell, veterans' advocate and nurse.

The Anzac Centenary includes the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings in 2015 and other significant milestones that occur from 2014 up to, and including, the centenary of Armistice Day in 2018, and a century of service in war, defence and peacekeeping.

The National Commission's first task was to undertake public consultation on how Government should most appropriately mark the Anzac Centenary 2014–2018. On 6 July, the Commission launched a public consultation period, calling for the public of Australia to put forward their ideas about how they would like to explore the legacy of the First World War and the 100 years of service since.

The National Commission has received over 1200 ideas in over 600 submissions from individuals, community groups, arts organisations, schools, ex-service organisations, museums, galleries and local councils and state and territory governments. Many of these submissions will be available to the public on-line next year.

In early 2011, the Commission will provide recommendations to Government on the broad scope and shape of commemorative, educative and interpretive initiatives and activities and the governance process for a commemorative program for the Anzac Centenary.



Inaugural meeting of the National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary, 6 July 2010, Sydney. (back l-r) Kylie Russell and Warren Brown. (front l-r) RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Ret'd), the Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser PC AC CH, MAJ Matina Jewell (Ret'd) and the Hon Bob Hawke AC. Photo courtesy of News Ltd.



Submissions to the National Commission

At last count (and there are still a few submissions coming in), Australians have shared well over 1200 ideas in over 600 submissions, with the National Commission. Submissions have been received from people not only in Australia but from Turkey, Belgium, Papua New Guinea and the United Kingdom.

A common theme of the submissions is remembering those who have served, through sharing personal stories of the experience of war. Australians have expressed their keen interest in, not only the servicemen and women of the past, but in those men and women who are still serving Australia at home or abroad today.

In Victoria, each student in one year 4 class at St Roch's Primary School wrote to the members of the National Commission, sharing their ideas.

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Submission from a year 4 student at St Roch's Primary School.

Dear Sir/Madam,

This year in Grade 4 we have been studying National Days of Australia. Anzac Day, as you know is also one of them. Now we know the ANZACS (Australian and New Zealand Army Corp) fought on the 25th of April in Gallipoli to serve our country and bring freedom.

Quite recently, our teacher came across an article in the paper for the Anzac Day centenary. Our class was interested to enter in our ideas. Then we discussed the Anzac topic in class and sent in our letters. These are my ideas on how the Anzac Days 100th year anniversary.

I have 5 ideas to enter into the competition, although I would like to list a few. Firstly, in every city in the country there should be a Anzac Day show with tours, movies, showbags, and traditional customs. We could have army officers patrolling the streets in uniform and a big march around Melbourne. We could finally have a family war picnic for old veterans and their families.

I hope you have enjoyed reading my ideas and hope all Australians can enjoy the Anzac Day centenary.

Yours Sincerely,



SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

Australian Capital Territory	52
New South Wales	197
Northern Territory	4
Queensland	78
South Australia	54
Tasmania	23
Victoria	102
Western Australia	60
International	5
Unknown	50
TOTAL	625

Submissions to the National Commission *continued*

Another idea coming through in many submissions is education about our military history and the role of the military today. Ideas in this arena have included school based 'centenary' programs or projects in which young people gain a greater awareness and understanding of war and the varying roles Australians have played in war and peace efforts over the past century: ideas include 'Adopt a Digger' and 'Lest We Forget' projects in which students, research an Australian soldier, seaman/woman or airman/woman.

There are World War I memorials and monuments in towns and cities throughout the country. In many submissions, people have suggested that the centenary of the Great War is an opportune time to examine rejuvenation options and to put into place plans that will allow these cultural and historical icons to survive for another 100 years.

Access to and participation in commemorative activities is a common theme in many submissions. Australians have suggested a number of different ways we can commemorate the service and sacrifice of our servicemen and women. Theatre productions, musicals, books and poetry collections, music compilations and touring art exhibitions all offer opportunities for accessible commemorative programs that will engage a wide range of people.

In many submissions people have put forward their ideas not only to remember the service and sacrifice of our servicemen and women, their families and communities, but to ensure that peace remains our greatest legacy.



DID YOU KNOW?

Multinational Forces and Observers

Australian military personnel have been involved in multinational peacekeeping operations since 1947. In the years since, Australian peacekeepers have served all over the world on operations that range in duration from a few months to more than four decades.

One long-running peacekeeping mission has been the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) operating in the Sinai. Since 1982, more than 1300 Australians have served with the MFO. During its first four years, Australia contributed Iroquois helicopters, their crews and ground personnel as well as headquarters staff and military police.

In 1986 Australia, one of the first original contributors to the MFO, withdrew personnel from the operation. An Australian Army contingent rejoined the MFO in 1993 and Australians continue to serve in a variety of engineering, security, administrative and medical support roles to the present day. Between 1994 and 1997 an Australian, Major General David Ferguson served as force commander.



Photographer Mal Lancaster - Sinai. 1982-03. A party of Australians and New Zealanders serving with the Multi-national Force and Observers (MFO) was sent to the Israeli port of Ashdod the day after they arrived in Sinai to collect eight RAAF Iroquois helicopters loaded with cargo which had arrived aboard HMAS Tobruk. Their task was to fly the aircraft to their new base at Etam in the northern Sinai. Preparing the aircraft for their first flight in the Middle East are Sub Lieutenant Alan Fisher (left), of 723 Squadron, Naval Air Station, Nowra, NSW, who comes from Moura, Qld, and Flying Officer Murray Joel, No. 9 Squadron RAAF, Amberley, Qld, who comes from Toowoomba, Qld. [AWM CANA/82/0065/07]



DID YOU KNOW?

Battle of Broken Bridge

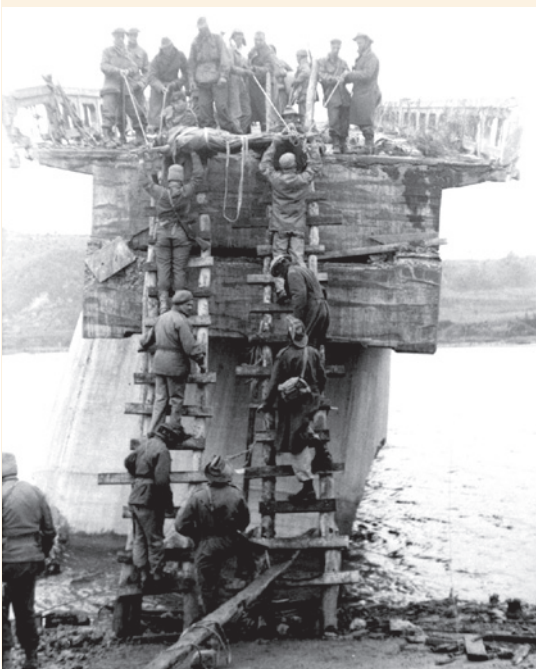
In October 1950, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), was at the spearhead of a United Nations advance into North Korea.

As they pushed towards the Chinese/North Korean border the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, of which 3RAR was a part, was stopped at the icy, fast flowing Taeryong River. North Korean troops had destroyed the only bridge which was now passable only by infantry.

If the North Koreans established defensive positions on the far bank, the Brigade's advance would be held up. A group of Australians risked the crossing and immediately encountered 50 surrendering North Korean soldiers. Both groups came under heavy, but inaccurate fire before a US spotter plane's pilot reported a North Korean ambush further up the bank. The Australians withdrew as aircraft, supported by mortar and artillery fire, attacked the North Koreans.

Crossing the damaged bridge once more, Australian troops established a bridgehead on the far bank where they came under artillery, mortar and small arms fire. The North Koreans then launched a tank and infantry attack, only to be stopped by strong defensive fire. With the crossing in Australian hands the Commonwealth Brigade's advance continued.

The Battle of the Broken Bridge cost eight Australian lives. A further 22 were wounded while on the other side more than 100 North Koreans were killed and some 50 captured.



Photographer Phillip Oliver Hobson – North Korea. October 1950. A wounded Australian machine gunner is lowered from a wrecked bridge on the Taeryong River in the Pakchong area of North Korea, as the United Nations keep up their steady advance against the retreating North Koreans. Improvised scaling ladders and lines were used to lower the wounded man to where a jeep ambulance could take him to a dressing station. The soldiers are from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR). [AWM hobj1646]

REMEMBERING KOREA At 11 am on Saturday 23 October 2010 a national ceremony was held at the Australian National Korean War Memorial in Canberra to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. Following the ceremony there was a reception at the Korean Embassy, and a dinner at Rydges Lakeside Hotel. **Seven State-based 60th anniversary events were held in June and July.**