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ANZAC DAY

This year's Anzac Day marks 102 years since our Anzacs landed on the beach at Gallipoli in World War I.

Today we pause and reflect on the sacrifice made by our service men and women who have fought for their country, with many who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Our third year into World War I, throughout 1917 Australia suffered a further 76,836 casualties.

Today we reflect on the 100th Anniversary of the Battles of Bullecourt with 1,170 Australians taken prisoner during the first battle – the largest captured in a single engagement during the war – and over 10,000 Australian casualties between the two Battles of Bullecourt.

This year we will also remember the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Polygon Wood and the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba.

Anzac Day goes beyond the first landing at Gallipoli, it is a day we remember and pay tribute to all those who have served, who have been wounded or have made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of our nation.

We have already marked significant World War II anniversaries this year, in particular the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore and the 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin.

The 75th Anniversaries of the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Battle of Milne Bay and of Kokoda and the Beachheads are also significant anniversaries and were pivotal moments of Australia's campaign in World War II and will be commemorated later this year.

Reflecting on these conflicts we are reminded of the impacts of war – the depth of our gratitude remains resolute.

As we continue to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac, we do so remembering all of our Anzacs, including those who continue to serve in operations around the world.

We remember those who have gone before us, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, those who have returned home and whose lives were never the same, today we honour their service to our nation.

Today, we are once again reminded of the spirit of the Anzac, with its qualities of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice, which Australians continue to reflect today.

Lest we forget.

TUESDAY, 25 APRIL 2017