



RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE

(Nowra Sub-Branch)

COMMEMORATION OF ANZAC

**ANZAC DAY
25th April**

SALUTE: To those Who Served

*Forget them not, the valiant souls
Who fought and proudly died,
Now, nameless in distant graves
They lie, with nought but pride
In knowing that their precious
Land continued to be free;
We cannot give, but we can
Keep alive their memory.*

By Lieutenant R.H.J. Gent, Royal Navy
Engraved on the Memorial at Nowra

PROLOGUE

On this day above all days we recall those Australian men and women who died in the great tragedy of war for the freedom of mankind. We remember those who fell amid the ridges of Gallipoli, the dunes of Sinai and the terraced hills of Palestine; in France and Belgium; in the sands of the North African desert; amid the mountains and olive groves of continental Greece, Crete and Syria; in the jungles of Malaya, Indonesia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. We mourn for those who died in Burma, Thailand and Japan; in the United Kingdom; in our own land; in Korea and Vietnam; in Afghanistan; in the skies, on the seas and in every continent.

We recall also all staunch friends and allies who died beside us, and particularly those of the first ANZAC Day in 1915. We grieve for all who have died serving our common cause.

May we and our successors prove worthy of their sacrifices.

HYMN: "ETERNAL FATHER" (Tune: Melita)

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave;
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep,
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus ever more shall rise to Thee,
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LET US PRAY

Almighty God, we praise You today for all Your provisions, help, protection and comfort since last we met in this way. Above all we give You thanks for continuing to give us the gift of life.

We thank You for victories of good over evil, wisdom over ignorance and love over hate. Please accept our thanks for those who at the crucial time, with a spirit of courage and sacrifice, guarded our cherished way of life. We give You thanks also for every effort being made to bring about peace, goodwill and security for all peoples of all nations. Thank You Lord for every desire of brotherliness with acknowledgement of one true God as Father of all mankind. Help us each to play our part in bringing this about. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE KING

Almighty God, from whom comes all just and gracious power, we ask that You bless and guide our King, Charles, and all the Royal Family, that they may follow Your will. Help them to develop and exhibit a strong faith with social justice and firmness without arrogance. We thank You for their kindly interest in people of all social strata and pray that their visits to the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations will draw the peoples into a unit for better relationships to supersede all divisive elements. Use them, we pray, for the extending of Thy Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION

LET US PRAY

O God, our Father, we acknowledge You as the source of all goodness. We seek Your blessing upon us as a nation, and also upon our comrades from New Zealand, with whom we share in ANZAC Commemorations.

We pray that You will grant to leaders and people a creative faith to venture into friendships and co-operation with all people of the Pacific and Asian lands. Give strength to all who defend our shores. Match us with the challenge of these days and grant inspiration that we may be builders of a better world.

Forgive our prejudices and covetousness. Teach us to give credit where credit is due. As our fathers walked through days of tumult when the future was uncertain, so may we in our time follow their example. Remind us that it is better to refrain from evil rather than to recover from it.

We pray for Your compassion in all perplexity, difficulty or sadness and we ask that Your reconciling power may be within and amongst those who sit in conference concerning ways and means of bringing concord out of strife amongst the nations. We ask too that You will bring all their earnest efforts to a wise and peaceful issue. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

PRAYER FOR SERVING MEMBERS

We commit unto Thy care the members of our Defence Forces who are serving in foreign lands. Strengthen their resolve to perform their allotted duties. We pray for their safe return to their homes and ask that we might support their loved ones for the sacrifice they are making. in Jesus' name. Amen

PRAYER FOR PEACE

We pray O Lord for peace in the world. Help us to see that there can be no peace among nations unless there is peace among men and women, and no peace among men and women until they have made their peace with You.

We ask for that peace which is a gift from You to those who put their trust in You. And so having that peace in our hearts, may we know a peace with our neighbours that will grow to be peace between nation and nation. We pray for the widows and children of our Fallen Comrades. Strengthen the work of Legacy as we care for them and ever inspire us to act in the place of our brethren. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

HYMN: "LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

Lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom	So long Thy power has blest me, sure it still
Lead Thou me on.	Will lead me on,
The night is dark and I am far from home	O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
Lead Thou me on.	The night is gone.
Keep Thou my feet: I do not ask to see	And with the morn those angel faces smile
The distant scene – one step enough for	Which I have loved long since and lost
me.	awhile.

COMMEMORATION ADDRESS

LET US MAKE COMMEMORATION OF THE FALLEN

LET US PRAY

Almighty and everlasting God, as we recall the tragedy and triumph, the misery and heroism of war, may we keep honoured and inviolate the memories of the dead. We thank You for their courage and devotion as they made sacrifice in service with the Navy, Army and Air Force and in a variety of vital duties at home and abroad, giving their talents as defenders of our freedom, our families, our homes and our Commonwealth and for the protection of freedom-loving Allies.

We pray that this sacred memory may stimulate us to be their successors, pursuing the highest and best for future years and with goodwill to all mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LAYING OF WREATHS

ODE

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

(All repeat): We will remember them.

Lest We Forget

HYMN: “ABIDE WITH ME” (Tune: Eventide)

Abide with me fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord; with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death’s sting? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

BENEDICTION

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ANTHEM

God of Nations at Thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet;
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific’s triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice.
For we are one and free;
We’ve golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature’s gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history’s page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.