



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Third Battle of Ypres Service - 2017

A century ago, Australian soldiers fought alongside allies from Britain and New Zealand as part of the Third Battle of Ypres.

The battles of this campaign were to be some of the most desperate and deadly of the Great War. At places like Menin Road, Polygon Wood and Passchendaele our soldiers would experience the full fury of trench warfare. Tragically there were some 38,000 Australian casualties, and casualties on all sides was in the vicinity of 900,000.

Today we remember all who served and pay our deepest respects to those who lost their lives. Our presence here today, our reverence each and every day, ensures the deeds of those young men who fought so far from home is always remembered and is always close to our nation's heart. Their character has become part of us and who we aspire to be, the bonds they forged with our allies—and with those we fought—lives on.

Today we remember the Third Battle of Ypres, and we vow that time will never diminish the magnitude or importance of the sacrifices made by so many in our name.