



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

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CDF/OUT/2015/471


Mr T. Lanarch-Jones
National Secretary and Public Officer
National Boer War Memorial Association
Victoria Barracks
75 Oxford Street
PADDINGTON NSW 2021

Dear Tony,

Thank you for your letter of 6 March 2015 inviting me, as the National Patron, to write a message for the Boer War Day commemorations on 31 May 2015. Please find my message attached, which I would appreciate you sharing with all those gathered to remember those who served in the Boer War.

I wish you well for the commemorations on 31 May and commend you, and all National Boer War Memorial Association members, for your commitment to honouring the sacrifice of Australians during the Boer War.

Yours sincerely,



MD Binskin, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

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3 May 2015




**A MESSAGE FROM THE
CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE**

Today we mark the 113th anniversary of the official end of the Boer War, which concluded with the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging on 31 May 1902. The Boer War represents a significant period in Australian history. It was the first time all of the Australian colonies deployed troops in a foreign conflict and, with the advent of Federation in 1901, it was also our first military contribution as the Commonwealth of Australia.

In this year, 2015, our focus is drawn to commemorating the centenary of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli and remembering the many thousands of Australians who died in the First World War. It is timely to remember that many of the first Australians to enlist in 1914 had previously served their country in the Boer War, or were the sons of veterans of that war, demonstrating their strong sense of duty. Further, it was in the Boer War that the Australian military forces were to first gain their reputation for dash, skill, mateship and courage in adversity – qualities that were to become synonymous with the Anzacs in the First World War and that we seek to instil in our military personnel today.

I wish you well for the 2015 commemorations as we recognise the contribution of those who served in the Boer War. I commend you for your commitment to honouring the sacrifice of Australians during the Boer War and look forward to the time when the National Boer War Memorial will take its rightful place alongside the monuments to other conflicts which also shaped our nation's character and history.



MD Binskin, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

3 May 2015