



**GENERAL D.J. HURLEY, AC, DSC
CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE**

The 31st of May 2014 marks 112 years since the official end of the Boer War. Although signing the Treaty of Vereeniging ended hostilities, like any conflict, the Boer War continued to have an enduring affect on the men and women who fought, their families and Australia long after the war ended.

The Boer War holds an important place in our nation's history as the first conflict that Australians served as Australian citizens and not as members of the colonies. The proud traditions of Australian servicemen and women have their origins in the Boer War, with our combat troops, support and medical staff displaying the enduring characteristics we recognise in the Australian Defence Force today - good humour, resilience, compassion and a desire to get the job done despite adversity. These are traits I see in the men and women who are deployed on contemporary operations around the world as well as in those who support our operations at home and abroad.

I wish you all the best for the 2014 commemorations as we recognise the contribution of those who served in the Boer War of 1899-1902 and their families. I commend you in your efforts to insure this important period in Australian history is properly recognised by future generations with the inspiring memorial planned for Anzac Parade.

D.J. HURLEY, AC, DSC
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CDF