

EMBARGO - NOT TO BE PUBLISHED, CABLED, BROADCAST OR TELECAST  
BEFORE 10.00 P.M. E.S.T. ON SUNDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1965.

FOR PRESS :-

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
SIR ROBERT MENZIES, K.T., C.H., Q.C., M.P.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY, 1965

AT

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA

Details for the National commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of ANZAC were announced today by the Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies.

This year being the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will be in Canberra to attend the commemoration on ANZAC Day. The Prime Minister stated that The Queen has graciously intimated her intention to send a special ANZAC Day message to commemorate this most significant event in the history of Australia and New Zealand. The Queen has expressed a wish that The Duke of Gloucester shall announce her message at the commemoration. Therefore, His Royal Highness will take precedence as Her Majesty's Special Representative for the occasion. The Governor-General will attend the ceremony. The Prime Minister added that His Excellency and the Australian Government greatly appreciate Her Majesty's desire to be thus personally associated with Australia's commemoration of the ANZAC assault at the Dardanelles.

BACKGROUND NOTE ....

The National ceremony will take place at the Australian War Memorial on Sunday, 25th April, and is being arranged with the cooperation of the Returned Servicemen's League and the three Services. There will be a greater participation than usual by exservicemen and women and by the Australian Armed Forces.

The Returned Servicemen's League, with financial assistance from the Government, is arranging to bring to Canberra for the ceremony, a representative group of ANZAC veterans and war widows from the States. It is also arranging for The Northern Territory and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea each to be represented by an ANZAC veteran.

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The Services are arranging for over one thousand personnel, representative of all branches of the Armed Forces to take part. This concentration of Australian Servicemen will form one of the most representative Service gatherings at an ANZAC ceremony in Canberra.

As well, the New Zealand Armed Forces will be represented by a contingent of sailors, soldiers and airmen who are at present in Australia undergoing training.

Each of the Australian Services will parade The Queen's Colour along with a Guard of Honour. There will be a band from each of the Services and the Army will parade a Battalion of four companies.

The R.A.A.F. Central Band will visit Canberra to accompany the Air Force Armed contingent of one hundred Airmen. The R.A.A.F. Unarmed Party will include members of the Women's Royal Australian Air Force and the R.A.A.F. Nursing Service.

Similarly the Navy Band will accompany the Navy Armed contingent and the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service will be represented in the R.A.N. Unarmed Party.

The Army Battalion of four hundred men will come from the Army Camp at Holdsworthy. The Women's Services from the Army will be represented in the Unarmed Party. The Citizen Military Forces will be represented by the local C.M.F. Unit and in addition Cadets from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, will line the forecourt of the Australian War Memorial.

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will arrive at the Australian War Memorial at 11.30 a.m. The exservicemen of ANZAC will then march to their position in the centre of the forecourt and the wreathlaying will commence.

Two minutes' silence will be observed at noon after which His Royal Highness will read The Queen's message.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester and His Excellency the Governor-General will take up positions for the march past and the ceremony is expected to conclude at about 12.20 p.m.

