



PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES

**SPEECH BY PREMIER BOB CARR
ANZAC BRIDGE DEDICATION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1998**

Near the eastern approaches to this bridge stands the Pymont War Memorial. It records the names of nearly 400 Australians from Pymont and Rozelle who served in the First World War as volunteers. More than 50 of those names belong to young Australians who fell in that war on the battlefields of Gallipoli, Palestine, Belgium and France.

The Pymont War Memorial is only one of hundreds in cities, suburbs and towns throughout Australia. These local memorials tell the story of the impact of the war on Australia. Places like Pymont and Rozelle were close knit communities of a few thousand households. Few remained untouched by the loss or absence of a loved one or friend, most typically, a son or brother. These modest memorials speak to us down the years about the loss, the sacrifice, the waste of war.

Today is the eightieth anniversary of the end of the First World War and it is altogether fitting that we should choose this day to rename and rededicate this great structure as the ANZAC Bridge.

Of course, the Second World War became an even more horrendous conflict than the First. For a full year, from the fall of France in June 1940 to Hitler's invasion of Russia in June, 1941, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa stood alone with Britain in the ordeal of the "finest hour".

Then, after Pearl Harbour, December 7, 1941 and the Fall of Singapore, February 15, 1942, Australia itself came under direct and immediate threat. Until the might of the great democracy, the United States of America, could be mobilised for our deliverance, Australia and New Zealand stood virtually alone in the South-West Pacific.

So in that conflict a whole generation of Australians proved themselves worthy of the name of ANZAC. That generation too is passing and we honour them all today.

Let us today recall that "ANZAC" belongs to New Zealand as much as to Australia. It has done so ever since that Gallipoli dawn on April 25, 1915, the landing of the Australian New Zealand Army Corps at ANZAC Cove, more than 12,000 miles from home.

New Zealanders and Australians were together in Belgium, in France, in Palestine. They were with us in North Africa, the Battle of Britain, Greece and Crete, at El Alamein and in the Pacific. They were with us in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. So truly, this ANZAC Bridge crosses the Tasman.

ANZAC, the proudest of Australian names, is not lightly given, not lightly used. I pay tribute to the RSL represented by Rusty Priest here today as the special guardian of the ANZAC name and tradition. And on behalf of the Government and people of New South Wales, I reaffirm the undertaking we have given the RSL and the Commonwealth Ministry for Veterans Affairs in regard to the renaming of this bridge - that is, no advertising and no event on this bridge unbecoming the name.

The real monument to the ANZACs is the proud, free and democratic, diverse but united country Australia is today. That is their real monument. But this great bridge, henceforth the ANZAC Bridge, says to the world from the heart of Australia's greatest city, "Sydney remembers".

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