



September 14, 2001

**STATE FUNERAL FOR CHARLIE MANCE – WORLD WAR I VETERAN**

The Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr today announced a full State funeral would be held for one of the original Anzacs, Mr Charlie Mance, who died this week.

(Discussions are underway with Mr Mance's family and the RSL. Details of the funeral will be released shortly.)

Mr Mance, 100, passed away yesterday (September 13) at Concord Hospital after a long illness.

Born in Melbourne, Private Lionel Charles Mance, enlisted as a blacksmith's strike in 1917 aged just 16.

He fought with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on the Western Front where he was gassed and wounded. He was the last remaining member of the once 8,000 strong 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

Following the death of Mr Mance, there are less than 20 World War I veterans in Australia and only five in NSW.

Mr Carr said Mr Mance's commitment to his fellow Anzacs continued long after his military service.

"Mr Mance was a regular visitor to schools, where he stressed to children the importance of honouring those who had fought for Australia," Mr Carr said.

Mr Carr said that he had joined Mr Mance at both the renaming ceremony of the Anzac Bridge and at the unveiling of the bronze statue of a World War I soldier on the bridge.

"On both occasions, Mr Mance represented his fellow Anzacs with tremendous pride and patriotism," Mr Carr said.

After the war Mr Mance married Bessie Matilda Luckwill and returned to Melbourne, where he began work as a bricklayer. Mr Mance settled in the Western Sydney suburb of Granville in 1947, before moving to nearby Merrylands in 1960.

In 1998 Private Mance was one of four Australian veterans of WWI who returned to France where he was presented with the Legion of Honour at Villiers-Bretonneux.

NSW State President of the RSL, Mr Rusty Priest described Mr Mance as a truly unique character among the veteran community who never missed a commemoration service or refused a journalist's request for an interview.

Despite his health Charlie attended this year's dedication of the New Zealand War Memorial in Canberra on Anzac Day.

Private Mance is survived by his only son Lionel 79, two grand children and five great grand children.