

The Boer War will not be another Forgotten War

In Melbourne on ANZAC Day 2008 some hundred men and women lead the march in Melbourne. Under the Boer War Memorial banner. They were descendants of those that served in South Africa. Others were serving or had served in units that had fought. Units were the Lancers, the Mounted Rifles, Imperial Bushmen and the nurses, medical units and A Field Battery, an artillery unit.

It was a great start to arouse awareness of some 23,000 Australians and 6,057 New Zealanders who had served with 606 and 223 respectively dying in South Africa. The ANZACs quickly established enviable reputations as superb fighters using their bushcraft, riding and shooting skills to produce formidable fighting units and future commanders. During the Boer War, six Australians and one New Zealander were awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Prime Minister, as Chairman of the National Capital Memorials Committee, has allocated a site in ANZAC Parade, Canberra for the Boer War Memorial to commemorate the soldiers and nurses who left Australia between 1899 and 1902 to serve in South Africa.

The 31st May 2008 was chosen as the day to launch the Boer War Memorial Project at 11 am. The Ceremony will include the dedication of the Site. This is the date of the signing of the Peace Treaty at Melrose House, Pretoria, South Africa. After the ceremony the descendants, the nurses, the medics, the Black Berets and the public will take part in photo-shoots. There will be tours for everybody to tour the Australian War Memorial and that will include the Boer War Section and viewing of the Boer War VCs. It is suggested that many may wish to gather in the cafeteria "The Landing Place" in the new wing of the AWM to meet others who are interested the Boer War