

**A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
FOR MEMBERS OF 55/53 AUST INF Bn (AIF) WHO DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN BOUGAINVILLE
24 JAN 45—14 MAY 45
1 JUN 1945 0930 HRS**

THE CHAPLAIN SHALL SAY:

“I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Revelation 7 – 9/17)

HYMN:

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy throne,
Thy saints have dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, Thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in Thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;

they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
Be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

CHAPLAIN:

Brethren let us give thanks to God

- For His manifold and continued blessings upon our King and Empire.
- For the peace which has come to Europe bringing hope and comfort to oppressed people.
- For the preservation through the dangers of three years and for the signs of approaching victory and peace in the Pacific.
- For our own part in the defence of our country and the maintenance of liberty in this theatre are of war. For the heroism, devotion, sacrifices and comradeship shown in the recent campaign. Unto God be all the honour and praise for He is the source of all our noblest acts.
- For our own preservation in the midst of danger and all our present blessings,

ALL: O God accept these thanksgivings for we lift up our hearts unto thee.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING:

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants to give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for the thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praises, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving ourselves to thy service, and walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE LESSON FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE:

THE SERMON:

HYMN:

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confess'd,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warrior cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia!

ACT OF COMMEMORATION:

Chaplain: Let us honour the memory of our fallen comrades. They counted not their own lives dear, but laid them down for their friends.

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|----------|-----|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| NX79252 | Pte | ROBERTSON J. | Accidently Killed | 24.Jan 45 |
| NX72954 | Lt | R.R. ST GEORGE RYDER | Accidently Killed | 27 Jan 45 |
| N263902 | Pte | ELLIOT K. | Killed in Action | 8 Feb 45 |
| NX87293 | Lt | J.S. RYAN | Died of Wounds | 8 Feb 45 |
| NX176053 | Pte | HUDSON H.P. | Died of Wounds | 13 Apr 45 |
| NX87909 | Pte | COLLISON E.C. | Died of Wounds | 13 Apr 45 |
| NX194848 | Pte | TULLY R.B. | Killed in Action | 13 Apr 45 |
| NX85563 | Pte | DRANE J. | Killed in Action | 13 Apr 45 |
| N375771 | Pte | LEWIS W.G. | Killed in Action | 13 Apr 45 |
| NX173808 | Cpl | MAYO-JAFERAY N.E. | Died of Wounds | 24 Apr 45 |
| N227641 | Pte | CROFT F.W. | Accidently Killed | 6 May 45 |
| NX167542 | Lt | G. VALENTIN | Killed in Action | 9 May 45 |
| TX12968 | Pte | GOSS R.C. | Killed in Action | 9 May 45 |
| NX105421 | Pte | HULME P.J. | Killed in Action | 12 May 45 |
| NX178621 | Pte | ROMER C.F. | Killed in Action | 12 May 45 |
| NX153195 | Pte | HOLMES F.J. | Killed in Action | 13 May 45 |

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|----------|-------|---------------|------------------|-----------|
| N256572 | Pte | PLAZA W.F. | Killed in Action | 13 May 45 |
| NX190095 | Pte | BARRETT J.S. | Killed in Action | 13 May 45 |
| NX194065 | L/Cpl | DEADMAN C.F. | Killed in Action | 14 May 45 |
| WX41446 | Pte | KERN G.E. | Killed in Action | 14 May 45 |
| Q146153 | Pte | THOMPSON G.L. | Died of Wounds | 16 May 45 |

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

Chaplain:

Eternal Father we give Thee thanks for the dear remembrance of these our brethren, who after the strife and suffering of war, now rest in Thee. We praise Thee for their fellowship with us on earth, for the redeeming love of Christ, and for the sure and certain hope that when war shall be no more, and death shall be swallowed up in victory, we shall meet them again in the peace and joy of Thine eternal kingdom.

All: We remember them and bow before Thee O Lord.

Chaplain:

For the bereaved we pray Thee O God of all compassion.
 For those for whom the road will be lonely and the future dark.
 On their loneliness may they find the healing of Thy companionship; in the darkness may they find their hands taken into the hands of God.
 Go with them into the morning of Thy perfect day.
 In the love of Thy dear Son we ask this grace.

All: Hear this prayer for thou alone art our assurance O Lord.

All: "O Lord support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, Lord in Thy mercy grant us safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at last through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

RECESSIONAL Rudyard Kipling (1897)

God of our fathers, known of old,
 Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
 Beneath whose awful hand we hold
 Dominion over palm and pine;
 Lord God of hosts, be with us yet,
 Lest we forget--lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies;
 The captains and the kings depart;
 Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,
 An humble and a contrite heart.
 Lord God of hosts, be with us yet,
 Lest we forget--lest we forget! A-men.

Far called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget--lest we forget!

BENEDICTION

NATIONAL ANTHEM

LAST POST

REVEILLE

Transcription from:

55/53 Battalion War Diary April 1945-June 1945
(AWM52 2ns Australian Imperial Force and Commonwealth Military Forces
Unit War diaries 1939-45)
Item Number 8/3/91
55/53 Infantry Battalion April- June 1945