



## MEDIA RELEASE

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**THE HON DAN TEHAN MP**  
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL  
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR CYBER SECURITY  
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC

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**25 April 2017**

### **The Centenary of the Battle of Bullecourt**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs today paid tribute to the Australians who fought and died at the Battle of Bullecourt as he attended a commemoration service to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle.

Some 10,000 Australians were killed or wounded or taken prisoner of war in two battles on 11 April and 3 May against enemy defences at Bullecourt. By the end of 1917 another 60,000 had become casualties.

Almost 300,000 Australians served on the Western Front, where 45,000 lost their lives and more than one-third of those have no known grave.

Mr Tehan today made an address and laid a wreath at an Anzac Day ceremony at the Digger Memorial in Bullecourt.

"In Australia's wartime history there is no year more tragic than 1917," Mr Tehan said.

"Here at the Digger Memorial, a symbol of the almost 300,000 Australians who served on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918, we pause to remember the terrible ordeal the Australian Imperial Force and the Australian nation endured a century ago."

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