

On parade for ANZAC Day

Soldiers killed in action in Afghanistan on ANZAC eve

ANZAC Day is not simply a remembrance of battles past and mates who did not return.

ANZAC Day is a living and continuing reminder of the sacrifice by military personnel for their country and fellow Australians.

This is brought starkly into focus by news that two more Australian soldiers serving with the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF) in Afghanistan have been killed in March -- one in an engagement with insurgents on March 16 and the other within a week while trying to defuse a roadside bomb. They are the ninth and tenth to have been killed in operations in Afghanistan since 2001.

The first, Corporal Mathew Hopkins, was part of a joint patrol with the Afghan National Army near Kakarak, north of Tarin Kowt in Oruzgan Province. No other Australians were wounded in the engagement.

Initial reports indicated that the patrol was engaged by a group of about 20 Taliban insurgents using small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. The patrol returned fire and provided first aid to the wounded soldier. He was evacuated by a coalition helicopter to the nearby medical facility in Tarin Kowt as soon as security situation allowed.

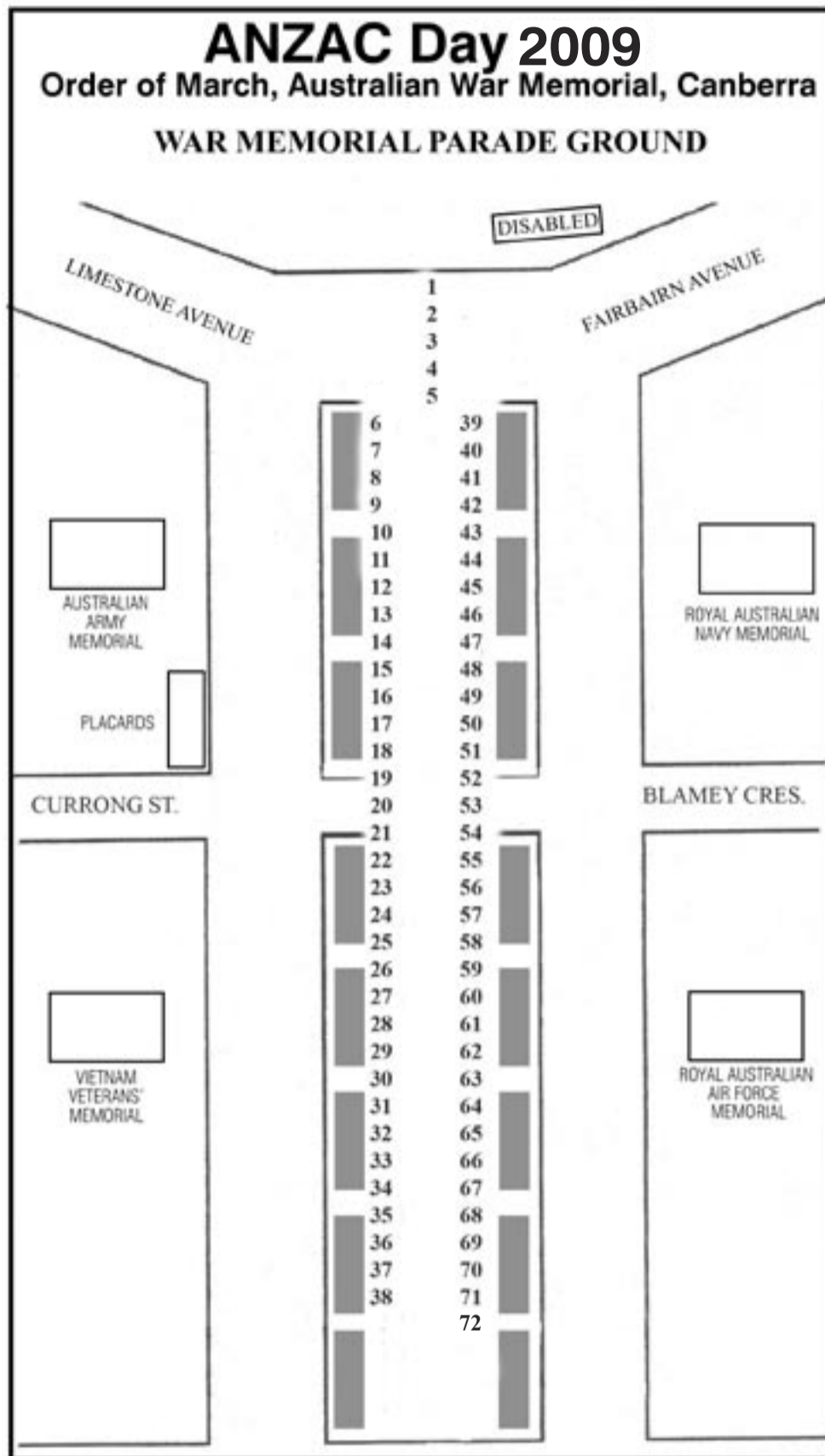
Despite all efforts, it was confirmed that he had died on arrival at Tarin Kowt hospital.

The second was Sergeant Brett Till, 31, killed while defusing a bomb. His commanding officer has said that without a doubt Sgt Till saved his mates' lives.

The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, said the loss of the soldiers would be felt throughout the ADF.

"Incidents such as this only strengthen our resolve to continue our important mission," he said.

Where to form up



Key to March positions as at March 26

Riderless Horse

- 1 Parade Commander and party
- 2 Youth Flag Party
- 3 New Zealand
- 4 WWI Banner
- 5 Heritage Troop
- 6 WWII Navy
- 7 WWII Army
- 8 Commando Association
- 9 Rats Of Tobruk
- 10 New Guinea Survey Section
- 11 WWII Air Force
- 12 Korea
- 13 HMAS Sydney – Escorts – VLSA
- 14 AATTV
- 15 1 Civil Affairs Unit
- 16 161 Reconnaissance Association
- 17 9 Squadron – RAAF Association
- 18 Vietnam Veterans' Association
Vietnam Veterans' Federation
- 19 Ex-Servicewomen's Association
- 20 Naval Association of Australia
- 21 Naval Warfare Association
- 22 Fleet Air Arm Association
- 23 HMAS Perth Association
- 24 Submarine Association
- 25 RAN Writers' Association
- 26 Communications Branch Ran
- 27 WRANs' Association
- 28 Royal Naval Association
- 29 Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association
- 30 Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Association
- 31 Royal Australian Engineers' Assoc.
- 32 Royal Australian Survey Corps Assoc.
- 33 Royal Australian Signals Association
- 34 Royal Australian Regiment Association
6 Platoon, 6th Battalion RAR
- 35 SAS Association
- 36 Australian Intelligence Corps
- 37 Royal Australian Corps Of Transport
Royal Australian Army Service Corps
Royal Australian Engineers (Transp.)
- 38 Royal Australian Army Medical Corps Association
- 39 Australian Defence Force Nursing
- 40 Royal Australian Army Dental Corps Association
- 41 Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Association
- 42 Royal Australian Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Association
- 43 Royal Australian Army Pay Corps
- 44 Royal Australian Corps of Military Police Association
- 45 CMF And Army Reserve
- 46 Royal Australian Air Force Association
- 47 RAAF
- 48 Airfield Defence Association
- 49 28 (City Of Canberra) Squadron RAAF
- 50 RSL Woden Valley Sub Branch
- 51 RSL Tuggeranong Sub Branch
- 52 RSL Hellenic Sub Branch
- 53 British Sub Branch
- 54 RSL Vietnamese Sub Branch
- 55 RSL Peacekeepers' Sub Branch
- 56 Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans' Association
- 57 Malaya And Borneo Veterans Association & Sandakan Families' Assoc.
- 58 Gulf War Association
- 59 East Timor
- 60 National Service Association
- 61 National Service & Combined Forces Association
- 62 Poland
- 63 Netherlands
- 64 France
- 65 USA
- 66 Turkey
- 67 Australian Navy Cadets – TS Canberra
- 68 224 Regional Cadet Unit
- 69 Air Cadets
- 70 Australian Air League
- 71 Bands
- 72 Marshals

Cleaning up graffiti: uniform laws wanted

The national anti-graffiti education charity group, Graffiti Hurts — Australia, has called on all state and territory governments to follow NSW's lead by introducing legislation providing harsher penalties for vandalising war memorials, cenotaphs and other culturally significant buildings in the run-up to ANZAC Day.

Chief Executive Scott Hilditch says public outrage that followed the graffiti attack on the Mildura War Memorial just before Remembrance Day last year should have been a wake-up call to all governments that more needs to be done in tackling graffiti vandalism.

"While some states have harsher penalties for graffiti vandalism, NSW

has special legislation for those [who] attack or vandalise buildings of cultural significance and war memorials. We believe that, as graffiti knows no borders, all state and territory governments should look at NSW's lead on this issue," he said.

Graffiti Hurts — Australia wants uniform laws to take a vandalism attack from the Summary Offences Act to a criminal act in its own right, which would include:

- a minimum fine of \$10,000;
- full restitution to the organisation of that property for the total restoration costs of repairing the vandalism;
- an educational program on the significance of the meaning of that

property and the events it represents;

- undertaking a community service work order; and
- in some cases, criminal convictions being recorded against the vandal.

Hilditch said, "We'd like to see governments send a clear message to vandals [who] want to desecrate culturally significant places that, in a multicultural society, no Australian will stand for this type of senseless act.

Graffiti Hurts — Australia, with the support of the National RSL, ran a public awareness campaign in the run-up to ANZAC Day 2008 to engage the public to keep a watch on their local memorials and, for the first time in 13 years, saw no report of vandalism.