



**Péronne**  
**Mont-Saint-Quentin**  
**2 Sept 2018**



Soldats australiens dans une tranchée  
au Mont-Saint-Quentin le 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 1918.

*Australian soldiers progressing in a trench  
at the Mont St Quentin 1<sup>st</sup> September 1918.*

AWM E03139







Soldats australiens devant l'hôtel de ville après  
la libération de Péronne en septembre 1918.

*Australian soldiers in front of City Hall after  
the liberation of Péronne in September 1918.*



## **Order of Service**

*Official Party arrives*

*Welcome and introduction by the MC's*

*Welcome by Madam Thérèse Dheygers, Mayor of Péronne*

*Musical Interlude by French military Band*

*Address by HE Mr Brendan Berne, Australian Ambassador to France*

*Address by Mr Bernard Musset, Deputy-Prefect of Péronne and Montdidier*

*Musical Interlude by French Military Band*

*Reading 1 by students of Lycée Pierre Mendès-France (page 7)*

*Musical Interlude by French Military Band*

*Reading 2 by students of Lycée Pierre Mendès-France (page 9)*

*Official wreath laying*

*Musical accompaniment by Somme Battlefield Pipe Band*

*Wreath laying by Australian families, and then by the public*

*Reading of the Ode by Major General Stephen Porter, AM  
and Colonel Pascal Fouyet (page 10)*

*Last Post, One Minute's silence and Rouse*

*Australian National Anthem " Advance Australia Fair "*

*French National Anthem " La Marseillaise "*

*Thanking the Standard Bearers*

*300 flowers in memory of the First Wave*

*Official Party departs*

*End of ceremony*



**Text 1 by students of the Lycée Pierre Mendès-France of Péronne :**

*General John Monash present the battle of Mont-Saint-Quentin in 1918.*

*“To meet the crisis with which Ludendorff was now confronted, he determined to throw in one of the finest of the reserve Divisions still left at his disposal. The Second Prussian Guards Division was sent forward to occupy the key position of Mont St. Quentin, and to hold it at all costs.*

*[...] For the defence of Péronne, the enemy command went even further, and called for volunteers, forming with them a strong garrison of picked men drawn from many different line Regiments, to man the ramparts which surround the town. Dozens of machine guns were posted in vantage points from which the approaches could be swept.*

*All over the river flats lying in the angle of the Somme between Cléry, Mont-Saint-Quentin and Péronne ran line upon line of barbed wire entanglements, a legacy from the 1916 fighting, and much of this was still intact [...]. The terrain was in greater part open, and exposed in every direction to full view from the heights [...].*

*Cover was scarce, and the few ruins of brickfields and sugar refineries which dotted the landscape had also been garrisoned by the enemy as centres of resistance, designed to break up and dislocate any general attack.*

*Our infantry was deprived of the assistance of any Tanks, for the heavy casualties which had been suffered by this Arm made it imperative to allow the Tank Corps time for repairs, renewals and the training of fresh crews. Nor was any appreciable quantity of Heavy Artillery yet available, since the congested and dilapidated condition of the roads prevented the advance of all but a few of the lighter varieties of heavy guns.*

*The fighting [...] was, therefore, essentially a pure infantry combat, assisted only by such mobile Artillery of lesser calibres as was available.*

*Such was the formidable nature of the task, and of the disabilities under which the Second, Third and Fifth Divisions approached it. That they overcame all obstacles, gained all their objectives, and captured nearly 2,000 prisoners, mainly from crack Prussian regiments, constitutes an achievement memorable in military annals.”*



## **Text 2 by students of the Lycée Pierre Mendès-France of Péronne :**

*Testimony of Corporal Ivor Alexander WILLIAMS, 21<sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion.*

### **"August 31<sup>st</sup> 1918**

*10 am - Moved up to supports via Clery-sur-Somme and Ommiecourt-les-Clery under full view of enemy balloons. We were terribly shelled and lost heavily in casualties. We sheltered for some hours under a hill but still received casualties.*

*6 pm - Went out in charge of patrol of 10 men, four of whom were killed and 3 wounded. This is the worst patrol I have yet been on.*

*8 pm - Moved up into close supports.*

*9 pm - Went out on patrol again. This time with greater success.*

*10 pm - Had to go out on lines. These are the curse of my life.*

*Midnight - Warned for another patrol. (...). I am fearfully tired. The old Hun has started a terrible bombardment. During the day I got a further dose of gas so my voice has gone completely.*

### **September 1<sup>st</sup> 1918**

*1.30 pm - This patrol is fearful. We have been surrounded 100 yards behind enemy front line. Have had a solid hours fighting. Everyone is wounded, self included, only a little one through the arm.*

### **September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1918**

*2.15 am - Still fighting hard. I am afraid we shall never get out of this lot. Out of our party of 20, 14 are now dead. (...)*

*4.30 am - Arrived back at our lines in time to hear we were going over the top at 6 am.*

*6 am - Under way. The enemy is resisting terribly. They are the best fighters we have struck.*

*7 am - Casualties are fearful. The Division on our right is suffering heavily. As they are getting wounded, they are falling into the swamps and drowning.*

*8 am - Held up by machine gun fire and bombs.*

*8.55 am - Just finished an hours bombing. Casualties are increasing every minute. We are now up against it and right in front of a big brick wall which is infested with machine guns.*

*At last it has happened. My mate and I were sitting in a shallow trench and a shell fell in beside us and wounded us both. I was carried out to the dressing station and from there to a field ambulance during 5 kilometers by four Fritz prisoners."*



**Reading of the Ode by Major General Stephen Porter, AM and Colonel Pascal Fouyet:**

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,*

*We will remember them.*

**(All) We will remember them.**

**Lecture de l'Acte du Souvenir par le Général de Division Stephen Porter et le Colonel Pascal Fouyet :**

Ils ne vieilliront pas,

Contrairement à nous qui aurons cette chance,

Ils ne seront pas épuisés par l'âge, ni condamnés par les années,

À la tombée de la nuit et au petit matin,

Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.

**(Le public) Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.**





## Péronne - Mont-Saint-Quentin - 2 Sept 2018

La Ville de Péronne tient à remercier tous ceux qui ont participé à l'organisation et au déroulement de cette cérémonie, et en particulier :

- Monsieur l'Attaché de défense de l'Ambassade d'Australie le Colonel Scott Clingan, le Commandant Andrew Coburn, et l'Armée australienne,
- Monsieur le Délégué militaire départemental le Colonel Pascal Fouyet, les Capitaines Philippe Thomas et Thierry Engrand (R), et l'Armée française,
- La Sous-préfecture de Péronne, la Gendarmerie nationale, le SDIS 80 et l'Agence Routière Est,
- L'Ambassade d'Australie à Paris,
- Le Lycée des métiers Pierre Mendès-France de Péronne,
- L'Amicale des Porte-drapeaux de l'arrondissement et le Souvenir Français,
- La Musique de l'Arme Blindée Cavalerie et le Somme Battlefield Pipe Band,
- L'ensemble des agents des pôles culturel, technique, communication et sécurité de la Ville de Péronne.

*The City of Péronne would like to thank all those involved in this ceremony, and especially:*

- *The Australian Embassy Defense Attaché Colonel Scott Clingan, Major Andrew Coburn, and the Australian Defence Force,*
- *The Departmental Military Delegate Colonel Pascal Fouyet, Captains Philippe Thomas and Thierry Engrand (R), and the French Army,*
- *The Sub-Prefecture of Péronne, the National Gendarmerie, the SDIS 80,*
- *The Australian Embassy in Paris,*
- *The Lycée des métiers Pierre Mendès-France of Péronne,*
- *The Amicale of Porte Drapeaux and the Souvenir Français,*
- *The Arme Blindée Cavalerie Band and the Somme Battlefield Pipe Band,*
- *All the agents of the cultural, technical, communication and security services of the City of Péronne.*



DO NOT  
FORGET  
AUSTRALIA

  
PÉRONNE

ANNÉE  
DE L'AUSTRALIE  
1918 - 2018



VILLE DE PERONNE



Gouvernement d'Australie  
Ambassade d'Australie en France