

MEDIA RELEASE
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RSL NATIONAL PRESIDENT ATTENDS SERVICES IN FRANCE

The President of RSL National Rod White will attend several commemorative ceremonies in France this week to honour the service and sacrifice of First World War soldiers who fought in the battles of Fromelles and Pozières.

Mr White said he was honoured to represent the RSL.

“It is important to attend these events regardless of the recent threats to national security in France,” Mr White said.

“We must remember the sacrifices made by Australian service personnel 100 years ago at Fromelles and Pozieres, and reflect on the efforts of our current service personnel.”

More than 300,000 Australians served on the Western Front during World War One. 45,000 personnel lost their lives, more than one-third of who have no known grave.

On Tuesday 19 July, Mr White will attend the first of the centenary anniversaries at the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery.

The service will include a Headstone Dedication for six soldiers whose remains were identified by the Australian Army’s Unrecovered War Casualties Fromelles project team.

On Saturday 23 July, Mr White will join a service at the site of the 1st Australian Division Memorial at Pozières.

During this service, the remains of three unknown soldiers will be reinterred with full military honours.

The RSL Combined Pipes and Drums band, comprised of seven sub-Branch bands, is also touring the region and will be performing at several events.

“The Centenary of ANZAC is generating greater awareness of the importance of Australian efforts in the World Wars and recent conflicts,” Mr White said.

“The RSL has a key role in enhancing society’s knowledge and awareness of our military heritage, so Australians never forget the sacrifices that have been made to preserve our freedoms.”

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