



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

2015 RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE

I am pleased to provide this message for the 2015 Reserve Forces Day Parade.

For over one hundred years, Reservists of the Navy, Army and Air Force have been an essential part of the Australian Defence Force.

Wherever they have fought, Reservists have embodied the commitment to freedom, the devotion to country and the bonds of mateship that we hold dear.

Their courage and sacrifice leave us the enduring legacy of a free and peaceful nation, and their example is emulated by all who serve our country.

Today's Reserve Forces Day Parade honours their service, with a particular tribute to the Anzacs who fought at Gallipoli.

Throughout the Gallipoli campaign, our forebears faced trials scarcely imaginable to those they had left behind.

Some 750 Australians were killed on the day of the Gallipoli landing and more than 8,700 Australians would lose their lives before the evacuation.

Out of this baptism of fire, former Reservist Captain Alfred Shout VC MC became Australia's most decorated Gallipoli veteran.

Though he lost his life, Shout's example endures as a reminder of the courage and sacrifice exemplified by many ex-Reservists who formed an important part of the First AIF.

This Reserve Forces Day, we honour all former and serving Reservists, and share a sense of pride in all who have served our country.

Lest we forget.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Abbott'.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of Australia

25 June 2015