

# AUSTRALIA'S GREAT DAY

## RE-ENACTMENT

Noon, 1 September 2017

Martin Place Amphitheatre, Sydney.



## Battle of the Menin Road - Day 1



**Flanders, Belgium**  
**20 September, 1917**

One hundred years ago Australia's fighting soldiers were in the thick of battle on the Western Front tearing into enemy forces on the muddy, shell-torn countryside near the Belgian city of Ypres.

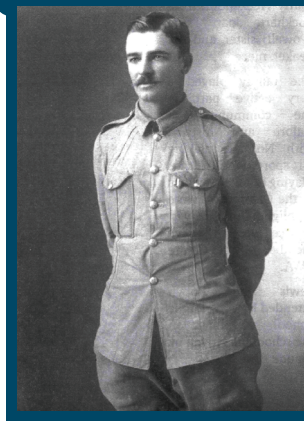
At dawn, on 20 September, 1917 under heavy protective artillery barrages from our guns, men of the 18th Battalion, AIF, along with many others, climbed out of their own trenches with bayonets fixed and attacked through the barbed wire entanglements and on to enemy positions. They were in great spirits, well rested after three weeks in the relative safety of the rear of the battlefield, and unfortunately for the enemy, were dead keen for a fight.

Their initial concern was a two-storey, reinforced concrete pillbox which they ironically called "ANZAC House", smack in their line of advance. After difficult hand to hand fighting with numerous fatalities on both sides, the 18th Battalion AIF achieved the objective, a great prize militarily and symbolically, because of its size, impregnability and domination of the landscape.

One of them, Lieutenant Arthur Hull, a 32 year-old farmer from Galore, 40kms west of Wagga Wagga, NSW, climbed a ladder to the roof of the broken structure, waved the flag to his comrades all around, and planted it in the rubble, thus providing our flag with its most iconic moment in peace or war.

The signal was then sent to Headquarters: *"Australian flag flying on ANZAC House. Securing objective."*

In honour of Lieutenant Hull's bold and daring deed, the Australian National Flag Association will stage a re-enactment at **Martin Place Amphitheatre**, during the National Flag Day annual celebration, on **Friday, 1 September, 2017 at noon.**



Lt Hull and 11 of his mates were killed less than three weeks after the great day. They will be remembered as part of the ceremony.

The re-enactments will be performed by members of the 18th Battalion AIF Living History Group.

Hear the Last Post sounded on 5th Field Ambulance's original WW1 bugle from the Battle of the Menin Road.