

## Remember the Australian Soldier

*by Captain Lisa Ride  
Australian Army Reserve 1981-2016*

I am an Australian soldier; I stand tall and proud and true  
I train and fight for freedom; I honour my country and I protect you  
Tradition back to the Sudan and Boer where I've always served you well  
As National Servicemen, volunteers and conscripts we've often been through hell  
Right back to our fateful landing upon the ANZAC shore  
The mateship that we honour is for company, regiment and corps

To the Aussie soldier courage, teamwork and initiative are barely but a start  
For professionalism, loyalty and innovation are clearly in our heart  
From the First World War where Australia mourned the loss of so many fine young men  
And the role of women forever changed as we stood in support of them  
Since World War II and wars beyond, from Vietnam to peace keeping today  
Australian soldiers are deployed around the globe from their families far away

And I know each soldier joins the ranks because they feel it too  
It's the spirit of the Aussie digger; it's what we call "true blue"  
But **contact front** can take a life; a new name to cast upon the wall  
In bronze to forever commemorate another loss too great to call  
In Afghanistan we lost Russell, Pearce, Locke and Wood; McCarthy, Lambert, Marks  
And forty-one names I could recite, please keep them in your hearts

For **green on blue** is not the way a soldier's meant to die  
As any loss of life through war is so hard to justify  
And some returning cannot suppress the horror of warfare  
That saturate their thoughts and dreams and sends them to despair  
Sadly the number of soldiers affected by PTSD who are taking their own lives  
Are far outweighed by the names cast in bronze, those men we highly prize

This growing toll also sacrificed so that we may live in peace today  
Please stand tall and proud to honour their gift; God bless their souls I pray  
And give strength to those who loved them best as we remember them always  
We will honour their ANZAC spirit to the very end of days  
But in life's passing their mateship is still here with you- I believe it's standing by your side  
All I ask that you remember the Australian soldier with love and hope and pride

***In appreciation to those who serve***