

At the midst of dawn, when the world feels quiet, we pause. To reflect, recognise, and remember the brave ANZACs who shaped the world we live in today. The stories of people who served their nation may feel quite different from our own experiences. But these are the same people who once sat in the classrooms we use, walked the same halls as us, and continued on a path to serve their country.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1915, Australian and New Zealand army troops landed on the beach at the Gallipoli peninsula. Many of those first soldiers who stepped ashore were far from home for the first time. Their experiences created a strong sense of endurance and sacrifice. This was the start of mate ship, courage, and endurance that would forever become associated with the ANZAC name.

These same qualities have been demonstrated by soldiers serving in more recent world conflicts.

In 1962, that ANZAC legacy was called upon again, Australian soldiers were deployed to serve in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War consisted of challenging operations carried out in difficult terrain where conflict between North and South Vietnam brought in allied nations, including courageous Australian soldiers. Countless young people were involved in what would become the most sacrificial effort of their life. The prolonged conflict occurred between 1955 and 1975, within the Cold War Era. Battles primarily occurred across South Vietnam, where soldiers faced challenging terrain, monsoon rains, mountains, humid heat, and swampy wetlands.

Over 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975. Many of those being only just a few years older than the young students gathered here today. For some of those who chose to serve, their story began here at State High.

These State High students went on a courageous journey to serve our country in a time of war and upheld the ANZAC spirit.

Among those former students who served in Vietnam was Major-General Douglas (Tim) Vincent – currently recognised as one of the Legends of State High.

Douglas was born on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1916, in the Queensland suburb of Corinda. He was the only son of his father William Vincent, a civil engineer, and his mother Sarah Jane Vincent. Douglas also had 2 siblings: Joan and Pat Vincent.

Graduating from the school's class of 1934, he was a student involved both on the sporting field and within the academic sphere. He was a member of the First fifteen football team, a representative at the All-School's swimming carnival, and became a member of the First crew for rowing. Douglas was praised by his teammates for his enthusiasm and dedication to his sports, always proactive with seeking improvement, and consistently striving for excellence.

It was these attributes, developed at State High, that later shaped his service within the military.

After leaving high school, he attended the Royal Military College graduating as a lieutenant in 1938. He was committed to service to his country, being involved in multiple conflicts such as: WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam war. Douglas' involvement with Vietnam began when he was promoted to brigadier in 1962. As a part of his role, he served at the Far East Land Forces where he assisted in commanding the Australian Army Force. Developing an understanding of the conflict occurring in Vietnam, he played a crucial role in commanding the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force between 1963 and 1965, where he also worked to prepare infantry battalions for deployment.

Later in 1967, he became Commander of Australian Forces Vietnam, contributing to the management of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam. He handled high-level administrative work and command in this role. Headquartered in Saigon, he had been responsible for the Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy units working in South Vietnam. In recognition of his service Vincent was awarded several awards such as Companion of the Order of the Bath, Member of the Order of Australia, and Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Douglas lived to the age of 79, passing away in the October of 1995 in Canberra.

His honourable service demonstrates his commitment to duty, integrity and the courage to accept great responsibility when it's needed the most. His story is not simply one of the past, but one that reflects the ANZAC spirit carried by many others who served after them.

Remembering the lives, service, and stories of the brave young people who came before us, means understanding that we, as the young people of today have a responsibility to uphold their examples of duty, courage, and excellence. The actions they took remind us that leadership is not defined by a position, but by the meaning and intent behind how one behaves. That resilience is not merely perseverance, but the willingness to act when required. And that integrity is not proven by words but illustrated through what we do. We can honour their legacy by serving those around us with acts of compassion, having the courage to do our best, and upholding ourselves to strive for excellence. Today, we honour the sacrifices made by all ANZACs and acknowledge all those who followed in their footsteps. That is our duty.

Lest we forget.