



Media Statement

8/4/08

Corrigin student blazing a trail to the Western Front

Corrigin school student Thomas Murphy took another step closer towards the First World War's historic Western Front recently, when he received his official ANZAC Student Tour blazer from Premier Alan Carpenter.

Thomas, a Year 9 student at Corrigin District High School, is one of 12 students selected to travel with Mr Carpenter to France and Belgium this month as part of the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour 2008.

Mr Carpenter said the students will be walking in the footsteps of the ANZACs paying tribute to those who served or were killed or injured on the battlefields of the Western Front.

"More than 48,000 young Australians, not much older than the students selected for this tour, lost their lives on the battlefields of France and Belgium," Mr Carpenter said.

"The students chosen to take part in the tour have demonstrated an interest in Australia's role at the Western Front and are all outstanding representatives of young Western Australia.

"Thomas is a member of his school council and an enthusiastic student, who is particularly interested in history, English, drama and sport."

Thomas has a strong family history in the armed forces, with three of his great grandfathers having served.

"It was in France where my great grandfather James Henry Adam fought and was wounded, and he later died of those wounds," he said.

"I will be the first member of my family to see those battle fields and so I will be wearing replicas of my great grandfather's medals during all the services."

Mr Carpenter said the tour has special significance in 2008 as the students will join him at the Dawn Service on April 25 at the French village of Villiers-Bretonneux to mark the 90th anniversary of the town's liberation from German occupation.

"This tour is part of the State Government's commitment to raising the profile of ANZAC Day in the lives of all Western Australians, remembering the sacrifices of our forebears.

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Photo attached. Thomas is available for interviews.