



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA

For those lost so far from home

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Newsletter—July 2024

HONOUR FOR 7 NEW SOLDIERS

Pheasant Wood Cemetery, Fromelles 19 July 2024





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HONOUR FOR 7 NEW SOLDIERS

Pheasant Wood Cemetery, Fromelles 19 July 2024

We pause to remember and honour the bravery and sacrifice of these seven men, rediscovered at Pheasant Wood Cemetery:

- ◆ [Private Alfred William Fitch Ansell, Reg No 2825, 5th Pioneer Battalion](#)
- ◆ [Corporal Percy George Archibald Barr, Reg no 3006, 54th Battalion](#)
- ◆ [Private George Robert Barnatt, Reg No 1062, 29th Battalion, D Company](#)
- ◆ [Private William Christopher Brumby, Reg No 585, 31st Battalion, C Company](#)
- ◆ [Private Herbert James Graham, Reg 3543, 54th Battalion](#)
- ◆ [Lance Corporal Harold Thomson Smith, Reg 509, 8th Field Company Engineers](#)
- ◆ [Private Ernest Frank \(Studdon\) Welling, Reg 1311, 30th Battalion, C Company](#)

This year we will see the attendance at Fromelles of four of our leadership team. Attending this year will be Geoffrey Benn -President, Bronwyn Stanley – Vice President, Jim Smith – Secretary, and Royce Atkinson – Team Leader, Genealogy. We hope to meet with families of the seven soldiers who have been identified in the past 12 months.

Geoffrey and Royce will be staying on at Fromelles for a few days afterwards, and will be visiting a number of sites of significance for the Battle of Fromelles. We anticipate many pictures being taken, and conversations enjoyed by all.

Our genealogical research is part of a collaborative effort with families, The Fromelles Project team of the Unrecovered War Casualties Section – Army and other interested folk. Without this spirit of co-operation, very few identifications could be made.

We wish to acknowledge and applaud our volunteer researchers who have worked many thousands of hours to achieve these, and so many other identifications.

Let us reflect on the enduring legacy of these heroes and express our gratitude for their service. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

At the end of the Newsletter we have included a snapshot of each of the soldiers for those who cannot access our Website or Facebook pages. Lest we Forget.

Author: Bronwyn Stanley



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HONOUR FOR MARGARET O'LEARY OAM

Kings Birthday Honours 2024



The Order of Australia recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

Margaret 'Marg' O'Leary, our Director of Solider Stories, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division.

Margaret Anne O'Leary, NSW

For service to military history. The Fromelles Association of Australia

- Vice-President and Director of Soldiers' Stories, since 2023.
- Genealogical Researcher, 2013-2022.

It has been a privilege to work alongside Marg as she pursued and continues to pursue the searches for family members of the fallen of Fromelles. Her selfless dedication has resulted in many connections being made and for donors of DNA samples to be identified.

Marg has also championed our memory of those soldiers by heading the team responsible for writing the stories of our soldiers and their families, both now and then. They will be remembered forever as humans and not statistics because of her and her team's dedication.

Congratulations Marg, your recognition is well deserved.

From all those who know you and share your joy.

Author: Geoffrey Benn



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THE SEARCH FOR NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS

With the help of Zoe from Talkforce Media, we recently reached out to our fellow Anzacs to help re-search fallen soldiers who hailed from New Zealand. Royce kindly spoke with the reporter and on radio.

The Association identified 18 known New Zealanders serving in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) whom we seek further information. These soldiers, hailing from various regions including Christchurch and Dunedin, bravely fought alongside their Australian comrades.

"We invite anyone with information about these soldiers or their families to reach out to us," Royce Atkinson added. "Together, we can ensure that their memory lives on."

For more information about the New Zealand soldiers of the AIF and how to contribute DNA samples or share family stories, please visit the [Fromelles Association of Australia website www.fromelles.info](http://www.fromelles.info) or contact Royce Atkinson at royce@fromelles.info

Read online at thePress.co.nz **News 9**

The Press Thursday, April 25, 2024

Researchers seek families of Kiwi soldiers killed in 'hushed up' battle

World War I
Maddy Croad

A group of Australian genealogists are working to locate the families of several New Zealand soldiers who died in a battle described as "the worst 24 hours to date in Australia's military history".

Eighteen Kiwis were part of about 900 killed during the Battle of Fromelles, fought on July 19 and 20, 1916, during World War I when they served in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). According to research by the Fromelles Association, the battle was meant to lead German troops away from the battle of the Somme, which was happening nearby.

However, the attack quickly turned into a massive human sacrifice that ended overnight. The 5th Australian Division suffered 5533 casualties, while the 6th British Division suffered 1547.

After the battle, Germans buried the deceased soldiers in mass unmarked graves.

Royce Atkinson, team lead of genealogical research at the Fromelles Association, said the battle was kept quiet.

"The Battle of Fromelles was hushed up because it was a disaster, over half of the division were killed, wounded or captured," he said. "They fought as hard as they could, they died for their country and in some ways I feel that the battle was just glossed over."

In 2006, a mass grave was discovered containing the bodies of 250 AIF soldiers. The Uncovered War Graves Army unit in Canberra, alongside the Fromelles Association of Australia, have since managed to identify

177 of these soldiers through familial DNA. Atkinson has been working to identify these soldiers since they were found, searching records, sorting through newspaper clippings and reading old reports. In some cases when the team finds a DNA match they can contact a living relative and share the soldier's story.

"We've got a chance to identify the boys and give them their right to be named. It's important for families who lose somebody to have a place of pilgrimage, a grave," he said.

To coincide with the commemoration of Anzac Day, Atkinson and the genealogical team at the Fromelles Association are sharing the names of the New Zealanders whose families are yet to be identified. Their hope is that they will be able to connect with the soldiers' family members using DNA so they can tell

the story of each soldier's life. "It's all about naming our boys, naming our war people," Atkinson said.

The Fromelles Association of Australia have written about the soldiers they have identified so far. Information on how to contribute DNA or share stories can be found on their website.

The New Zealanders who fought and died in the Battle of Fromelles are Charles Connry, Clark Maxwell Gray, William Fletcher, Harry Forster, Andrew M Given, Edwin Lawler, William James Lund, Herbert James King, Shrewsbury F Kingford, Horace Macdonald, James L. Mason, Beresford Nelson, Henry Oscar Nelson, Albert E Pratt, Arthur C Pybus, Robert Douglas Sloan, James Semon and Edward Cooley.

A New Zealand soldier whose family is yet to be identified, William Fletcher, left, and his brother Archibald Fletcher.

James Lowther Mason is another New Zealand soldier on whom the Fromelles Association is seeking identification on.

Mason is the 53rd Battalion pictured as they were waiting to attack at Fromelles. Only three of the soldiers shown here came out of the action alive, and they were wounded.



UPCOMING EVENTS

REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES 19 July 1916

MELBOURNE

10.30am to 12.00pm—Friday 19th July 2024

Shrine of Remembrance, Shrine Auditorium, Melbourne, 3004

A screening of *The Lost Diggers of Fromelles* will take place with Tim Whitford and Lambis Englezos taking questions. Guest Speaker is Major General Michael O'Brien. An optional, paid lunch will be available between the screening and the service. This lunch must be pre-booked and is not available for purchase on the day. This screening is not suitable for children.

<https://www.shrine.org.au/lost-diggers-fromelles-screening>

1.30pm to 2pm—Friday 19th July 2023

Cobbers Memorial, Shrine of Remembrance, Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne, VIC 3001

The annual pilgrimage by the Friends of the 15th Brigade commemorates the Battle at Fromelles, fought on 19 July 1916. This was the first major action involving Australian troops on the Western Front. It proved disastrous, with nearly 2,000 Australians killed in attacks on strong German positions. This event is suitable for children.

<https://www.shrine.org.au/battle-fromelles>

SYDNEY

Assemble at the Archibald Fountain, by **10:15 for 10:30** step-off for the Anzac Memorial. **Friday 19th July 2023**

FROMELLES DAY COMMEMORATIVE PROCESSION.

The Commemorative Procession will proceed from the Archibald Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park, Sydney, to the Anzac Memorial and the Commemoration Service at the Anzac Memorial. The Archibald Fountain celebrates the bond between Australia and France in The Great War. This year, members of the 55/53Bn Association will be parading a replica of the 55Bn Kings Colours (while they have the original 55Bn Kings Colours, it is not robust enough to be paraded)

The Commemoration Service will be at The Anzac Memorial **10:50am for 11:00am**. Wreaths will be laid by a number of participants, in acknowledgement of the commitment made by the Trustees to honour the Battle of Fromelles and the men of the Fifth Division AIF.

Please also advise if you wish to participate in laying one of the wreaths: 'for the Fallen at Fromelles' or 'on behalf of World War One Descendants'. The wreaths will be available at the Anzac Memorial for the wreath laying.

Dress Code: Lounge suit, Day wear, Decorations / Medals may be worn, Poppy umbrellas.

Please note that numbers are strictly limited to 70 persons, to enable comfortable and safe physical distancing in the Auditorium and whilst at the Memorial. You should therefore RSVP if you are interested as soon as possible.

Please advise if you will be participating in the Commemorative Procession as well as the Commemoration Service when you **RSVP by Wednesday 3 July to rsvp@ffaif.org.au** Lt. Col Paul Simadas RFD, FFAIF Vice President is again our organiser for the Commemorative Procession at **vice-president@ffaif.org.au or phone 0418 461 956**.



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NEW SOLDIER STORIES AVAILABLE

www.fromelles.info

- ◆ Private Leslie Clarke Dunn, 641, 31st Battalion <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/641-private-leslie-clark-dunn/>
- ◆ 2nd Lieutenant Clarke Maxwell Gray, 2374, 58th Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2374-2nd-lieutenant-clark-maxwell-gray/>
- ◆ Private Andrew Moncreift Given, 2929, 60th Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2929-private-andrew-moncreif-given/>
- ◆ Private Thomas Vincent Hunt, 1054, 31st Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1054-private-thomas-vincent-hunt/>
- ◆ Private Percy Michael Anderson, 1205, 32nd Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1205-private-percy-michael-anderson/>
- ◆ Private Thomas Hunt, 347, 32nd Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/347-private-thomas-hunt/>
- ◆ Private Walter Ernest Bain, 135, 31st Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/135-private-walter-ernest-bain/>
- ◆ Lance Corporal Clifford Nicholls Oates, 1025, 32nd Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1025-lance-corporal-clifford-nicholls-oates/>
- ◆ Lance Corporal Cedric Dalmahoy Russell Gardiner, 2961, 53rd Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2961-lance-corporal-cedric-dalmahoy-russell-gardiner/>
- ◆ Private George Henry Johnston, 3096, 53rd Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3096-private-george-henry-johnston/>
- ◆ Lance Corporal George Probert Millard, 252, 31st Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/252-lance-corporal-george-probert-millard/>
- ◆ Sergeant Norman Percival Jones, 274, 29th Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/274-sergeant-norman-percival-jones/>
- ◆ Private Albert Arthur Rawnsley, 2392, 30th Battalion, <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2392-private-albert-arthur-rawnsley/>

Lest we forget.



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NOTICE OF AGM

Fromelles Association of Australia

10TH AUGUST AT 2PM (AEST)

The Fromelles Association of Australia invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting held via Zoom, details will be emailed separately closer to the date.

Don't forget you can order your Lapel pin and badges by emailing bill@fromelles.info

(See Membership / Orders form at end of Newsletter)

The form can be used to both apply for Membership, as well as order some of our labels or embroidered badges:

<https://fromelles.info/association/membership/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/fromelles-association-of-australia-72408028a/>

<https://www.instagram.com/fromellesassociation/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FromellesAssociationofAustralia>



WWW.FROMELLES.INFO UPDATES

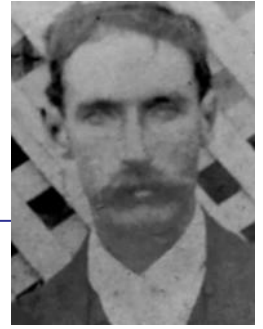
Updates have been made to the following areas of our website:



- ◆ The families of Fromelles—we are always coming across new links for families who fought at Fromelles <https://fromelles.info/the-search-for-the-missing/families-of-fromelles/>
- ◆ A new list of prisoners of war from the Battle of Fromelles is now available on our website. <https://fromelles.info/the-search-for-the-missing/prisoners-of-war-list/>
- ◆ The Pheasant Wood Soldiers list has been updated to reflect the 7 new soldiers identified. <https://fromelles.info/the-search-for-the-missing/the-pheasant-wood-soldiers/>



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PRIVATE ALFRED WILLIAM FITCH ANSELL

Reg No 2825 , 5th Pioneer Battalion, Killed in Action 19th-20th July 1916

- Alfred William Fitch Ansell "Alf" enlisted under his mothers maiden name (Fitch) in 1915. Born in 1886 at Swan Hill in Victoria, he worked as a labourer. Alf was 5 feet 7 inches, 147 pounds (170.2cm, 66.7kg) and had blue-grey eyes, dark hair and was of fair complexion.
- ♦ Three of the five sons of Frank and Emily Ansell Alf, Frank and Charles - enlisted to serve during the first World War. Only Charles returned home to Australia. Frank was killed in Action on 9 Aug 1918 on the Somme.
- ♦ Alf was with the 5th Pioneer Battalion. Lieutenant Whitfield reported that Alf was the only one unaccounted for on the night of the battle and a Pioneer tunic was seen lying in No Man's land that likely belonged to Alf.
- ♦ Originally listed as killed in action on the 23rd July 1916, his name appeared on the German Death List (GDL) and was commemorated at Villers Bretonneux.
- ♦ Alf's identity disc was sent from Germany via the Red Cross in June 1917 and eventually returned to the family, this was the only personal effect returned to the family.
- ♦ His mother Emily wrote in 1916: "I wish I could find where his is... I do wish he had never gone. God bless him wherever he is, my darling"
- ♦ A memorial notice 1 year later in 1917 reads: "If your grave could only open, dear Alf, Many changes you would see, But we think it is far better, You are resting peacefully"
- ♦ Lost on the battlefield, buried at Pheasant Wood and found 108 years later, many changes indeed.
- ♦ For more information, visit <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/282-private-alfred-william-ansell/>



Uncle Alf's identification disc kept safe by family for more than a century.

Courtesy of the Ansell family.

Collage of the three Ansell brothers who served during WW1 – (From left to right) Alfred 1886-1916, Frank 1893-1918, and Charles 1896-1963. Courtesy of the Ansell Family.



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PRIVATE GEORGE ROBERT BARNATT

Reg No 1062, 29th Battalion, D Company, Killed in Action 19th-20th July 1916

- ◆ George Robert Barnatt was born in May 1885 in Gosberton, Lincolnshire, England. He was the eldest child of William and Florence Alice Barnatt's.
- ◆ George was 5 feet 7 inches, 144 pounds (170.2cm, 65.3kg) and had blue eyes, light brown hair and a fresh complexion.
- ◆ George migrated to Australia in 1912 with his sister Rose and her husband Tom Senior and lived near Healesville, Victoria where he worked as a farm labourer.
- ◆ George and Tom both enlisted on the 5th July 1915 and were both assigned to 29th Battalion, D Company. Tom survived the battle and eventually returned to Australia.
- ◆ George's brother Walter was killed in action 4 months after George on the Somme. Walter was in the Royal Field Artillery, 49th West Riding Division, And another brother Arthur was in the Northumberland Fusiliers and returned back to England.
- ◆ Both George and Walter are commemorated at the St Thomas Church in Wincobank, Sheffield, which is near their family's home.
- ◆ George becomes the 6th of 8 known soldiers from the 29th Battalion with the handwritten note on their file referencing Map N22 to have been at Pheasant Wood, including [Ernest Frank Wilkin](#) 1314, Gordon Thomas Smith 1245, James Hugh Ross 1215, Thomas William Francis 2584, and David Frederick Livingston 2677.
- ◆ For more information, visit <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1062-private-george-robert-barnatt/>



The Family at War - George, Walter and Tom Senior



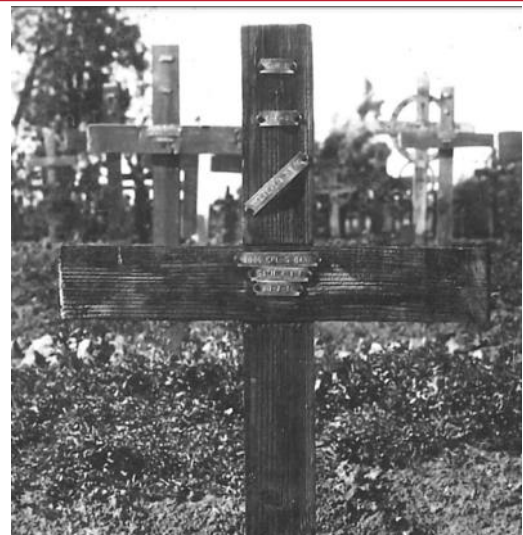
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CORPORAL PERCY GEORGE BARR

Reg no 3006 , 54th Battalion, Killed in Action 19th-20th July 1916

- ◆ Percy George Archibald Barr was born in Oxford, England in 1896 to parents Thomas and Beatrice Maud Barr and migrated to Australia in 1902 with his parents and younger brother Stanley. They settled in Dulwich Hill in Sydney.
- ◆ Percy was 5 foot 8 1/2 inches, 136 pounds with Blue eyes, black hair and a dark complexion. He worked as a commercial traveller prior to the War and was also involved in Senior Cadets.
- ◆ On enlistment with his mates William Bentley, Percy was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 10th reinforcements , they were later transferred to the 54th Battalion. At Fromelles, an eyewitness account recounted Percy and William were killed by a shell blast deep in enemy lines.
- ◆ For over 108 years, Percy has been recorded as buried in the Rue de Bois Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row F, Grave No. 43, Fleurbaix, France. An inscription on his original gravesite cast doubt in this however, it stated "Believed to be" . William Bentley is named as laying in grave No. 42.
- ◆ Percy's name and correct service number also appeared on a death list that the Germans provided as early as November 1916 and also in later records. A memorial inscription from his family reads: "He is gone yet he is near us, Maybe he can see and hear us; Yes, we feel him nearer, dearer, Tears have washed our souls' eyes clearer"
- ◆ Percy Barr is identified and now lies in a grave at Pheasant Wood. Obviously, a mistake in the burial details exists for Grave 43 at Rue de Bois Military Cemetery, we anticipate that the authorities will make every effort to correctly identify who lies in that grave.
- ◆ For more information, visit <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3006-corporal-percy-george-archibald-barr/>



Photos taken in 1902 of the Barr family: Beatrice and Thomas Barr at left and Percy and Stanley Barr at right. Source: *The Barr family*

Percy Barr's Original Grave Marker – "Believed to be" are the words on the diagonal plaque. Source [Stuart Barr](#)



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PRIVATE WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER BRUMBY

Reg No 585, 31st Battalion, C Company, Killed in Action 19th-20th July 1916

- ♦ William Christopher Brumby "Bill" was born in April 1887 at Conisholme, Lincolnshire, England to William and Eliza Brumby. He had an older sister Eliza.
- ♦ He was 5 foot 6 ½ inches, 154 pounds, with blue eyes, brown hair and had a fresh Complexion.
- ♦ Newly arrived in Melbourne in 1914, he settled at Sorrento, Victoria and quickly made friends. He was described as: "Of a quiet and retiring disposition, his genial manner made him a host of friends in Sorrento"
- ♦ Bill enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force on 12 July 1915. He was assigned to the newly formed 31st Battalion, C Company along with his Sorrento friends Bert Hibbert and Ernie White.
- ♦ Bill and Bert were both killed in Action at Fromelles, Ernie received a gunshot wound to his face during the battle and returned home in 1917.
- ♦ Originally listed as killed in action on the 21st July 1916, he was commemorated at Villers Bretonneux.
- ♦ Bill has now been identified at Pheasant Wood. Bert Hibbert remains unaccounted for and the search continues for family DNA.
- ♦ After Bill had been killed, Ernie White's mother pursued the Army to see if Bill's personal effects that she had been looking after could be arranged to be sent to his family in the UK. The Army agreed, so Bill's family were at least able to get some closure.
- ♦ For more information, visit <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/585-private-william-christopher-brumby/>



BRUMBY.—A tribute to the memory of Pte. W. C. Brumby, of Lincolnshire, England, who was killed in action in France on 21st July, tent mate of L.C. A. G. Hibbert (Bert), who was killed same day; also L.C. E. G. White (Ernie), who was wounded.

Comrades, sharing each other's sorrows, sharing each other's joys.

—Inserted by a few Sorrento friends.

BRUMBY.—As a tribute to the memory of Private W. C. Brumby (Bill), who was killed in action in France, 21st July, 1916, tent mate of late Lance-Corporal Hibbert and Sgt. E. G. White (Ernie), returned. (Inserted by Sorrento friends.)

Bill Brumby and Bert Hibbert. Source: Nepean Historical Society and Memorial Notices from the local paper. Source Trove.



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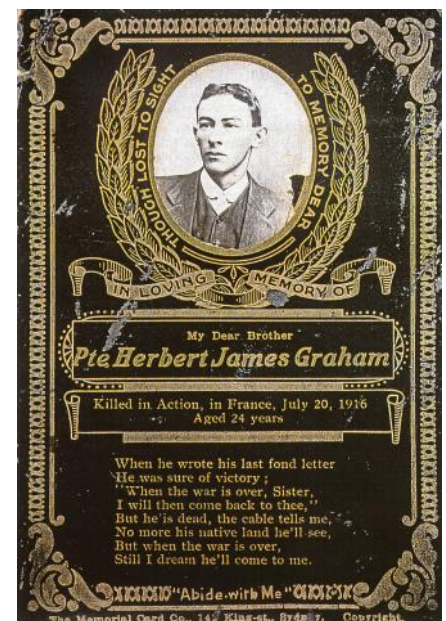
PRIVATE HERBERT JAMES GRAHAM

Reg No 3543, 54th Battalion, Killed in Action 19th-20th July 1916

- ◆ Herbert James Graham "James" was born in Dubbo, NSW in 1892 to Thomas Albert George and Alice Maria Graham. He had 3 sisters and 2 brothers and when Herbert James was 5 years old, his mother passed away. His father remarried Rose who help raise James.
- ◆ James grew up in Geurie, a small town in NSW and worked as a farm labourer. James was 5 feet 10 1/2 inches, 142 pounds with brown eyes and dark brown hair.
- ◆ James was originally allocated to the 20th Battalion, 8th Reinforcement before being transferred to the 54th Battalion.
- ◆ Little to no records exist of what happened to James, as a Red Cross File does not exist. Family were notified as early as August 1916.
- ◆ James step-mother Rose, had a son Herbert Joseph Godfrey May, 1698, from a previous marriage, who was killed in action 15 May 1917 as part of the 14th Machine Gun Company during the Battle of Bullencourt.
- ◆ A memorial to James from his family reads: "Lost to sight, to memory dear, It's just twelve months ago, Since the voice of the cable told, The dauntless lad in khaki suit, Was killed in France"
- ◆ "It gave me goosebumps when I got the call." Josh Graham recalled on being told his long lost relative had been found.
- ◆ For more information, visit <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3543-private-herbert-james-graham/>



Killed in Action.
Mr. Thomas Graham, of Geurie, on Monday evening last, received the sad news of the death of his son, James, who was killed in action in France, about the 19th or 20th July. The occurrence cast quite a gloom over the town, and the deepest sympathy is expressed for Mr. and Mrs. Graham and family in their sad loss.



James in uniform and his memorial card. Source: Graeme Hoskins and Wellington Museum. Article re his death. Source: Trove.



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LANCE CORPORAL HAROLD THOMSON SMITH

Reg No 509, 8th Field Company Engineers, Killed in Action 19th July 1916

- ♦ Harold Thomson Smith, born on 19 July 1896 in North Melbourne, was the second of David and Elizabeth (nee Leeming) Smith's six children.
- ♦ Harold 5 feet 11 ½ inches, 161 pounds with hazel eyes, brown hair and had a fair complexion.
- ♦ Harold was the first of his family to enlist, signing up on 22 March 1915. He was originally assigned to the 24th Battalion, then transferred to the 5th Field Company Engineers, which was renamed the 8th Field Company Engineers.
- ♦ Harold was promoted to Lance Corporal on 16 August 1915 and by the end of August, his unit had completed their basic military and engineering training and were headed for Gallipoli.
- ♦ A report in his Red Cross files states: "He was digging a C.T. across No Man's Land, when he was sniped through the head, death taking place almost instantaneously. Owing to our retirement in the early hours of July 20th, his body, which was lying near the enemy's lines, was not recovered "
- ♦ Harold's role in the battle was to dig and clear communications trenches. The War Diaries specifically note that the communication trench was well constructed and of good condition.
- ♦ Harold, a warehouseman by trade, was killed in action on his 20th Birthday.
- ♦ Harold's father, David, wrote to the Army on six separate occasions between October 1916 and July 1917, even contacting the Secretary of Defence in his later letters. His frustration is clear in his letter of 6 June 1917, as other families, whose son's fell on the same day, had received their sons' belongings.
- ♦ Harold's name appeared on the German Death List, and his body was recovered from the battlefield. Information was provided on 2 August 1916, stated that he had fallen in the neighbourhood of Fromelles.
- ♦ For more information, visit <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/509-and-4474-lance-corporal-harold-thomson-smith/>

Kand	Engl. Totenkisten Nr.	10536/73/W.
Abschrift.		
Name	S m i t h, H.T.	
Dienstgrad	Sold.	Nr. der Erf. Karte 4474.
Truppenteil	8th Fld. Coy-Engr.	
Zeit u. Ort der Gefangennahme	Erk. Mrk. überwiesen v. NO. A.O.K. 6. dch. M.A. (Zentralstelle für Nachlasssachen. 12.10.16.	
Aufenthaltort		
Bemerkungen		
Verwundung N.		

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, SMITH H T



The German Notification and Harold is remembered at VC Corner. Harold Smith Source: Herald Sun—RossStansfield-Smith



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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PRIVATE ERNEST WELLING

Reg No 1311, 30th Battalion, C Company, Killed in Action 20th July 1916

- ◆ Ernest Frank (Studdon) Welling "Ern" was born on 24 October 1884 at Miller's Point, Sydney, New South Wales. His mother was Ada Studdon, but his father is unknown. When Ern was a year old, Ada married Alfred Sydney Welling.
- ◆ Ern was 5 feet 3 3/4 inches, 126 pounds with grey eyes, medium brown hair and had a medium complexion.
- ◆ Ern was athletic, playing Rugby League for the Western Suburbs Team. He played in the first grade team for the 1910 season.
- ◆ Ern married Florence Jane Bryant on 16 Aug 1911 in St Barnabas' Church, George Street West, Sydney. He was a salesman at the time. A year later they had a son, Ernest William, who was born in August 1912. Ern's happiness was short lived however, as his son died in 1913 and then Florence died in November 1914 from pregnancy complications.
- ◆ Ern enlisted on 16 August 1915 at Holdsworthy, New South Wales. He was assigned to the 30th Battalion, C Company. Little is know of what happened to Ern on the battlefield, as no Red Cross file or German records have been located. He is simply listed as killed in action.
- ◆ John Studdon, a 3rd Cousin writes: " Your legacy resonates deeply within me, despite our paths never crossing. The sacrifices you made for our country stand as a testament to your unwavering bravery and strength. In the tumult of war, you exemplified courage that inspires me to this day."
- ◆ "To know that we share a bond of family fills me with immense pride. Your actions, though undertaken in a time of great adversity, speak volumes about your character and resolve. The honor of having you as a cousin is one I hold dear, even though our lives never intertwined."
- ◆ For more information, visit <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1311-private-ernest-frank-welling/>




Western Suburbs DRLFC 1910 First Grade and Heritage Medal #63 Source: West Archives

MEMBERSHIP AND ORDER FORM

Fromelles Association of Australia Inc

THE FROMELLES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED Application for Membership/Orders from:

Surname:		1 st name	
Surname		1 st name	
Surname		1 st name	
Address:			
City/Town		State	Postcode
Email:			
Phone (H)	Phone (M)		
For Single member fee: \$10.00	Family Membership – incl. additional Members under 18 years of age: \$20.00		
My/our Soldier: (No.)	Surname:		
Unit:	1 st Name(s):		
I hereby apply for Sole / Family Membership of the Fromelles Association Inc. and agree to abide by the Constitution of the Association	Signed + Date		
Membership Fee (calculate from above):	\$		
Lapel/Hat Badge(s) @ \$8.00 each x	\$		
Embroidered Badge(s) @ \$6.00 each x	\$		
Add Postage:	\$2.50		
Cheques to:	The Fromelles Association Inc., Attn: Bill Irvine, 41 Chantilly Court, Goulburn NSW 2580		
Direct Deposit: Westpac Bank	The Fromelles Association Inc. Westpac Bank, BSB: 032 721, Account No.: 310953		
Email to:	bill@fromelles.info or to geoffrey@fromelles.info		
 <p>FROMELLES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA <i>For those lost so far from home</i></p>			