



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA

For those lost so far from home

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THE FINAL 70 PHEASANT WOOD SOLDIERS



Although no new announcements were made this year, The Fromelles Association are diligently working on identifying the Final 70 Soldiers left at Pheasant Wood.

The following was received from Dr Aaron Pegram, Manager Unrecovered War Casualties - Army on Anzac Day 2025.

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Around Anzac Day each year, descendants of Australia's missing from the battle of Fromelles wait in anticipation for news that Defence has made formal identification of remains recovered from the German mass grave at Pheasant Wood. Regrettably, Unrecovered War Casualties – Army (UWC-A) informs members of the Fromelles Association of Australia that there will be no announcement of new identifications in the coming days.

UWC-A recently convened an analysis team meeting to consider all forensic anthropological, biological and historical data for a number of candidates, with the view that these would be the subject of a Defence Identification Board. While there were strong candidates considered, the DNA obtained for these was not substantial enough to progress with the identification board at this time.

Our 'gold standard' for DNA is to obtain two mtDNA and YSTR profiles for each candidate, however we were unable to meet this threshold head of our usual Anzac Day timings. This does not signal a decline in effort from UWC-A, but is indicative of the more complex family trees of the remaining candidates who either need to be excluded or confirmed through the application of rigorous evidentiary standards.

What is required is continued dedication and focus from UWC-A, which I can assure the association remains solid. UWC-A has a plan to move forward on the DNA front, and hope that perhaps we might be in a position to strive for an analysis team meeting later in the year.

While I realise that this is not the news the association was hoping for, I do wish to thank members of the Fromelles Association of Australia for their ongoing dedication and commitment to our common purpose – that is to find, recover and identify Australia's wartime missing.

Dr Aaron Pegram





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Newsletter July 2025

ANZAC Day Ceremony - Thursday 24 April 2025

Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery

In the presence and with speeches of Mr Jean-Gabriel Masson, mayor of the [Préfet de la région Hauts-de-France et du Nord](#) Mr Jean-gabriel Delacroy, general secretary at the prefecture for regional affairs of the Hauts-de-France [Commune de Fromelles](#) and Lieutenant-Colonel Geoff Godkin, liaison officer of the Australian Army [L'Australie en France](#)

The Ode of Remembrance was read by Mr Martial Delebarre representing [Fromelles Weppes Terre de Mémoire 14-18](#) and Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Godkin.



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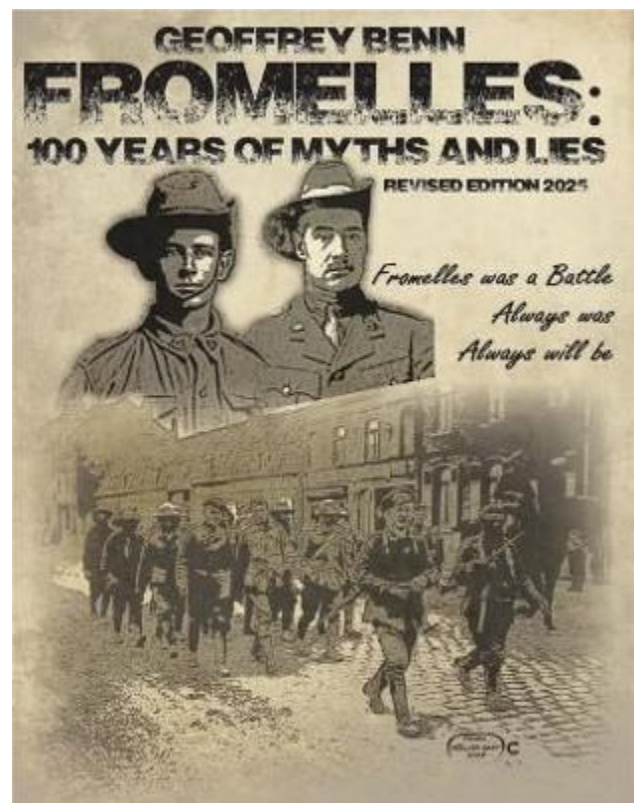




LATEST NEWS

It has been a busy six months for the Fromelles Association:

- Royce Atkinson our Team Leader-Genealogy has been handing over the reins to Carla Miller as the new team leader. Royce has been a fantastic team leader and I am sure he will not want us to espouse how wonderful and amazing he has been in this role! So we won't! We welcome Carla to this role and know she has is very capable of continuing the great work done previously. Royce will continue to assist in the Genealogy team.
- Bob Griffith has officially joined Marg O'Leary as Team Leader—Soldier Stories. The Soldier Stories team have been working hard to get as many stories up as possible—we are always on the lookout for writers, proof readers or googlers to help the team.
- The Final 70 project has kicked off to help identify the last remaining 70 soldiers at Pheasant Wood. This has meant a renewed focus on finding DNA matches for the soldiers.
- The Media team has been busy with Radio appearances in Melbourne and South Australia. We also had news articles on lost soldiers published across the country. Next up is Queensland and we welcome Tony to the team to help us out. John in England is also helping us to get stories ready for Liverpool, England soldiers.
- Marg gave a fantastic presentation to over 100 people in the Hunter Region about our work.
- The website now has a frequently asked question section.
<https://fromelles.info/frequently-asked-questions-the-battle-of-fromelles/>
- Geoffrey has published an update on his book which includes additional information regarding the soldiers who fought and the Prisoners of War. With special thanks to Pierre Seillier for his front cover of this book.





May School Visit

Genealogy Team

In May, Carla from the Genealogy Team did a talk at Blue Gum Community School for the Year 4/5 class. The students had been on a visit to the Australian War Memorial and after paying their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, had lots of questions about why soldiers can die unidentified in a war.

The teacher's were aware of the volunteer work of the Association and asked Carla to do a talk for the students discussing how we identify soldiers when a grave is found, and to help them understand the work that is happening to identify the boys from the Fromelles battlefield at Pheasant Wood.

The students were very engaged, asked lots of questions, and were so interested in the stories of the boys who fought at Fromelles.

The wanted to know all sorts of things about what life was like for the soldiers, where they slept, did they have any pets, how much food did they get to eat, and were there any airplanes involved?

The was also conversations about how old the soldiers were, and the students were very shocked to learn that some of the soldiers who fought and died were the ages of their older siblings and cousins.

It was a fantastic afternoon with some sobering moments but so much interest and enthusiasm shown by the class.

RESEARCH: CARLA'S TALK

Last week we were fortunate enough to be joined by Carla, a researcher (and mum of Liam) who works for the Fromelles Association of Australia. Carla spoke to us about the 'The Lost Boys', a project where the remains of soldiers who died in the battle of Fromelles are excavated and the Fromelles association team tries to identify them. This directly linked to our research about World War 1.

We found out that the battle of Fromelles was the greatest loss of Australian life in military history in a 24-hour period. This project's goal is to identify all Australian soldier remains so that we can remember their contribution and they aren't lost to history.

Candlebark were super engaged throughout Carla's presentation and had lots of questions, including:


"How many soldiers have you matched from the 250 bodies that were found in the mass graves in Germany?"

"Our research has told us that soldiers lied about their age, do you know if any of the Soldiers in Fromelles lied about their ages?"

"How young was the youngest soldier who fought in the battle of Fromelles?"

"How were the graves dug since they were in war?".

We thank Carla very much for her time in coming to speak with us and cannot thank her enough for sharing her knowledge and about the amazing work that she does.





2025 UPCOMING JULY 19 EVENTS

Fromelles Day Services of Commemoration of the 109th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles will be held in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane and Fromelles on Saturday 19 July as follows:

In **Sydney**, the Fromelles Commemorative Procession will gather at the Archibald Fountain at 10:00am to re-enact the final parade of the 5th Division Veterans to the Anzac Memorial where there will be a Commemorative Service with wreath laying commencing at 10:50.

In **Ipswich**, QLD at Ipswich Soldiers Memorial Hall, organised by the 31st Bn Association (Brisbane) at 11a.m. see [31st Infantry Battalion Association – 31st Infantry Battalion Association](#)

In **Melbourne** – The Shrine of Remembrance, organised by The Friends of the 15th Brigade with live streaming on the Shrine's web site [Remembrance services \(shrine.org.au\)](#) from 1:30pm - see [Battle of Fromelles | shrine.org.au](#); and

In **Fromelles**, a Commemorative Service at the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery.

Members of FFFAIF and descendants of soldiers who [participate in the Battle of Fromelles are invited to participate in the Sydney commemoration. Please RSVP to \[rsvp@fffaif.org.au\]\(mailto:rsvp@fffaif.org.au\) \[Note: numbers are *limited* due to venue size.\]](#)

In Sydney, the Fromelles Commemorative Procession will gather at the Archibald Fountain to re-enact the final parade of the 5th Division Veterans to the Anzac Memorial where they requested that the Trustees always remember on 19 July their 8,500 comrades who died in the Great War and those who have died since then. Following the Commemorative Procession will be a Commemorative Service with wreath laying. A feature of the Commemoration is that almost all of those involved have a family connection to the Battle of Fromelles and one family presents a Family Reflection conveying the impact of the Battle of Fromelles on their soldier and their family. Members of FFFAIF who would like to assist in the commemorative services as ushers and assistants are invited to **volunteer by sending an email to commemorations@fffaif.org.au**—Jim Munro, FFAIF

The [Fromelles Day Sydney 19 July 2024 Commemorative Procession and Commemoration Souvenir](#) is available for viewing and downloading from the www.fffaif.org website [Fromelles Day Sydney 19 July 2024 | Families and Friends of the First AIF](#).

In **Canberra**, The 109th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles will be marked and commemorated during our Last Post Ceremony on Saturday 19 July at the Australian War Memorial.

The ceremony will hear the story of [Private Prosper Goodwin Keats](#) and present a catafalque party mounted by members of Australia's Federation Guard. The Last Post Ceremony is open to all members of the public and commences promptly at 4.30 pm each day (with no tickets required).



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2025 UPCOMING JULY 19 EVENTS—SYDNEY

With thanks to FFFAIF.org.au



**FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE FIRST AIF INC.
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANZAC MEMORIAL**

109TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES

19TH JULY 2025



**PROCESSION GATHERS AT 10.00 AM
ARCHIBALD FOUNTAIN, HYDE PARK NORTH, SYDNEY CBD
COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AND WREATH LAYING 10.50 AM
AT THE ANZAC MEMORIAL, HYDE PARK SOUTH
Please RSVP to rsvp@fffaif.org.au**

www.fffaif.org.au

Members wishing to assist as ushers or
assistants are invited to volunteer.
Email: commemorations@fffaif.org.au



2025 UPCOMING JULY 19 EVENTS—MELBOURNE

Shrine of Remembrance

Event Details

Date: Saturday 19 July 2025 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm

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

Details: Admission is free.

This venue is wheelchair accessible.

This event is child-friendly.



This annual pilgrimage by the Friends of the 15th Brigade commemorates the Battle of Fromelles, fought on 19 July 1916. This was the first major action involving Australian troops on the Western Front, and was planned as a diversion to prevent German troops moving from a relatively quiet area to the large battle being fought on the Sommes. This annual pilgrimage by the Friends of the 15th Brigade commemorates the Battle of Fromelles, fought on 19 July 1916. This was the first major action involving Australian troops on the Western Front, and was planned as a diversion to prevent German troops moving from a relatively quiet area to the large battle being fought on the Sommes.



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2025 UPCOMING JULY 19 EVENTS—IPSWICH

With thanks to 31st Battalion Association

31st Battalion Assoc
(Brisbane Branch)

In Conjunction with
Ipswich RSL Sub branch Inc

Commemorating the 109th Anniversary of
Battle of Fromelles

When: 19th July 2025

Time: 11AM

Where: Honour Stone
Ipswich Soldiers Memorial Hall
(63 Nicholas St, Ipswich QLD)

COBBERS

Citation:
"At PETILLON on the 19th/20th July 1916, he held with great gallantry the extreme left flank of the Battalion's front in the German main position, and showed extreme devotion to duty during the night under heavy enfilade fire, and assisted in the protection of our Machine Gun position from enemy bombers."

2nd Lieutenant
William McLEAN DCM



The 31st Battalion at Fromelles

A Baptism of Fire - Part 1

In July 1916, the men of the 31st Battalion, part of the 8th Brigade, 5th Australian Division AIF, found themselves in the trenches of northern France, facing their first major battle on the Western Front. Many came from rural Queensland and Victoria. They had arrived only weeks before, eager to prove themselves but unaware of the catastrophe that awaited them at Fromelles. Among them were farmers, labourers, clerks, miners, and tradesmen – soldiers from all walks of life brought together for a common cause.

In the hours leading up to the assault, the battalion endured intense German artillery fire. Their ammunition and bomb dump were destroyed, and even before going over the top, they had already suffered around 400 casualties out of the 1,000 men preparing to attack. The blast also wounded Lieutenant-Colonel Toll's signallers, messengers, and medical staff, compounding command difficulties before the attack.

“During the few minutes immediately preceding the assault, the fire upon this sector, largely from German batteries to the north-east, was intensified. Thus a high proportion of the total casualties of the 31st Battalion occurred before the assault began.” *Bean, Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918, Vol III, p. 397*

At 5.58 PM on 19 July, the men went over the top in four waves. The attack formation saw A and C Companies leading in the first two waves, with B and D Companies following as the third and fourth waves. The pre-battle bombardment had damaged the German frontline trenches, allowing the first waves to quickly reach them, but fierce counter-attacks and unrelenting machine-gun fire soon pushed the Australians back. Confusion reigned as men were cut down crossing open ground or stranded in shell holes under fire.

Lieutenant Walker of the 8th Machine Gun Company sent this message during the battle:

“Major Clements and Captain MacPherson wounded. Am in bent position under Captain Mills in drain 200 yards (in) front of enemy's front line trenches. Own shrapnel hitting us and enemy finding range. Digging in.” *Bean, Vol III, p. 405*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DAX0837

Portrait of 31st Battalion Group, A Company—Australian War Memorial September 1915



The 31st Battalion at Fromelles

A Baptism of Fire - Part 2

Some soldiers managed to reach the German trenches, but heavy casualties and confusion soon followed. Seeing the dire situation, Lieutenant-Colonel Toll advanced forward himself to assess and direct his men on the ground. He sent urgent pigeon messages back to headquarters, one reporting his position and another after he withdrew, stating that he could hold the captured German front line **“if reinforcements are sent over urgently.”** None arrived. *Bean, Official History Vol III, p. 405*

Throughout the night of 19–20 July, isolated groups of the 31st dug in where they could under intense artillery and machine-gun fire. Some sections managed to hold parts of the German second line, but without grenades or sufficient ammunition, they were unable to repel repeated counter-attacks. Communication between forward positions and headquarters broke down. By early morning, German forces attacked from both flanks.

Official reports described the desperate situation:

- Many Australians were cut off and surrounded.
- Some attempted to retreat across No Man's Land under cover of darkness but were shot down by machine guns.
- Others were captured in small groups as the Germans reoccupied their trenches.
- Orders were received to withdraw

“The enemy swarmed in and the retirement across No Man's Land resembled shambles, the enemy artillery and machine guns doing deadly damage.”

AWM4 23/48/12, 31st Battalion War Diaries, July 1916, p. 29

By dawn on 20 July, the 31st Battalion had suffered devastating losses. Of the 1019 soldiers who had left Egypt, 77 were killed or died of wounds, 414 were wounded, and 85 were missing, only 113 answered roll call on 21 July...

Bean described it as: **“...One of the bravest and most hopeless assaults ever undertaken by the Australian Imperial Force.”** *Bean, Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918, Vol III, p. 395*





The 31st Battalion at Fromelles

A Baptism of Fire - Part 3

Two weeks after the battle, the following was posted in the North German Gazette:

"The English troops who took part in this battle were Australians, strong youthful men, who undoubtedly attacked with great bravery and proved themselves clever and tenacious in close fighting."

"FROMELLES." (1929, May 11). Daily Mercury (Mackay, Qld. : 1906 - 1954), p. 13. Retrieved July 3, 2025, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article170539759>

Today in France, soldiers of the 31st Battalion who lost their lives at Fromelles are honoured at places like VC Corner Cemetery and Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, and the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery. To date, 23 soldiers from the battalion have been located and identified at Pheasant Wood, giving their families long-awaited closure.

In Queensland, each year the [31st Infantry Battalion Association](#) holds a commemorative service at Ipswich General Cemetery, organised by the Brisbane branch at 11.00 AM, ensuring these men are honoured not just in history books but by those who continue their legacy.

In Brisbane, in recognition of their sacrifice, a memorial plaque (pictured below) was commissioned to commemorate the members of the 31st Infantry Battalion who died in service or were killed in action during World War One.

As we remember Fromelles, we honour the courage of the 31st Battalion – men who rose from the trenches in the fading light of day, leaving behind families and futures, their sacrifice forever etched into the soil of France and the story of Australia.



Members of the 31st Battalion, A.I.F., marched to the Anzac Memorial for a service in memory of the Battle of Fromelles.

Trove, (1936, July 20). *The Courier-Mail* .



Brisbane 31st Battalion Memorial



Spotlight on New Soldier Stories—31st Battalion

www.fromelles.info



Reg No: 888

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

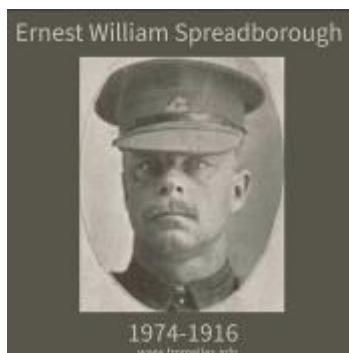
Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/888-private-albert-john-johnson>

Albert John Johnson was born in 1894 in Swan Hill, Victoria, one of nine children. A carpenter by trade, he enlisted in Melbourne just days before his 21st birthday. On 20 July 1916, Albert was killed during the Fromelles assault. Witnesses reported seeing him fall as they crossed No-Man's-Land. His body was never recovered. Albert's older brother, Henry William, served at Gallipoli and survived the war. Albert remains one of the many still missing.

Rank: Lieutenant

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/lieutenant-ernest-william-spreadborough>



Ernest William Spreadborough was born in Warwick, Queensland, in 1874 and became a dedicated school teacher and cadet instructor. Married to Edith Margaret Brundrit and father to three children, he enlisted at the age of 40 and was commissioned into the 31st Battalion. Described by Red Cross witnesses as "brave to a fault" and "a splendid soldier," he was last seen leading his men under intense fire. His body was never recovered.

Reg No: 1136

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1136-private-charles-reginald-benson>



Born in Malmsbury, Victoria, in 1897, Charles Reginald Benson enlisted under the alias **Charles Harrison**, likely to conceal his true identity or age. He had a complicated childhood, spending time in state care, and was later fostered by Mr. David Harrison. Working as a carpenter, he enlisted at just 17 and joined the 31st Battalion. Charles was killed in action during the Battle of Fromelles on 21 July 1916, aged 19. His true identity wasn't confirmed until years after his death.

Reg No: 102

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/102-private-gordon-stratford>



Gordon John Stratford was born in Brisbane in April 1897 and enlisted in Queensland just after his 18th birthday. A young labourer and farmer, he was one of eight children in the blended Stratford-Barcroft family. After training in Egypt, he was sent to the Western Front with the 31st Battalion. Gordon was killed in the attack at Fromelles on 20 July 1916, aged just 19. He was last seen during the charge into No-Man's-Land and never returned. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Panel 23 at VC Corner. His name remains among the many young Australians still missing.



Spotlight on New Soldier Stories—31st Battalion

www.fromelles.info

Louis
John
Goodwin

1896–1916



Reg No: 2005

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2005-private-louis-john-goodwin>

Louis Goodwin was born in 1894 in Hillgrove, NSW, where he worked as a postal assistant before enlisting in August 1915. He joined up with his close friend Joseph Martin, and the two trained and embarked together with A Company of the 31st Battalion. At Fromelles, Louis was killed in action 2 days before the Battle commenced. His body was never found.



Joseph
Archibald
Loraine
Martin

1894 - 1916

Reg No: 2058

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2058-private-joseph-archibald-loraine-martin/>

Joe Martin was born in Grafton, NSW, in 1894 and raised in Hillgrove, where he worked as a grocer. A member of the Citizen Military Forces before the war, he enlisted in Armidale in 1915 and joined A Company of the 31st Battalion alongside his lifelong friend Louis Goodwin. The two mates trained and sailed together, and both were killed at Fromelles.



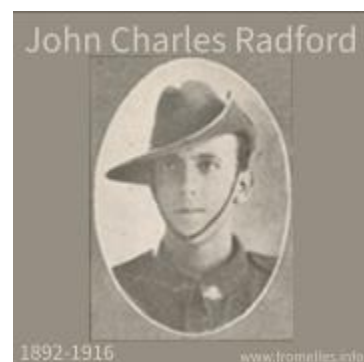
Arthur Donald Leigh
1893 - 1916

Reg No: 247

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/247-private-arthur-donald-leigh/>

Arthur Leigh was born in Landsborough, Queensland, in 1893 and was working as a fitter when he enlisted in July 1915. He was the eldest of eleven children in the Leigh family of North Ipswich and described as quiet, capable, and steady. Serving with A Company of the 31st Battalion. His brothers also served, and his memory was long cherished by his family and community.



John Charles Radford

1892-1916

Reg No: 288

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/288-private-john-charles-radford>

John Charles Radford, known as Charles, was born in Brisbane in 1892 and educated in Rockhampton. A carpenter by trade, he enlisted in July 1915. 2 days before the battle, he described their position as “a warm corner” and said they were “expecting a big attack.” Charles was last seen in the German trenches during the assault and never returned. His body was never found. He is remembered alongside his younger brother Vincent, who died of war-related illness in 1922.



Soldier Stories-Victoria

The Soldier Story team has been hard at work over the past six months, with **more than 35 new Fromelles soldier stories** published to the website. Each one honours the life, service, and memory of a young man lost in the disastrous Battle of Fromelles in July 1916. In April this year, committee member **Marg** featured in a series of **radio interviews** highlighting **Victorian soldiers still missing** from the battle. Their stories — some long-forgotten, others only recently pieced together — reveal the depth of loss felt across Australia. Here are just a few of the men she spoke about:



Reg No: 1054

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1054-private-thomas-vincent-hunt>

Private Thomas Vincent Hunt – A 47-year-old baker from Carlton, Thomas lied about his age to enlist, far beyond the official limit. He lived a quiet life, unmarried and childless, and served with the 31st Battalion in Egypt and France. He was killed at Fromelles on 20 July 1916 and has no known grave.



Reg No: 589

Battalion: 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/589-corporal-bertram-benjamin-bloomfield>

Corporal Bertram Benjamin "Bert" Bloomfield – A St Kilda local educated at Melbourne Grammar, Bert was a hotel clerk, husband and father. Killed at Fromelles, he is believed to be buried at Pheasant Wood but has not yet been formally identified.



Reg No: 3038A

Battalion: 56th Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3038a-private-william-beith>

Private William Beith – From Dunolly, William was one of nine children raised on the Victorian goldfields. He worked for the NSW tramways and married shortly before deployment. His son was born just months before he was killed at Fromelles.

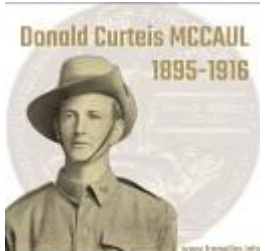


Reg No: 3900

Battalion: 58th Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3900-private-victor-william-quinn>

Private Victor William Quinn – A dairy farm labourer from Traralgon, Victor was known as quiet and respectful. He enlisted in 1915 and was killed just five months later during the Battle of Fromelles.



Reg No: 1980

Battalion: 60th Australian Infantry Battalion

Fromelles.info link: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1980-sergeant-donald-curteis-mccaul>

Sergeant Donald Curteis McCaul – From Elsternwick and educated at Brighton Grammar, McCaul served at Gallipoli before fighting at Fromelles. After his death, his effects were returned home by the Germans. He has no known grave.



New Stories from other Battalions

www.fromelles.info

Thomas James Clarke, 1995, 32nd Battalion *A Family man lost.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1995-private-thomas-james-clarke/>

Richard Roland Coady, 3267, 53rd Battalion *A father who never came home.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3267-private-richard-roland-coady/>

Thomas Easton, 2026, 30th Battalion *A Miner, A Soldier, A Fallen Son of Teralba.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2026-private-thomas-easton/>

Charles Magnus Franklin, 3520, 55th Battalion *Not Your Typical Australian Soldier.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3520-private-charles-magnus-franklin/>

Frederick Hulks, C466, 32nd Battalion *A loyal soldier, father and son.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/lieutenant-frederick-william-hulks/>

Arthur Stanley Krogman, 4253, 54th Battalion *Never Found, Never Forgotten.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/4253-private-arthur-stanley-krogman/>

John Alexander Loudon, 3367, 53rd Battalion *A Carpenter from Coonabarabran.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3367-private-john-alexander-loudon/>

Peter McGregor, 2081, 32nd Battalion *Champion strongman and wrestler.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2081-lance-corporal-peter-mcgregor/>

Harold George James Miller, 2073, 32nd Battalion *The Story of Harold George Miller.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2073-private-harold-george-james-miller/>

John William Nicholl, 3587, 53rd Battalion *A husband remembered.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3587-private-john-william-nicholl/>

William John Palmer, 593, 32nd Battalion *Fighting "Pedlar" Palmer – Bill's Story.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/593-private-william-john-palmer/>

Albert John Perks, 739, 30th Battalion *A treasured friend.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/739-private-albert-john-perks/>

George Rostron, 605, 32nd Battalion *England, America and Australia.*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/605-private-george-henry-rostron/>

George Greenwood Smith, 2667, 53rd Battalion *"Too dearly loved to be forgotten."*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2667-private-george-greenwood-smith/>

Charles Albert Woods, 2194, 30th Battalion *"Somewhere else in France."*

<https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2194-private-charles-albert-woods/>

Alfred John Smith, 3255, 30th Battalion

& Walter Genge Smith, 539, 30th Battalion *Brothers at War.*

Alfred: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3255-private-alfred-john-smith/>

Walter: <https://fromelles.info/soldiers/539-sergeant-walter-genge-smith/>



How Can you help find the final 70?

www.fromelles.info

At Fromelles, over 250 Australian soldiers were buried in a mass grave after the disastrous battle on 19 July 1916. Thanks to DNA and historical research, 180 of them now have their names back. 70 soldiers still remain to be found.

You can help us finish this journey of remembrance.



•Check Your Family Tree

Were you told someone in your family went missing in WWI?

Do you have an ancestor who fought at Fromelles?

Explore our Soldier Stories and see if a name or hometown feels familiar. You could be connected to one of the missing men.

•Provide a DNA Sample

If you think you might be related to a missing soldier, your DNA could help confirm their identity.

We are looking for male (YDNA) and female (MTDNA) descendants of soldiers' siblings, cousins, and extended family. The process is free, secure and we work with the Australian Army to help you through the process.

•Help us tell their stories

Do you have family letters, photos, or stories about someone who fought at Fromelles?

Even the smallest detail — a nickname, a photo, a birthplace — can help tell their story.

•Spread the Word

Every post, conversation, and mention helps.

Please share our stories with friends, family history groups, or anyone who might be connected. The right person could be just one conversation away.

•Volunteer Your Skills

Are you a researcher, historian, genealogist, writer, or simply passionate about Australian history?

We welcome volunteer support to help us tell more stories and find more families.

Contacts

For Soldier Stories: marg@fromelles.info For Genealogy: carla@fromelles.info



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA
For those lost so far from home

Newsletter July 2025

ARE YOU A GOOGLE GURU OR A KEEN-EYED PROOFREADER? Volunteer Researchers & Story Editors Needed

The Fromelles Association of Australia (FAA) is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation committed to two powerful missions:

- **Tracing relatives** of soldiers killed in action at the Battle of Fromelles (19 July 1916), helping to identify their remains through DNA matching and genealogical research.
- **Preserving their stories** online via our dedicated website: www.fromelles.info, which honours every soldier who fought at Fromelles.

We're currently seeking **two kinds of volunteers** to support this important work:

GOOGLE-SAVVY RESEARCHERS

Can you track down a soldier's birth record? Locate living relatives using Trove or Ancestry? We need people who love digging into online archives, databases, or even just getting clever with a search engine. Every clue helps us connect the past to the present.

PROOFREADERS & FACT-CHECKERS

Have an eye for detail? Love history and hate typos? We need careful editors to check soldier stories for accuracy, consistency, and readability before they are published on the website.

No formal background required – just curiosity, commitment, and a willingness to learn.
If this sounds like your kind of project, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Carla Miller— Team Leader, Genealogy - carla@fromelles.info

HOW YOU CAN ALSO SUPPORT US

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>



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> | | | |