



A RECORD OF  
THE PARADE AND CEREMONY  
WHICH WAS ARRANGED TO  
COMMEMORATE  
THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF  
FROMELLES, THE FIRST OF  
THE BATTLES FOUGHT BY  
THE A.I.F. IN FRANCE

HELD IN  
HYDE PARK, SYDNEY  
ON  
19th JULY, 1966

## 5th DIVISION A.I.F.

The 5th Division A.I.F. was the only Australian Division which participated in the battle of Fromelles, where it suffered 5,513 casualties in a period of twenty-four hours. The Division was formed in Egypt during the early months of 1916 and to the end of the Great War over 8,100 of its Members died on Active Service. The Battle Honours inscribed on the Regimental Colours of the Infantry Battalions are

EGYPT

FRANCE AND FLANDERS 1916-18

SOMME 1916-18

FROMELLES

BULLECOURT

YPRES, 1917

PASSCHENDALE

VILLERS BRETONEAUX

MONT ST. QUENTIN

HINDENBURG LINE

## THE COMMEMORATION PARADE AND CEREMONY

The Ex-Members of the 5th Division A.I.F., and many of their relatives, also representatives of the Returned Services League, the War Widows Guild and others participated in the Ceremony of Remembrance. Many of the Ex-Members and relatives came from other States and despite the weather conditions which prevailed during the earlier part of the day, more than 800 veterans were on parade and many of their comrades whose disabilities prevented their attendance on the Parade, joined in the Ceremony.

While the men were assembling in Hyde Park near the statue of Captain Cook, the Eastern Command Band rendered the music of the songs of the 1914-18 War period and during the interlude which preceded the March, an oration on the history of the Division was delivered by Mr. Bryson Taylor from the steps of The Anzac Memorial Shrine for the benefit of our relatives and the guests who were seated along the northern end of The Pool of Remembrance. This oration was followed by the March of the Veterans led by the Band and the Unit Banners; the column divided when it reached the end of the pathway and the men took up their positions along both sides of The Pool of Remembrance facing inward.

The Ceremony of Remembrance commenced at 11 o'clock with a rendition by the Band of The National Anthem. The Wreath Party consisting of the Parade Commander, Brigadier W. E. Smith, MC., ED., Major-General L. Beavis, CB., CBE., DSO., Brigadier H. Bachtold, DSO., MC., and Mr. Arthur Hall, VC., moved up the steps to the entrance to The Shrine and the wreath was laid by Brigadier Bachtold. The Buglers sounded The Last Post and after observance of The Silence, Mr. Bryson Taylor recited "In Flanders Fields" which was followed by "The Ode to the Fallen" and the responses by those on parade; the Bugler then sounded "Reveille". The Ceremony at The Shrine terminated with the playing of the French National Anthem. The men marched away from The Pool of Remembrance to take part in The Final Tribute where they stood in formation along the pathway which leads back to the Assembly Area and faced West during the rendering by the Band of "The Recessional."

We who were privileged to participate in this Ceremony will always remember with pride and humility the atmosphere of reverence which was maintained throughout each of its phases.

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw: The torch:  
Be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

Colonel John McCrae.

## THE ODE TO THE FALLEN

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,  
They were staunch to the end, against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning  
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon

*Lest We Forget*

# STATE PRESIDENTS

*Diary*



- 11/3/66—  
10.30 a.m.: R.S.L. Co-op. Building Society Meeting.  
6.30 p.m.: Limbless Soldiers' Assn. Annual Dinner.
- 13/3/66—  
7 a.m.: Depart Mascot for Armidale.  
New England District Council Meeting at Armidale.
- 14/3/66—  
8.40 a.m.: Depart Armidale for return to Sydney.
- 15/3/66—  
7.10 a.m.: Depart Mascot for Canberra.  
4.00 p.m.: Meeting Cabinet Sub-Committee re Pensions.
- 16/3/66—  
9.40 a.m.: Depart Canberra for return to Sydney.  
2.00 p.m.: Depart Sydney for Newcastle District.  
5.00 p.m.: Bolton Point Home Meeting, Newcastle.
- 17/3/66—  
Visited Doyalson-Wyee, Toukley and Ourimbah-Lisarow Sub-branches and Warnervale Women's Auxiliary.
- 18/3/66—  
Return to Sydney.
- 19/3/66—  
3.00 p.m.: N.S.W. R.S.L. Youth Club's 5th Annual Swimming Carnival, North Sydney Olympic Pool.
- 20/3/66—  
6.30 p.m.: Burwood R.S.L. Sub-branch and Club Dinner and Cabaret.
- 22/3/66—  
12 noon: The Sydney Committee Annual Meeting.  
2.00 p.m.: Sutherland Women's Auxiliary Luncheon for female patients from Callan Park.
- 23/3/66—  
12 noon: Interview Acting Commissioner of Police.  
3.30 p.m.: Interview Minister for Education re R.S.L. Club Bursaries.
- 24/3/66—  
9.30 a.m.: R.S.L. Co-op. Building Society Meeting.  
2.00 p.m.: Anzac House Trust meeting  
8.00 p.m.: Greek Sub-branch 25th Annual Anniversary Smoko.
- 25/3/66—  
2.00 p.m.: Civilian Maimed & Limbless Assn. Drawing No. 44 Art Union.  
8.00 p.m.: Homebush - Strathfield R.S.L. Club Annual General Meeting and Presentation Certificate of Appreciation Messrs. W. Watts and R. Meyer.
- 27/3/66—  
Hurstville Diggers' Bowling Club—Patrons' Day.
- 30/3/66—  
12.15 p.m.: United Returned Soldiers' Fund meeting.
- 1/4/66—  
12 noon: Interview Mr. J. Wisdom.  
1.00 p.m.: Interview Mr. M. Darby re Anti-Communism Campaign.  
3.00 p.m.: Aust. Overseas Forces Amenities & Entertainment Fund Committee Meeting.
- 6/4/66—  
3.00 p.m.: Official Drawing 32nd War Veterans' Lottery.  
6.30 p.m.: State Executive.
- 7/4/66—  
12 noon: Interview Channel 7 re Conscription.  
2.30 p.m.: Interview Mr. J. Wisdom.
- 8/4/66—  
6.30 p.m.: Auburn R.S.L. Sub-branch and Lions Club Anzac Dinner.
- 9/4/66—  
7.30 p.m.: Inter Dominion R.S.L. Darts Carnival.  
Welcome to Sydney Dinner—Drummoyne R.S.L. Club.

## FROMELLES - 50th ANNIVERSARY Sydney Ceremony Arranged

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles, the 5th Division A.I.F. will hold a Commemoration Parade at the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, on Tuesday, July 19, at 11 a.m.

The Parade will take the form of a March of 400 yards. It is symbolic of the 400 yards of "No-Man's Land", crossed under heavy fire to attain the objective at Fromelles.

All Ex-Servicemen of the 5th Division, 1st A.I.F., are asked to assemble at the Archibald Memorial Fountain, Hyde Park, and the 400 yards March will be from there to the Pool of Remembrance, where a wreath will be placed on the Anzac Memorial.

It is expected that many serving members of this famous Division from W.W.I will come from all parts of the State to take part in possibly the last Parade of this nature.

The historical Ceremony will commemorate the night of July 19-20, 1916, when the 5th Australian Division carried out a gigantic raid at Fromelles in Flanders.

It was the first occasion on which Australian Troops in

France in the 1st World War were committed to a major battle, and also the first occasion on which the 5th Division went into action.

It was a most tragic event for the Division because the casualties were very heavy. Those who are left have organised this Ceremony to specially commemorate the memory of those who fell on the blood-soaked fields of Fromelles.

The joint Secretaries of the 5th Division, 1st A.I.F. Association, are Messrs. A. L. Brown ('phone 99-2910) and W. A. Mason ('phone 59-2034).

Both have appealed to all ex-members of the 5th Division to attend this Parade, and welcome any enquiries that ex-members wish to make.

Mr. Mason said that the Association expected between 1,200 and 1,500 members to take part.

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Fifty years ago these men with serious faces were young Diggers of the Fifth Division writing new history for Australia when its troops went into Battle in France for the first time. At the service to commemorate the Battle of Fromelles in Hyde Park, Sydney, on July 19, they stood bare-headed in the rain, their faces showing the years in between as they remembered the bloody battle fifty years ago which caused Australia its highest casualties.

REMEMBER . . .

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## FROMELLES ANNIVERSARY PARADE

### 5th DIVISION'S CEREMONY

More than 500 former members of the 5th Division, 1st A.I.F., commemorated in July, the 50th Anniversary of their first and most tragic major battle in France.

During the nights of July 19-20, 1916, the 5th Australian Division carried out a gigantic raid at Fromelles in Flanders and suffered the heaviest losses ever known by Australian troops in such a short period of time.

It was the first occasion on which Australian troops in France in the first World War were committed to a major battle and the first time the 5th Division did go into action.

On the blood-soaked fields of Flanders, the Division suffered 5,513 casualties in a terrific and grim battle.

There were barely 300 survivors after Fromelles but they were later joined by 500 other officers and men of the 5th Division who had fought

elsewhere in France. At this year's ceremony, the serious faces of the men who did battle 50 years ago were most evident as they marched through the rainy weather in Hyde Park to honour the dead.

The marchers, still proudly carrying the banners of the fighting 5th of the 1st A.I.F. marched through Hyde Park and lined the Pool of Remembrance whilst wreaths were placed on the Hyde Park War Memorial.

Brigadiers A. Smith and H. Bachtold and Major-General A. Beavis laid wreaths assisted by Mr. Arthur Hall, a V.C. winner of the 5th Division who comes from Coolabah, N.S.W.

# THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANZAC MEMORIAL BUILDING

(INCORPORATED UNDER ACT 27 1923)

**ANZAC HOUSE  
245 CASTLEREAGH STREET  
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ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED  
TO THE HONORARY SECRETARY

Mr Chris Perrin

31<sup>st</sup> August 2005

Mr Craig Laffin  
President  
FFFAIF Inc.  
23 Stuart Street  
Blakehurst NSW 2221

Dear Mr Laffin

I write in response to your correspondence dated, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005, in relation to honouring FROMELLES on the ANZAC Memorial.

Your correspondence was tabled at the Quarterly Meeting of the Trustees of the ANZAC Memorial Building, when it met on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005. The topic generated much debate and the Trustees resolved to engage the services of a historian employed at the ANZAC Memorial to investigate the facts behind the inscriptions on the France and Belgium niche in the Hall of Memories. This scope was broadened to include the facts behind the inscriptions on the other three niches, Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine and New Guinea and the High Seas.

Mr Anthony Clancy BA MA (History) spent a considerable amount of time researching World War I; events surrounding the Battle of Fleurbaix (as the now Battle of Fromelles was originally known); the ANZAC Memorial; The Australian War Memorial, Hyde Park, London; and the Memorial to the Fifth Division, Polygon Wood, Belgium. These topics of research were chosen as to provide the Trustees with vital information on the Battle of Fromelles, the thought process behind the current inscription in the Hall of Memories and a greater background of information on recognition of deeds featured on Memorials.

I am unable to transcribe all the findings of Mr Clancy during his research; however, I will attempt to point out some of the more pertinent points and observations made by him.

## TRUSTEES

THE PREMIER OF N.S.W.   THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION   THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY   THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE

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ASSN. OF N.S.W

## FROMELLES

The Australian 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions had been in the front line, March to June 1916. The Battle of Fromelles was fought by the Sixty-First British Division and the Fifth Australian Division, and took place over 19-20<sup>th</sup> July 1916. The Australian Fifth Division consisted of 3 (three) Brigades, the 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigades. The 14th Brigade was raised from NSW, the 15th Brigade was raised from Victoria and the 8th Brigade was a mixed Brigade raised from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia and New South Wales. The Fifth Division 1<sup>st</sup> AIF Battalions were awarded the Battle Honour of the Somme for their part in the action at Fromelles.

## THE FRANCE AND BELGIUM NICHE

It is proposed by Clancy that the choice of the inscription with this niche was "inclusive" rather than "evocative". From his analysis, the France and Belgium niche covers a great majority of the fighting seen by Australians. Clancy points out that following World War I an Imperial Battles Nomenclature Committee was formed to standardise the names and battles and campaigns for the purposes of Battle Honours, and to assist in the writing of official histories and were published in 1922. The committee divided the war into operations (sometimes referred to by others as campaigns), the operations into "battles or groups of battles" and in some cases battles into actions and affairs. The general rule for the Western Front adopted by the committee was that **battles** were engagements of primary importance fought between forces not smaller than a Corps, **actions** involved divisions and **affairs** involved smaller units.

The inclusion of the inscriptions Somme 1916, Bullecourt, Somme 1918, and Hindenburg Line directly correspond with official operations as determined by the Imperial Battles Nomenclature Committee. Considering the other operations, the Flanders operation includes the battles of Messines and Ypres 1917 as per niche inscriptions. The Piccardy operation includes the Battle of Amiens, again as per inscription. As far as can be ascertained, the original Trustees consulted official historian C.E.W. Bean for his choice for the inscriptions as the most appropriate to New South Wales.

At the winding up of the Fifth Division, 1<sup>st</sup> AIF the Trustees were asked by the surviving members of the division, to place the "5th Division AIF Wreath Stand" at the France and Belgium niche on the anniversary of the action at Fromelles, the 19<sup>th</sup> July each year. The Trustees readily agreed to this request.

Mr Clancy will present his work to the Trustees of the ANZAC Memorial Building when next they meet in November 2005. The Trustees will then make their final decision on whether or not to include the action at Fromelles in the France and Belgium niche, and you will be advised of their decision.

Yours sincerely



**CHRIS PERRIN**  
**HONORARY SECRETARY**