

Fromelles Day Sydney 2019: Commemorative Procession from the Archibald Fountain to the Anzac Memorial and Commemorative Service

Commemorative Procession from the Archibald Fountain to the Anzac Memorial

The Families and Friends of the First AIF in conjunction with the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial, hosted the Commemoration of the 103rd anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles at The Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney on Friday 19 July 2019.

The Battle of Fromelles in northern France on 19-20 July 2016 was the first battle involving Australian troops on the Western Front following the withdrawal from Gallipoli. It was and remains the largest loss of Australian life in a 24-hour period with 1,917 killed or died of wounds, 3,416 wounded and 496 taken prisoner totalling 5,533 casualties. In 2008, the graves of 250 soldiers buried by the Germans after the battle were located and in 2010 reinterred in the new Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery and 166 of these soldiers have now been identified by name.



Image by St Clare's College, Waverley

The Commemoration was preceded by a Commemorative Procession of about 80 people on a mild winter morning from the Archibald Fountain that commemorates the association of Australia and France in The Great War to the Anzac Memorial.

The Commemorative Procession re-enacts the final Parade of the veterans of the 5th Division on the 50th anniversary of the Battle marching to the ANZAC Memorial to request that the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial always remember their service and the sacrifice of their comrades on 19 July 1916. *A record of the Parade and Ceremony held in Hyde Park on 19 July 1966* is at Annexure D.



The Commemorative Procession leaving the Archibald Fountain.
Images by St Clare's College Waverley

The Commemorative Procession was led an Australian National Flag Party from the Australian Army Personnel Administrative Centre (APAC) at Victoria Barracks.



Flag Ensign WO2 Nathan Grumley with Flag Escorts PTE Sean Amarant and PTE Bradley Delrio
Image by Michael Mannington for Community Photography

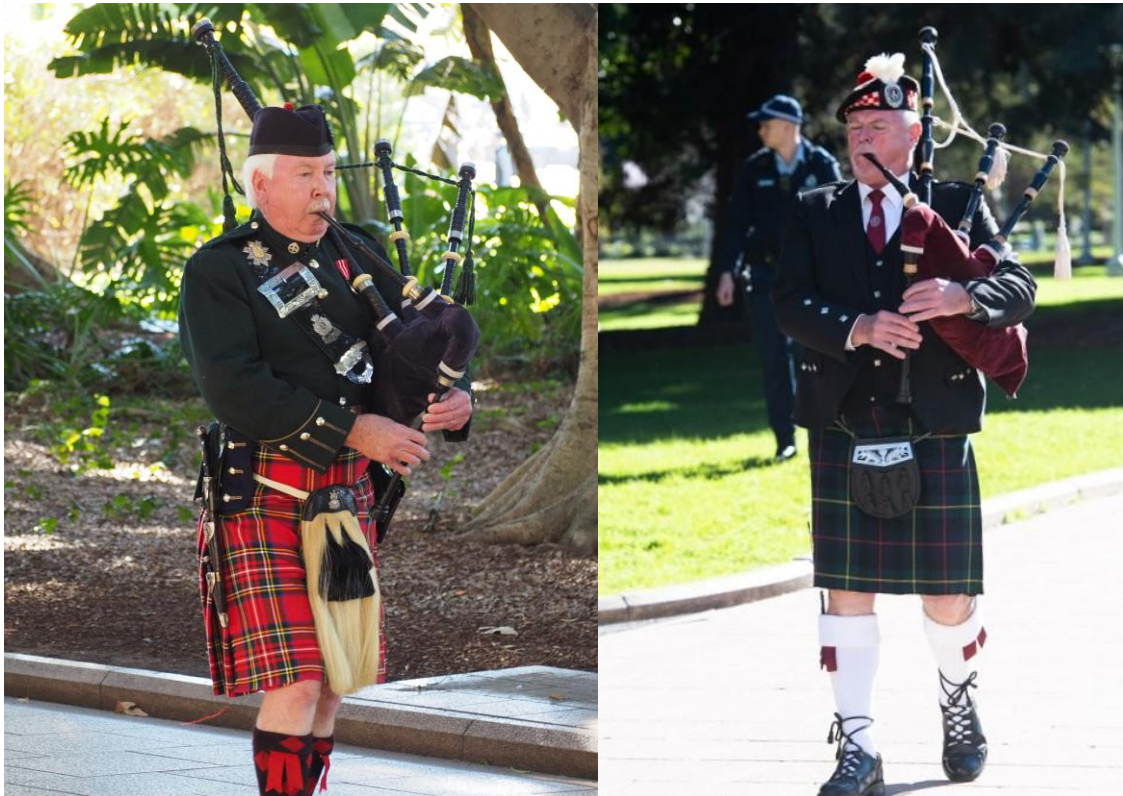
The Flag Ensign was Warrant Officer Class 2 Nathan Grumley, of 1 Health Support Company (1HSC), Randwick Barracks, whose great grandfather Pte William Grumley, 30n, was wounded in the Battle of Fromelles, and is thought to have been one of the veterans who participated in Parade from the Archibald Fountain to the Anzac Memorial.

Also participating in the Commemorative Procession and possibly walking in the footsteps of Pte William Grumley were 3 generations of Grumleys (Grand-son, Great grand-children and Great-great-grandchildren).



3 generations honouring Pte. William Grumley.
Image by St Clare's College

Following the Australian National Flag Party from the Australian Army, was Piper Jim Braid, NSW Scottish Regimental Association Pipes and Drums and Piper Graham Wood, Sydney Thistle Highland Pipe Band who accompanied the Procession for the first time.



Pipers Jim Braid and Piper Graham Wood

Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography



Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO, former Governor of New South Wales and Honorary Member FFFAIF again led the Commemorative Procession, accompanied by Russell Curley, Past President FFFAIF, Jim Munro, President FFFAIF and FFFAIF Committee Member Jill Hayes.

Image by Michael Mannington for Community Photography



Descendants and representatives of Ex Service and Descendants' organisations,
Neil Falconer, Fiona Bunn, Air Commodore Ian Scott, Rear Admiral Ian Crawford, Geoffrey Benn, Mrs Meg Green
Image by St Clare's College, Waverley

Following were civic leaders and senior officers from military and civilian services. including:
Special Guests

Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO, former Governor of New South Wales and
Honorary Member FFFAIF
M. Pierre Bianconi, Deputy Consul-General for the Republic of France

Trustees of the Anzac Memorial or their Proxy:

James Griffin MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans representing
The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of New South Wales and The Hon John Sidoti MP,
Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans
Mr Ray James, President Ingleburn RSL Sub-Branch representing Mr James Brown, President,
The Returned and Services League of Australia NSW Branch
Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP, Member for Coogee representing The Hon Jodi McKay MP, Leader
of the Opposition
Rod Kirkman, Manager of Protocol representing The Rt. Hon. Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of
Sydney and the City of Sydney

Former Anzac Centenary Ambassadors representing:

Harry Allie BEM, Chair of the NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans
Commemoration Service Committee
Rear Admiral Ian Crawford AO AM (Mil) RAN (Rtd), National President of the Australian
Council of Korea Veterans Associations
Mr Greg Wrate, President, Sydney Legacy
Lt. Col. Colin Dunston RFD, Former President Sydney Legacy
Mrs Meg Green, National President, War Widows' Guild of Australia

M. Francouis Romanet, French-Australian Chamber of Commerce
 Senior Officers of the Emergency Services
 Superintendent Paul Carrett, Commander of Kings Cross Police Area Command, representing NSW Police
 Superintendent Michael Bray representing the NSW Ambulance Service
 Senior Defence Officers or their representatives including
 BRIG Michael Annett, ACOM 2 Division representing the Australian Army Commander Headquarters Command, Major General Chris Field AM CSC and Commander Second Division, Major General Kathryn Campbell, AO, CSC
 Deputy Commander 8th Brigade, Colonel RB Lording will represent the Commander of the 2nd Division and Commander 8th Brigade
 Captain Bowater OAM representing RAN Commander, Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead AM
 Group Captain Chaplain Peter Friend representing RAAF Air Commander Australia Air Vice-Marshal Joe 'Vinny' Iervasi, AM
 They were supported by members of the French North African Veterans' Association (the Association des Anciens Combatants Francais (NSW)) led by President M Jean Louis Worobec and a Wreath Carrying Party from St Clare's College, Waverley.
 Representatives of ***Veterans' and Descendant Organisations*** including Members of the Families and Friends of the First AIF (FFFAIF), The Fromelles Association, Australian Branch of the Western Front Association, Australian World War One Descendants, NAJEX (NSW Association of Jewish Service & Ex-Service Men & Women) as well as descendants of soldiers who participated in the Battle and Air Commodore Ian Scott AM, President, Remembrance Driveway Committee.



The Commemorative Procession departing the Archibald Fountain with the support of the Association des Anciens Combatants Francais (NSW) led by their President Jean-Louis Worobec. Deputy Consul-General Pierre Bianconi with descendant Fiona Bunn and National President of the War Widows Guild of Australia, Mrs Meg Green followed by descendants and representatives of Ex-Service and descents' organisations.

Image by St Clare's College, Waverley.

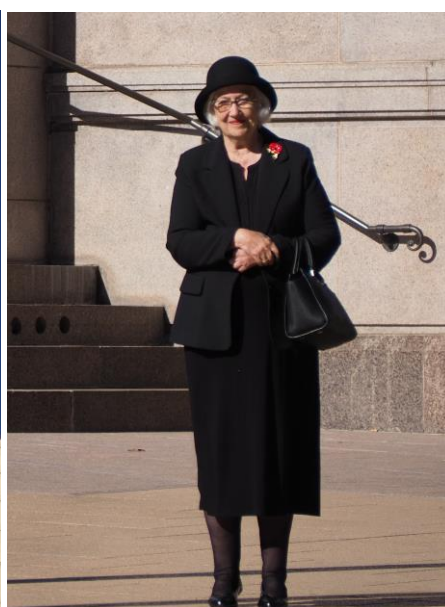
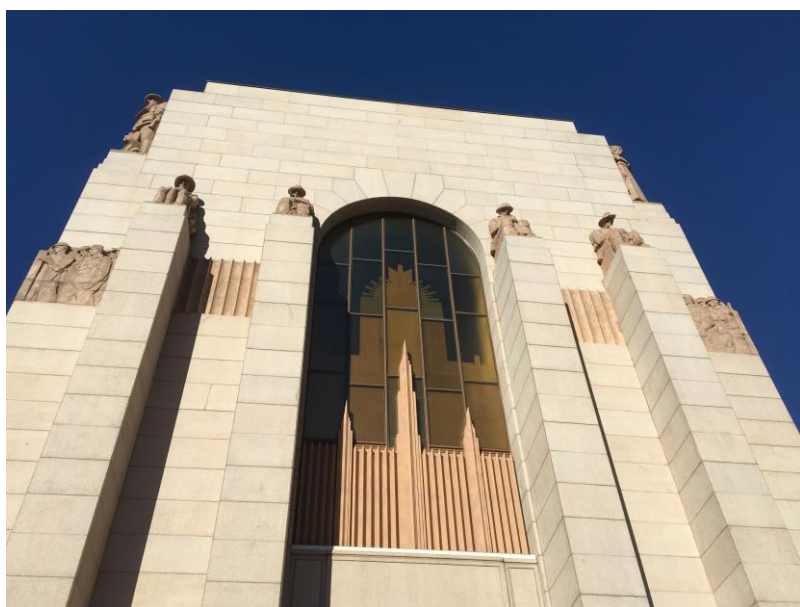
The procession symbolically represents the "400 yards", the widest part of "No-man's land" on the Fromelles battlefield, and paid homage to the 5th Division veterans marching to the Anzac Memorial for the 50th anniversary commemoration in 1966.

Special thanks go to the Procession Marshall, Lt. Col. Paul Simadas RFD, Vice President Families and Friends of the First AIF and Chairman, Australian Branch, Western Front Association who co-ordinated many of the arrangements for the Procession including liaising with the NSW Police and City of Sydney Events Team to ensure the security for the Procession and safe passage across Park Street and establishing the Order of Procession.

You can view and download photographs and segments of video of the Commemorative Procession on the FFFAIF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FromellesDaySydney2019/>.

Commemoration of the 103rd Anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles

At the Anzac Memorial, a further gathering of about the same size as the Procession, including descendants, Former Anzac Centenary Ambassadors and representatives of the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial listened to music played by the NSW Police Band led by Acting Director of Music Anthony Brahe and *Nearer My God to Thee* and *Requiem for a Soldier* sung by The Holy Family Choir Menai and the Westleigh Probus Songsters.



The participants in the Commemorative Procession were greeted by FFFAIF Commemorations Officer Margaret Snodgrass OAM and after they were seated The Holy Family Choir Menai and Westleigh Probus Songsters led about 200 attendees in singing *O Valiant Hearts*.

Master of Ceremonies, and FFFAIF Member, Darren Mitchell welcomed guests and read a Vice Regal Message from His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. A copy of this message is at Annexure A and a copy of the Order of Service is at Annexure B.



Harry Allie BEM, Chair of the NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans Commemoration Service Committee and a former member of the NSW Centenary of Anzac Advisory Council led an Acknowledgement of Country on behalf of Aboriginal elders. In 2019 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags were flown at the *Yininmadyemi Bullet sculpture* for Indigenous Diggers to demonstrate respect for the custodians of this land, both past and present and their contribution to this country and its heritage and values. You can hear Harry's *Acknowledgement of Country* on the FFFAIF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FromellesDaySydney2019/>.

The Prologue was delivered by Mr Russell Curley, Past President, Families and Friends of the First AIF. You can hear Russell's *Prologue* on the FFFAIF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FromellesDaySydney2019/>.



Pastor Bob Durbin, Chaplain with RSL LifeCare led a prayer, followed by the Holy Family Choir Menai and the Westleigh Probus Songsters leading the singing of *Abide with Me*.





Patrick Lindsay AM delivering the Commemorative Address

Mr Patrick Lindsay AM supported by students of St Clare's College, Waverley delivered the Commemorative Address giving some insights and reflections on the prolonged and emotional experience that many families went through, with assistance of Students of St Clare's College, Waverley who read some of the correspondence from families seeking information on their soldiers following the Battle of Fromelles. You can hear Patrick and the St Clare's Students delivering the Commemorative Address on the FFFAIF Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/FromellesDaySydney2019/>.

Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography



Lily Whitaker of St Clare's College reads from letters



Lily Garrett of St Clare's College reads from letters

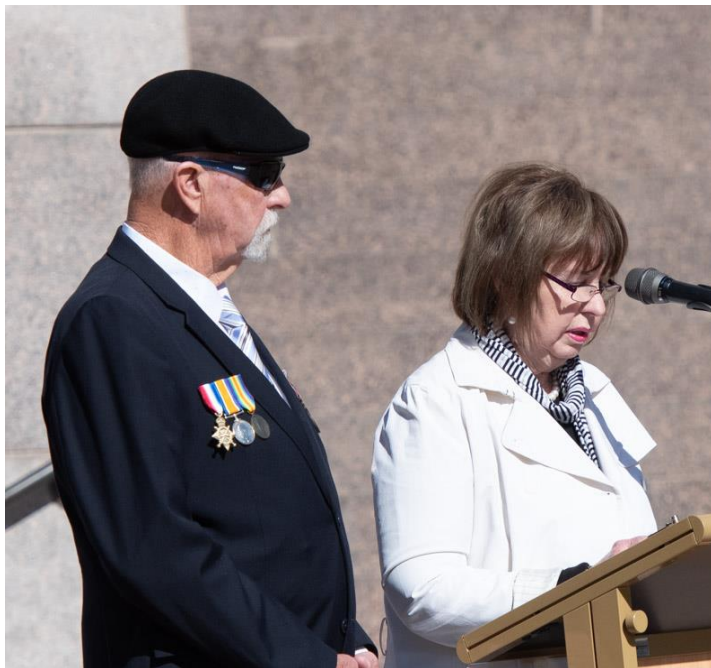


Emily Cropp of St Clare's College reads from letters



Natalia Rey of St Clare's College reads from letters
Images by Michael Mannington Community Photography

In the Family Reflection, Josie Shelley with Kevin Holmes, grandchildren of Cpl “Nutsy” Herbert Bolt, 55 Bn who was Killed in Action at Fromelles, buried by the Germans after the battle and identified through DNA matching, reflected on the life of “Nutsy” Bolt as a prominent Rugby League player with Newtown and his war experience. Josie also reflected on the Family’s journey of grief and the impact of the identification of ‘Nutsy’s’ remains and the significance of the 2010 Dedication of the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery with his named headstone.

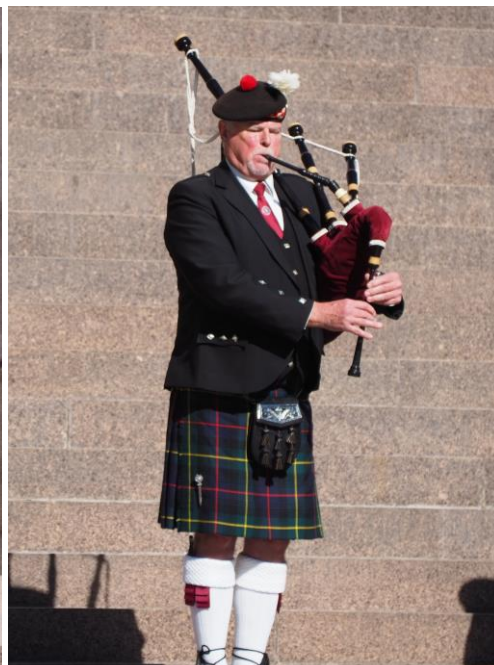
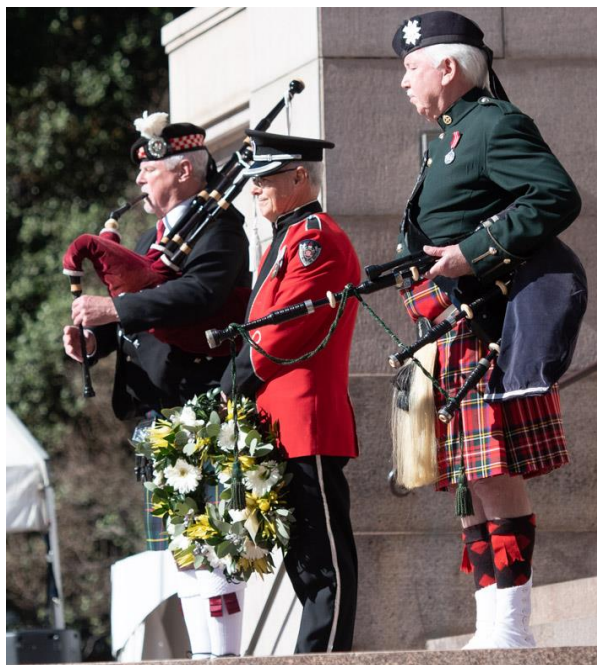


Family Reflection by Josie Shelley with Kevin Holmes, grandchildren of Cpl “Nutsy” Herbert Bolt, 55 Bn



Cpl “Nutsy” Herbert Bolt, his wife Jenny, and baby daughter Monica (Mother of Josie and Kevin) 1915.

Wreaths were laid while Piper Jim Braid played the Lament, alternating with Piper Graham Wood. Graham. Jim Braid is a relative of Sgt James Dodd 53rd Bn and Pte Downie Dodd 56th Bn KIA at Fromelles. Graham played his composition *Fromelles Lament*, commissioned by the Late Major-General Gordon Maitland for the first time in public.



Piper Jim Braid played the Lament, alternating with the Piper Graham Wood during the wreath-laying
Images by St Clare’s College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography



M. Pierre Bianconi, Deputy Consul-General for the Republic of France lays a wreath on behalf of the citizens of France, with The Hon James Griffin, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans representing the Premier of New South Wales and Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans lays a wreath on behalf of the citizens of NSW.



In tribute to the Fallen

FFFAIF Past President Russell Curley, Committee Member Margaret Snodgrass OAM and President Jim Munro



In tribute to the Missing

FFFAIF Members Neil Falconer and Lorraine Henshaw

Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography



Tribute to the 8,100 men of the 5th Division Killed in Action during the First World War
and to those have died since the War
Ray James, President of Ingleburn RSL sub-Branch for the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial and RSL



On behalf of the City of Sydney: Rod Kirkman, representing the NSW Opposition: Member for Coogee Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP, National President War Widows' Guild of Australia, Mrs Meg Green, and President of Sydney Legacy, Mr Greg Wrate.

.Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography



M. Jean-Louis Worobec, Président Association des Anciens Combattants Français de Nouvelle Galles du Sud laying a wreath on behalf of French War Veterans of NSW



Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO laying her wreath for those who served at Fromelles

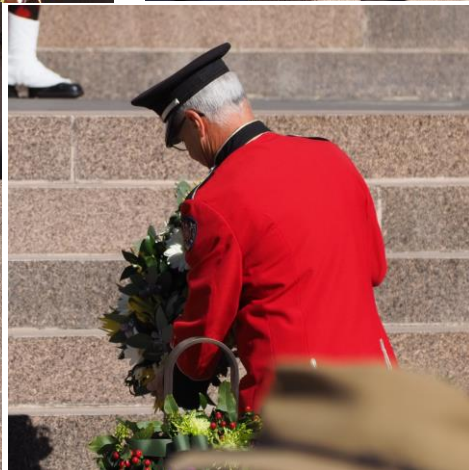
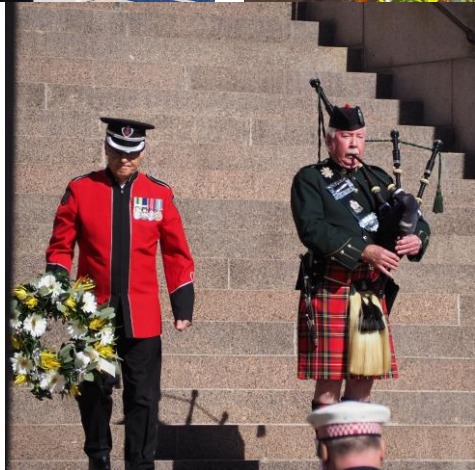


GPCAPT Chaplain Peter Friend representing RAAF Air Commander Australia Air Vice-Marshal Joe 'Vinny' Iervasi, AM,
CAPT Stephen Bowater OAM representing Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead AM, Commander, Australian Fleet
COL Rob Lording, Deputy Commander 8th Brigade representing Commander Second Division, Major General Kathryn Campbell, AO, CSC and the 8th Brigade. His grandfather, was seriously wounded at Fromelles whilst serving with the 8th Brigade

Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography



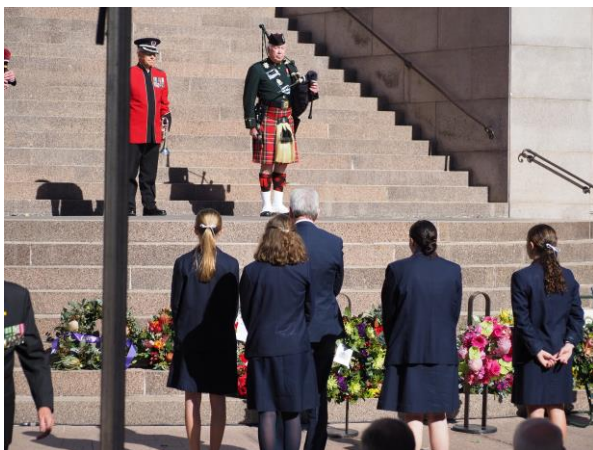
BRIG Michael Annett, ACOM 2 Division representing the Australian Army Commander Headquarters Command, Major General Chris Field AM CSC laying a wreath on behalf of The Australian Army
CAPT Stephen Bowater OAM representing Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead AM, Commander, Australian Fleet, laying a wreath on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy
GPCAPT Chaplain Peter Friend representing RAAF Air Commander Australia Air Vice-Marshal Joe 'Vinny' Iervasi, AM laying a wreath on behalf of the Royal Australian Air Force
COL Rob Lording, Deputy Commander 8th Brigade, and Commander Second Division, Major General Kathryn Campbell, AO, CSC and the 8th Brigade laying a wreath on behalf of 8th Brigade.



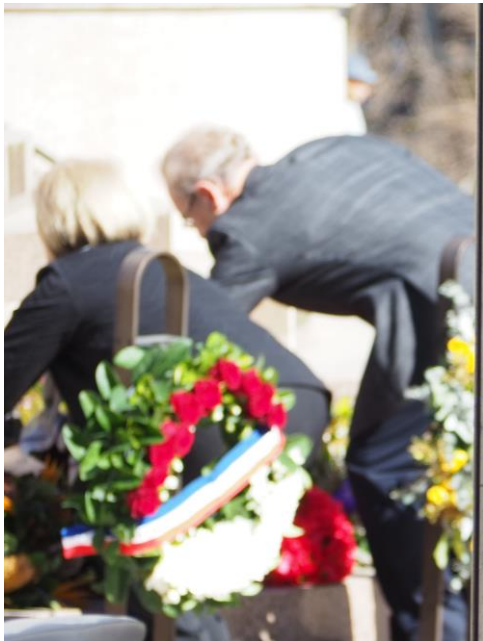
Superintendent Michael Bray representing the NSW Ambulance Service and Superintendent Paul Carrett, Commander of Kings Cross Police Area Command, representing the NSW Police Force, together with Bugler Terry McCleary NSW Fire and Rescue Band representing NSW Fire and Rescue
Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography



President, Remembrance Driveway Committee Air Commodore Ian Scott AM with Alexander Weilsmann



Geoffrey Benn, Secretary, The Fromelles Association of Australia, and Students of St Clare's College, Waverley



Arline Ronsisvalle with a floral tribute on behalf of World War One Descendants, together with Peter Allen representing the NSW Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women (NAJEX)
Reg Bonney with a floral Tribute for George Edward Bonney, 32nd Bn

Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography

Wreaths and florals tributes were laid for the following soldiers:

Kevin Holmes for descendants of Cpl “Nutsy” Herbert BOLT 55th Bn, KIA Fromelles, identified 2010

John Clingan for John’s great uncle Pte Alex CLINGAN 53rd Bn KIA Fromelles Identified 2010
and for Dorothy’s great uncle Sgt Vincent GROGAN, 60th Bn KIA Fromelles on GDL but not yet identified

Sharon Horsnell and daughters for descendants of Pte Frederick DYSON 54 Bn KIA Fromelles identified 2010

Annette Tebb for descendants of L/Sgt Ernest JENTSCH 53rd Bn KIA Fromelles identified 2010

Reg Bonney & daughter Ms Ann Asciak laid a floral tribute for George Edward BONNEY 32nd Bn, KIA, Fromelles no known grave

Robert Batt laid a tribute for Pte Arthur George BATT 32nd Bn KIA Fromelles identified in 2019

Lynette Forde laid a tribute for Pte Edward HOPE 54th Bn KIA Fromelles identified in 2019

Fiona Bunn laid a floral tribute for Pte Percy ROBERTSON 58th Bn Wounded Fromelles RTA
and Private Wilfred ROBERTSON 29th Bn Died of Disease 1918

Colin and Val Kidd laid a wreath on behalf of Neville Kidd’s family, dedicated to the memory of the Men of 19th July.



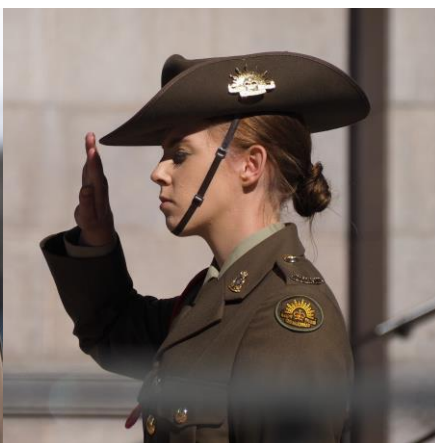
The Ode was recited by Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO, former Governor of New South Wales and Honorary Member FFFAIF before the Last Post was sounded by Terry McCleary of the Fire and Rescue NSW Band followed by silence and The Rouse. Terry’s wife Leonie is a relative of Capt Archibald Gunter MC 54th Bn, Wounded at Fromelles.



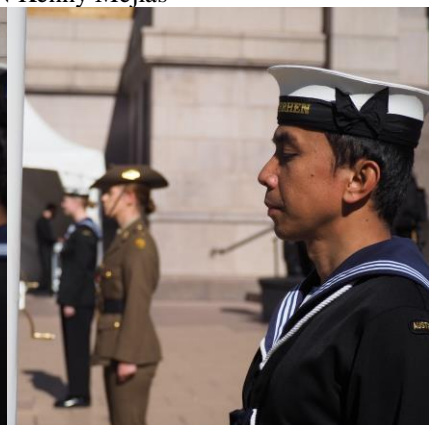
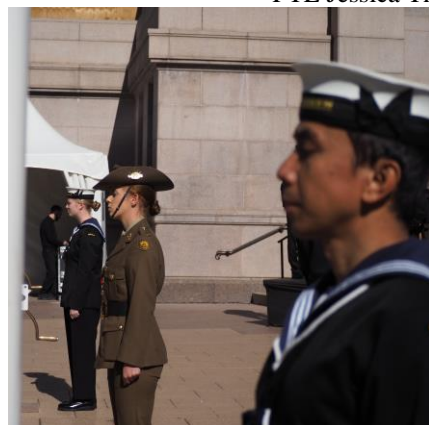
Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO
reciting The Ode.



The Last Post was sounded by Bugler Terry McCleary of
the Fire and Rescue NSW Band.



PTE Jessica Thomson, PTE Paige Millhouse and SMN Kenny Mejias



Flag Orderlies from The Royal Australian Navy and The Australian Army
Flag Orderlies from
HMAS Waterhen

Under the command of Chief Petty Officer Greg Morris

Flag Orderlies from the
Army Personnel Administrative Centre (APAC),
Victoria Barracks
under the command of MAJ Julie Appleby

SMN Kenny Mejias – Flag Orderly
SMN Georgia Read – Flag Orderly
SMN Jack Speechly – Flag Orderly
AB Alex Bragg – Flag Orderly

PTE Paige Millhouse - Flag Orderly
PTE Jessica Thomson - Flag Orderly

Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography

The Choirs and the NSW Police Band led the singing of *I Vow to Thee My Country* before a closing prayer and blessing from Pastor Bob Durbin.

The Epilogue was delivered by President of FFFAIF, Jim Munro. Mr Munro thanked all those who have been involved in organising the Commemoration and acknowledged the presence of the defence personnel. A copy of Mr Munro's *Epilogue* is at Annexure C. Mr Munro commented:

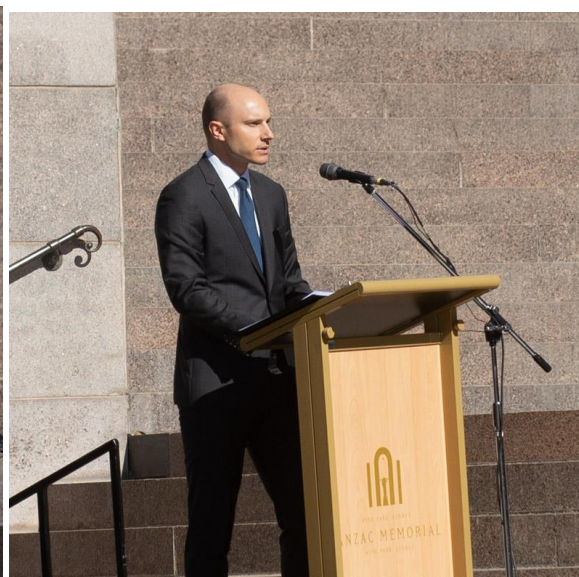
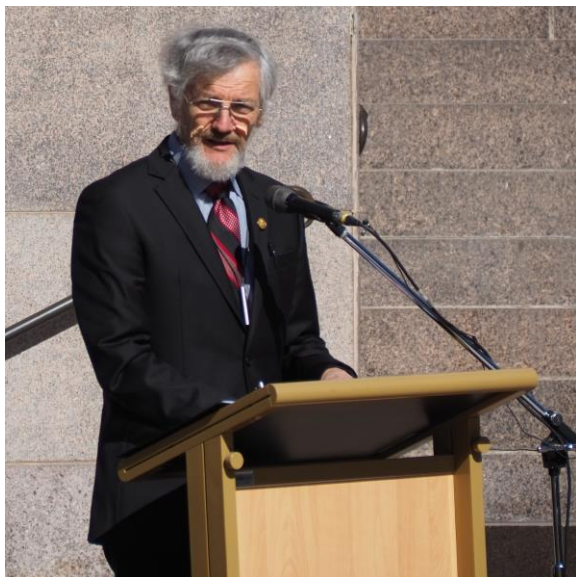
"We remember the citizen soldiers who heard the call and took on responsibilities with consequences they did not fully understand and gave up their vocations to do what they saw as their duty. We thank those citizen soldiers and we thank the current professional soldiers both full-time and part-time for their preparedness for taking on the unforeseen risks and challenges in our technological and dynamic world."

Mr Munro noted that there were several very special aspects of the Commemoration.

- Warrant Officer 2 Grumley who had led the Australian Army National Flag Party was able to be accompanied by three generations of his family who have also walked in the footsteps of Private William Grumley. It is thought that he participated in the 1966 parade from the Archibald Fountain to this Anzac Memorial to ask the Trustees to always remember the service and sacrifice of their 5th Division comrades.
- Descendants were present for two of the seven soldiers who have had their identity returned and were to have headstones bearing their names dedicated at the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery later that day: Private Arthur George BATT 32nd Bn and Private Edward James HOPE 54th Bn.
- Mr Munro then related the story of Cpl Leon Briand, one of the 160 French ANZACs. He fought at Gallipoli where he was seriously injured and was awarded a Military Medal for bravery. He returned to Australia in 1915 and spent a year recovering in Guildford, WA, before re-enlisting and re-joining his unit in France as Corporal in 1916. He was seriously wounded in the 1st Battle of Bullecourt, and was taken prisoner. Due to his injuries, he was repatriated by the Germans to Holland, then England and returned to Australia in 1918. He had a hard life in Australia and separated from his family and lost touch with them. He died in 1966, destitute and was buried in an unmarked grave in Geraldton. As part of the Guildford ANZAC's project, his grave was located and in March this year a headstone was placed on his grave in the presence of his descendants, recording his war service.

Mr Munro concluded:

"It falls to us, and to our children, and succeeding generations to remember the service and sacrifice of those citizen soldiers who heard the call and joined the Australian Imperial Force, and to remember the impacts upon their families, friends and communities. Lest We Forget."



Deputy Consul-General for the Republic of France, M. Pierre Bianconi, delivering a Message from France
Images by St Clare's College, Waverley and Michael Mannington for Community Photography

The Deputy Consul-General for the Republic of France, M. Pierre Bianconi, delivered a Message from France, expressing appreciation for Australian support since The Great War and continuing today and the National Anthems of France, the United Kingdom and Australia were sung to close the commemoration.



NSW Police Band led by Acting Director of Music Anthony Brahe

Special thanks go to the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial, their staff, and contractors for providing the marquees and sound system. The presence of the Pastor Bob Durbin, Holy Family Choir of Menai, the Westleigh Probus Songsters, the NSW Police Band and The Australian Army Flag Party and the Flag Orderlies from the Royal Australian Navy, who along with the French War Veterans contributed significantly to the formality and dignity of the commemoration. Special Guests Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO, Deputy Consul-General Pierre Bianconi, Harry Allie BEM, James Griffin MP, Brigadier Michael Annett AM, Colonel Rob Lording, Chief Petty Officer Greg Morris and the Flag Orderlies and the Australian Army National Flag Party, Patrick Lindsay and the Students of St Clare's College Waverley, Josie Shelley and Kevin Holmes who all enriched the Commemoration.

Procession Marshall Paul Simadas, Master of Ceremonies Darren Mitchell and FFFAIF Committee Members Margaret Snodgrass and Jill Hayes helped the Commemoration run smoothly. The Students of St Clare's College with the guidance of Michael Burden Leader of Information Literacy and Innovation at St Clare's College, Waverley with support from Ben Johnson, created a good photographic and video record and Michael Mannington for Community Photography who has contributed his photographs. Some of the photographs and video has been posted to the FFFAIF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FromellesDaySydney2019/> and are still available for viewing. Thanks also to the 7 Network News team including Reporter Chris Maher whose 6pm Bulletin report has enabled the Commemoration to be shared with a larger number of people.

Special thanks also to the Organising Committee of FFFAIF Members Margaret Snodgrass OAM, Darren Mitchell, Jill Hayes, Paul Simadas, Chris Bryett and Geoffrey Benn, Anzac Memorial Operations Manager Belinda Mitrovich and Visitor Services Coordinator, Jim Grey, Warrant Officer Class One David McGarry, Regimental Sergeant Major, Joint Ceremonial NSW of the Australian Army and Nick Young, Manager and Rosie Patrielli, Fundraising and Communications, Centenary of Anzac, Office for Veterans Affairs (NSW).

Jim Munro,
President of FFFAIF
July 2019

Special Thanks to:



Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO, Deputy Consul-General Pierre Bianconi, HJ James Griffin MP



Patrick Lindsay and the Students of St Clare's College Waverley, Josie Shelley and Kevin Holmes



Brigadier Michael Annett AM, Colonel Rob Lording and the Australian Army National Flag Party



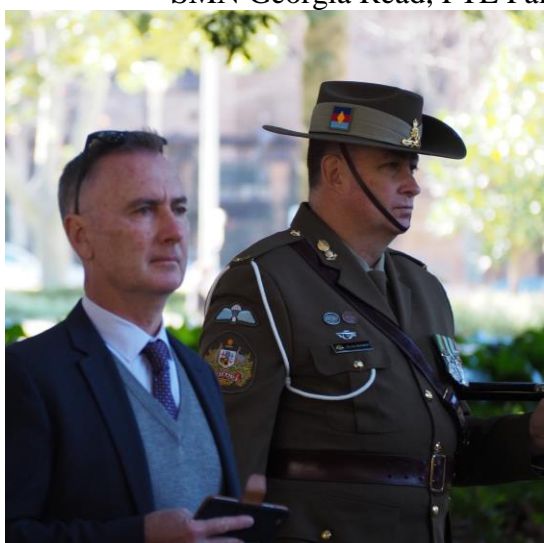
RAN Chief Petty Officer Greg Morris who managed the Flag Orderlies
SMN Georgia Read, PTE Paige Millhouse and SMN Kenny Mejias

Flag Orderlies from
HMAS Waterhen

Under the command of Chief Petty Officer Greg
Morris

SMN Kenny Mejias – Flag Orderly
SMN Georgia Read – Flag Orderly
SMN Jack Speechly – Flag Orderly
AB Alex Bragg – Flag Orderly

Flag Orderlies from the
Army Personnel Administrative Centre (APAC),
Victoria Barracks
under the command of MAJ Julie Appleby



Michael Burden, St Clare's College with
WO1 David 'Paddy' McGarry, Regimental
Sergeant Major, Joint Ceremonial NSW

PTE Paige Millhouse - Flag Orderly
PTE Jessica Thomson - Flag Orderly



NSW Police Security Team



M. Jean-Louis Worobec & French War Veterans of NSW



Pipers Graham Wood and Jim Braid with Bugler Terry McCleary



Peter Olde, Director, Holy Family Choir Menai
with the Westleigh Probus Songsters



NSW Police Band led by Acting Director of
Music Anthony Brahe



Procession Marshall Paul Simadas and Master of Ceremonies Darren Mitchell

**Annexure A: Vice Regal Message from
His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd),
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia**



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

103rd anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles

The first battle involving Australian units on the Western Front following the unsuccessful Gallipoli campaign resulted in the largest loss of life in any 24-hour period of Australia's history.

On the evening of 19-20 July 1916 in a field in northern France, Australian and British soldiers were decimated by the Germans who occupied a strong defensive position.

In the Battle of Fromelles, 1,917 Australian soldiers were killed or died of their wounds. There were 5,533 casualties in total.

The mortal wounds and emotional toll inflicted on a battlefield more than 100 years ago are difficult to comprehend.

Today, we rightly pause and reflect on the sacrifice made by so many soldiers.

Importantly, we also remember the transformative impact it had on family — wives, partners, children, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts and uncles — and on the many descendants participating in this commemoration.

On this, the 103rd anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles, our nation pays tribute to the service and bravery of ordinary Australians who gave their all for our country.

Lest we forget.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA
TELEPHONE +61(2) 6283 3533 FACSIMILE +61(2) 6281 3760
WWW.GG.GOV.AU



The Digger in the photo is not known.
It is hoped that he will be recognised & his identity restored.
Photo courtesy Sharon Barrett

The Families and Friends of the First AIF Inc (FFFAIF) is a not for profit registered charitable organisation whose purpose is to commemorate the service, sacrifice and suffering of the First Australian Imperial Force of The Great War of 1914-18, and of their families and friends. It is a non-political, non-sectarian and non-racial association of people who are interested in promoting a better understanding of what the AIF did and stands for.

For further information, please go to

www.ffaif.org.au

secretary@ffaif.org.au

PO Box 4245, FORSTER, NSW 2428



FROMELLES DAY

Friday 19 July 2019



ORDER OF SERVICE

ANZAC MEMORIAL HYDE PARK SYDNEY

Photos: *Cobbers* – David Meale, Melbourne

Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery – Carole Laignel, Fromelles

**THE 2019 COMMEMORATION SERVICE
FOR THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES**

GATHERING SONGS

NSW Police Band led by Acting Director of Music Anthony Brahe

Nearer My God to Thee* and *Requiem for a Soldier

Led by the Holy Family Choir Menai and the Westleigh Probus Songsters
directed by Peter Olde

O Valiant Hearts

Led by the Holy Family Choir Menai and the Westleigh Probus Songsters

WELCOME

Darren Mitchell
Master of Ceremonies

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Harry Allie BEM
Chair of the NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Veterans Commemoration Service Committee

PROLOGUE

Russell Curley
Past President, Families and Friends of the First AIF

PRAYER

Pastor Bob Durbin
Chaplain, Returned and Services League LifeCare

Abide with Me

Led by the Holy Family Choir Menai and the Westleigh Probus Songsters

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

Patrick Lindsay supported by
Students of St Clare's College, Waverley

FAMILY REFLECTION

Josie Shelley and Kevin Holmes
for the relatives of Cpl "Nutsy" Herbert Bolt, 55 Bn, KIA Fromelles

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Lament

Piper Jim Braid, NSW Scottish Regimental Association Pipes and Drums and
Piper Graham Wood, Sydney Thistle Highland Pipe Band

THE ODE

Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir, AD CVO
former Governor of New South Wales and
Honorary Member FFFAIF

THE LAST POST

Bugler: Bandsman Terry McCleary
Fire and Rescue New South Wales Band

SILENCE

THE ROUSE

Bugler: Bandsman Terry McCleary

I Vow to Thee My Country

Led by the Holy Family Choir Menai and
the Westleigh Probus Songsters

PRAYER AND BLESSING

Pastor Bob Durbin

EPILOGUE

Jim Munro
President, Families and Friends of the First AIF

MESSAGE FROM FRANCE

M. Pierre Bianconi
Deputy Consul-General for the Republic of France

**THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF
FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM AND AUSTRALIA**

Annexure C: Fromelles Day *Epilogue*

Jim Munro, President, Families and Friends of the First AIF

Good morning Guests, ladies and gentlemen and children.

Firstly, I like to thank all those who have been involved in organising today's Commemoration, on this glorious day in Sydney at the recently extended Anzac Memorial. I would also like to thank those who have participated in our Order of Service for give our Commemoration meaning. I would also like to thank all of the Dignitaries, representatives of Ex-Service and Descendants' organisations and particularly descendants and their friends who have been able to participate in the Commemorative Procession and Commemoration.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the presence of our defence personnel and in particular would like to thank the senior defence officers who have joined us today as we remember the citizen soldiers who heard the call and took on responsibilities with consequences they did not fully understand and gave up their vocations to do what they saw as their duty. We thank those citizen soldiers and we thank the current professional soldiers both full-time and part-time for their preparedness for taking on the unforeseen risks and challenges in our technological and dynamic world.

I would also like to thank Patrick Lindsay and the Students of St Clare's College Waverley for the Commemorative Address and the other assistance they have brought to this Commemoration. We wish them well with their upcoming documentary project to highlight the courage of the fallen soldiers in the Battle of Fromelles as told through the eyes of the women left behind.

I am particularly pleased that Warrant Officer Class 2 Nathan Grumley has been able to join us today as part of the Australian Army National Flag Party and has been able to walk in the footsteps of his great grandfather Private William Grumley. It is possible that William Grumley was one of the 5th Division veterans in the 1966 parade from the Archibald Fountain to this Anzac Memorial on the 50th anniversary of the Battle to ask the Trustees to always remember the service and sacrifice of their 5th Division comrades who died during the Great War and others who had died since then. The Trustees have honoured that request each year as we do today. And for Warrant Officer Grumley to be accompanied by three generations of family who have also walked in the footsteps of Private William Grumley makes this a very special occasion for them and for us.

It is also special for us that we have descendants of two of the seven soldiers who have had their identity returned and will have headstones bearing their names dedicated at the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery later today. We acknowledge the relatives of:

- Private Arthur George BATT 32nd Bn. A.I.F. age 32 of Hilton, South Australia.
- Private Edward James HOPE 54th Bn. A.I.F. age 28 of Penrith, New South Wales.

This brings to 166 the number of soldiers who have had their identity confirmed, largely through DNA matching with their descendants out of the 250 soldiers buried by the Germans following the disastrous Battle. Another 67 soldiers are known who were buried by Germans soldiers. The identities of the remaining 17 soldiers are amongst the list of the 1,100 Australian soldiers killed in the battle still with no known grave. This builds on the research undertaken by Lambis Englezos in 2006 that Patrick Lindsay referred to that revealed that there were a significant number of Australian soldiers killed in the battle but not accounted for in burials by Australian or British troops. The search for relatives with matching DNA continues and anyone with a relative killed in the battle of Fromelles who has not already contributed DNA is encouraged to get in contact with the Fromelles Association or the Australian Army Unrecovered War Casualties Unit.

I would also like to mention another of those soldiers identified who will have his named headstone dedicated this evening:

- 1291 Private George HONEY 32nd Bn. A.I.F. age 31 of West Guilford, Western Australia

During the past few years, the Guildford Association has undertaken the Guildford Anzacs Project that records of the impact of WW1 on a whole town in Western Australia. The project identified surviving homes of these Anzacs and marked them with brass poppy plaques.

Private Honey was a 30 year old member of the 32nd Bn in 8th Brigade when he was killed in the battle of Fromelles.

Another soldier who lived in Guildford was Leon Briand who was born in France and who joined the merchant Navy and later the French navy. In January 1907, Kingston, Jamaica, was hit by a devastating earthquake and the battle cruiser *Kleber* was ordered by the French Government to load with food, medicines and emergency supplies. After leaving supplies at Kingston and arriving back at Havana, Leon was reported missing and recorded as a deserter.

Somehow, he came to Australia and married in Perth. With the outbreak of war in 1914, Pte. Leon Jean Louis Briand enlisted in the AIF 16th Bn and fought at Gallipoli. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal before he was seriously injured, sustaining a gun-shot wound to the head from which he suffered for the rest of his days with blinding headaches and an intolerance of noise. He was awarded a Military Medal for bravery in this action.

Leon Briand returned to Australia in 1915 and spent a year recovering in Guildford, WA, before re-enlisting and re-joining his unit in France as Corporal in 1916. He left his wife and two small children with his sister in law who had recently lost her husband on active service. Before going to the Front in France, Cpl Briand visited his parents and was Court Martialled in 1917 for being AWL, resulting in his demotion to Private.

Private Leon Briand was seriously wounded in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line at Bullecourt. Léon was one of the 3,300 casualties receiving severe damage to his right leg and was taken prisoner. Due to his injuries, he was repatriated by the Germans to Holland, then England and returned to Australia in 1918.

He had a hard life in Australia and separated from his family and lost touch with them. He died in 1966, destitute and was buried in an unmarked grave in Geraldton.

As part of the Guildford ANZAC's project, his grave was located and in March this year a headstone acknowledging his war service was placed on his grave in the presence of his descendants. FFFAIF is currently facilitating the development of a national network of Headstone Projects seeking to have the war service of all soldiers who served in the AIF and who returned to Australia, recognised by an appropriate commemoration at their final resting place. The priority is to locate unmarked graves and have them appropriately recognised and the motto is "They Served – They Deserve to Be Remembered".

Cpl Leon Briand was one of the 160 French ANZAC's and his story was written up by our French Cobber, FFFAIF Member Yves Fohlen in our DIGGER Magazine.

In June 2008 the French community in Australia commemorated the contributions of Australian soldiers in France in World War I with the unveiling of a plaque at Memorial Park at Matraville, a suburb of Sydney. In addition, a plaque was presented to commemorate the service of 17 New Caledonians who joined the Australian Imperial Force and the sacrifice of 4 New Caledonians who died during World War I under the Australian flag.

A special gift of street plaques, in the style used in Paris, bearing the names of the streets with major battles in France of relevance to Australian soldiers was made by the French veterans then President, Mr Theo Arfaras. These plaques were erected at Matraville, the site of a soldier settlement after the Great War.

<http://fffaif.org.au/?p=456>

In the spirit of Australian larrikinism, someone – possibly a descendant of one of those Australian veteran! – 'souvenired' one of the street plaques. Mr Theo Arfaras, as President of the French Veterans in NSW, through contacts he had in France, prevailed upon the *Conseil Général Nord Pas-de-Calais* (the equivalent of a state government) to provide a replacement, which was presented in August 2012. Theo dedicated the replacement street plaque to Private Léon Jean Briand. So on both the West Coast and East Coast, the service and sacrifice of Leon Briand has been recognised and is part of the bond between France and Australia during the Great War.

It falls to us, and to our children, and succeeding generations to remember the service and sacrifice of those citizen soldiers who heard the call and joined the Australian Imperial Force, and of the impacts upon their families, friends and communities.

Lest We Forget

Jim Munro



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.

GOSFORD

AND DISTRICT

HOMES — FARMS LAND & BUSINESSES

(SORRY, NO LETTINGS)

For Competent Guidance and **BEST VALUE** Listings of All Properties

FOR SALE

Contact the Specialists

ASHWELL & CARROLL PTY. LTD.

186 Mann Street, Gosford (near R.S.L. Club)

'Phones: 2 0308, 2 0309, 2 0300

Private No.: A. G. (Bert) Ashwell—2 1481

I'm Powellised!



All work is guaranteed and backed by a reputation for honesty, reliability, thoroughness. Safe and expert service, all pests, all places.

POWELL'S PEST CONTROL PTY. LTD.

431 Pacific Highway, Artarmon
42 4202

Country Branches provide
State-wide service.

NO CANVASSERS EMPLOYED



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 . . .

SHELLEYS FOR QUALITY

◆ **SHELLEYS
FAMOUS DRINKS**

SOLD EVERYWHERE

ORANGE DELITE, LEMON DELITE,
GRAPEFRUIT DELITE

Made from Fresh, Ripe Fruit, crushed in our
own Factory

ALSO TABLE WATERS — LEMONADE —
KOLA — LIME AND SODA —
GINGER ALE, Etc.

Factory:

MURRAY STREET, MARRICKVILLE

'Phone: 51 5461 (six lines)

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.