



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

106th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles, Sydney, 19 July 2022

Good morning.

Thank you for your act of remembrance at this 106th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Fromelles.

The Commemorative Procession and Service is an important occasion.

It affords the relatives of soldiers who fought in the Battle and representatives of France, Belgium, the United Kingdom and New Zealand the opportunity to come together, pause and honour the service and sacrifice of Australian and British soldiers on the Western Front in July 1916.

The Battle of Fromelles is very much part of Australia's story. The Battle saw the largest loss of Australian life in a 24-hour period – 1,917 soldiers were killed or died of their wounds. It was the bloodiest of battles and the odds were heavily against us. Our men charged over open ground into the teeth of German machine gun fire. They displayed outstanding courage and bravery that has become a hallmark of our Anzac history.

In paying tribute to those Australians who served, I want to also acknowledge the impact of their service on families back home and the many silent and unforeseen sacrifices they were forced to endure.

Lest we forget.