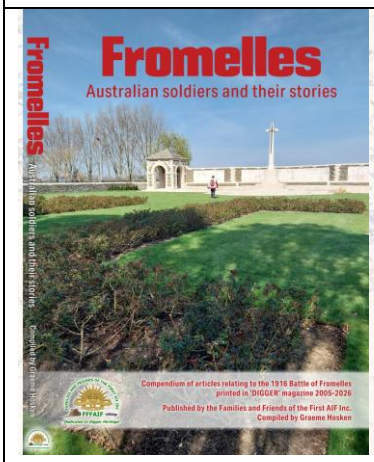
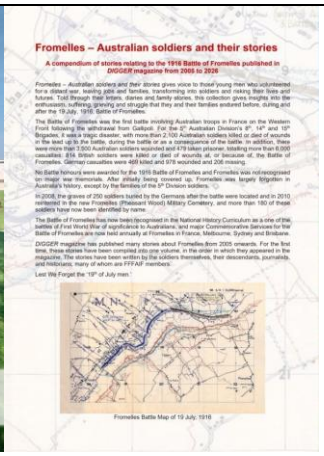
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Compilation of *DIGGER* magazine articles 2005-2026









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Fromelles – Australian soldiers and their stories

A compendium of stories relating to the 1916 Battle of Fromelles published in *DIGGER* magazine from 2005 to 2026

Fromelles – Australian soldiers and their stories gives voice to those young men who volunteered for a distant war, leaving jobs and families, transforming into soldiers and risking their lives and futures. Told through their letters, diaries and family stories, this collection gives insights into the enthusiasm, suffering, grieving and struggle that they and their families endured before, during and after the 19 July 1916 Battle of Fromelles.

The Battle of Fromelles was the first battle involving Australian troops in France on the Western Front following the withdrawal from Gallipoli. For the 5th Australian Division's 8th, 14th and 15th Brigades, it was a tragic disaster, with more than 2,100 Australian soldiers killed or died of wounds in the lead up to the battle, during the battle or as a consequence of the battle. In addition, there were more than 3,500 Australian soldiers wounded and 479 taken prisoner, totalling more than 6,000 casualties. 814 British soldiers were killed or died of wounds at, or because of, the Battle of Fromelles. German casualties were 469 killed and 978 wounded and 206 missing.

No Battle honours were awarded for the 1916 Battle of Fromelles and Fromelles was not recognised on major war memorials. After initially being covered up, Fromelles was largely forgotten in Australia's history, except by the families of the 5th Division soldiers.

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 more than 180 of these soldiers have now been identified by name.
The Battle of Fromelles has now been recognised in the National History Curriculum as a one of the battles of First World War of significance to Australians and major Commemorative Services for the Battle of Fromelles are now held annually at Fromelles in France, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

DIGGER magazine has published many stories about Fromelles from 2005 onwards. For the first time, these stories have been compiled into one volume, in the order in which they appeared in the magazine. The stories have been written by the soldiers themselves, their descendants, journalists, and historians, many of whom are FFFAIF members.

Lest We Forget the '19th of July men.'

