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Media Assistant**Needed**

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Fromelles**Commemoration****2021**

The Covid-19 Virus is still causing grief around the world, but (optimistically) it has been contained in Australia, to the point where we are looking at activities face to face in the near future. We'll keep you informed, but please keep vigilant against the virus until we can meet again.

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**OUR CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF HRH THE PRINCE
PHILLIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH**



[Image: Fox News]

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, and the longest-serving royal consort in British history, died in Windsor Castle at the age of 99 on the morning of 9 April 2021, two months before his 100th birthday. The cause of death has not been disclosed by the royal family, though an official statement said he "died peacefully". His funeral took place on 17 April.

On 9 April, Buckingham Palace announced that Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth II's husband, had died aged 99.

A statement issued by the palace just after midday spoke of the Queen's "deep sorrow" following his death at Windsor Castle.

The Duke of Edinburgh, the longest-serving royal consort in British history, was at the Queen's side for more than her six decades of reign.

"It is with deep sorrow that Her Majesty The Queen announces the death of her beloved husband," the Palace said.

Reared chiefly in Great Britain, Philip was educated at Gordonstoun School, near Elgin, Moray, Scotland, and at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, Devon, England. From January 1940 to the end of World War II, he served with the Royal Navy in combat in the Mediterranean and the Pacific.

On February 28, 1947, Philip became a British subject, renouncing his right to the Greek and Danish thrones and taking his mother's surname, Mountbatten. (His father's family name had been Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg.) His marriage to his distant cousin Princess Elizabeth took place in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947. On the eve of his wedding, he was designated a royal highness and was created a Knight of the Garter, Baron Greenwich, earl of Merioneth, and duke of Edinburgh. The couple's first child, Charles Philip Arthur George, was born in 1948. He was joined by Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise (born 1950), Andrew Albert Christian Edward (born 1960), and Edward Anthony Richard Louis (born 1964).

Philip continued on active service with the Royal Navy, commanding the frigate *Magpie*, until Elizabeth's accession on February 6, 1952, from which time he shared her official and public life. He attended an average of 350 official engagements a year on behalf of the royal household. In 1957 she conferred on him the dignity of prince of the United Kingdom, and in 1960 his surname was legally combined with the name of her family—as Mountbatten-Windsor—as a surname for lesser branches of the royal family. His outspoken right-wing views, the public expression of which he sometimes found hard to resist, occasionally embarrassed a monarchy trying to put aside its traditional upper-crust image.

All Australians are invited to share their own condolence messages through the website below. Local Members of Parliament and local governments are also encouraged to make physical condolence books available for those who prefer this method. These messages will be all be collated and presented to Her Majesty.

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/his-royal-highness-duke-edinburgh>

The Duke was a steadfast man, a man of honour, service, duty and loyalty. We give thanks for his life of service.

We join in offering our own condolences to HRH Queen Elizabeth on the passing of her companion of more than six decades, and we salute you Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, for your service.



[Image: Daily Mail UK]

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WRAPPING UP 2020, AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021.

Our last Newsletter was sent out in January, but the following email received from Marg O'Leary cannot pass without being shared, despite it being sent a day before Christmas last year.

From Marg O'Leary: Thu, Dec 24, 2020 at 1:55 PM

Greetings to everyone for the holiday season from the Fromelles Association executive and coordinators, and welcome to new writers.

What a year!! I think everyone must have done 'lock down' at some stage. including right now - here and overseas. An especially difficult year for some people who have coped with loss as well as dealing with the pandemic. We thank all of you so much for your assistance with our soldier story project.

For those lost so far from home.

The good news is that, thanks to Ameet and Bronwyn, the webpage is getting closer, ready to do trials on some stories being uploaded - can't wait - it will be so exciting. This is a very big memorial project.

The story section is only part of the webpage, there will be other information around the battle itself and resources for researchers and members.

I think we started all this just as the virus arrived, so amazing at how much has been done. Thanks to everyone who has been researching, writing and editing, collecting photos and stories from relatives, and cleaning up and enhancing many of the old photos.

People who have looked at some of the stories are amazed at how different they are, a huge variation in each family's story of going to war. And how very moving they are.

We hope to keep that difference and that people will be touched. The website allows for letters and memorabilia to be attached, and anyone can download a pdf of the full story. I suppose a difference between then and now, is how many boys were from one family, when families were much, much larger.

The story range is wide, those who were at Fromelles and returned, those who have a headstone over there, those still missing, and of course the genealogy team is very busy on that task, working closely with Unrecovered War Casualties Army.

Also those who were prisoners of war, or key auxiliary people in Red Cross, Chaplains medical etc.. We have one story already about a German soldier who made contact with the family of an Australian soldier after the war.

Another story about the recent wonderful reunion in Germany - when the DNA trail led to the German family. And the descendants from Australia went to meet them.

There are about 100 stories completed and edited by chief editor Vicki, and perhaps another 50 almost ready. Peter Allen has provided the stories of 10 Jewish soldiers. One ID, some buried over there and the rest still missing.

Some of the regiments have assisted, as have local history groups and museums, particularly the Museum at Fromelles. The internet has some amazing resources - we do acknowledge everything or get formal permission if needed. Many of the books about Fromelles use individual stories, and the good old Australian Official History by CEW Bean.

We have another 350 stories on our wait list, some earmarked for relatives to write - but many have no relatives, so we need to write the stories. All will need an edit at one stage or other. (more writers / editors needed). And the story might help bring relatives forward re DNA.

Interestingly we have 20 stories of brothers, or dads and sons. Bob has done the first one (3 brothers) and created a template making it one family story, and connecting to all 3 soldiers. We can also link stories of mates.

Thank you for your wonderful contribution, as soon as we reach the next stage, will let you know. Here is hoping that 2021 is going to be a much, much, better year for everyone.

Cheers, Marg O'Leary, Fromelles Association of Australia

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A LETTER HOME FROM PRIVATE 901 GEORGE MARTINDALE, 59TH BATTALION, AT FROMELLES, PART 2. THE STORY CONTINUES

Contributed by Paul Cunningham. Sourced for DIGGER by Lambis Englezos.

Adapted for DIGGER by Graeme Hosken.

'Somewhere' in France 18th July '16

Dear Dad,

At dusk the flares started as usual – magnesium flares in appearance not unlike a shotgun cartridge and fired from a pistol, also longer ones 5 to 10 inches long. The latter, on reaching its zenith, opening out and forming a parachute – all the world like an electric bulb under a shade and lasting perhaps 1½ minutes. These two latter are 1½ inch diameter and are fired from a small gun from the shoulder. The ground was wet and like pug

For those lost so far from home.



and I clawed it out with my hands and rolled it into balls like a small football and threw these out. I was wet through (fell in a creek) and it kept me from freezing – by morning I was down 3 feet. About midnight word was passed out that we were to retire, but we weren't satisfied – these same tricks had been tried (and succeeded) on us in Gallipoli. It was about this time – perhaps before midnight as I was having a stealthy look round – that a chap crawled into the trench we were digging. I asked him who and what he was – he was Harry Richards* (son of Jimmy Richards the engine driver). He's a CS Major, 60th Bn. He had cigarettes and matches – dry ones – also. We smoked – for a match may be struck with impunity in No-man's land where it is at night as light as day mostly. [CSM 513 Harry Norman Richards DCM, 60th Bn. For citation, see endnote (2) – Ed.] After a long and anxious night, dawn came at last; light enough to distinguish colours, for the flares shed a ghostly light – something like a pale green limelight. Our poor little trench was full of a yellowish green haze with a strong smell of sulphur. It only wanted the 'Old Lad' himself with his pitchfork to complete the picture. There

was also a fog, so we decided to investigate in our vicinity. After a lot of crawling we came to the conclusion that we were isolated, but decided to wait till the fog lifted to make sure – also that we didn't go to the wrong trenches. So we lay in a depression in the ground. About 10 o'clock the fog dissipated and we started back (going west). The first wounded man I came across was my old platoon commander, a Mr. Anderson, shot through the chest – in just above the right nipple and out between his shoulder blades. He was lying in a shallow gutter on his back and with his gas helmet on his breast, ready to put on (he had had it on during the night he told me). No fewer than nine huge shells had fallen in a circle round him – probably 8.2" stuff HE – and he was spattered with earth – ears full of it. Not one had fallen more than 20 feet away from him, some only 6 feet away, but it's marvellous how one escapes in a bit of a depression in the soft earth. We got him on a waterproof sheet and tried to take him with us, but he couldn't stand the pain of moving him. I don't think he was ever so pleased to see anyone in his life as he was to see me – "How are the boys going?" first, then "I canna breathe but I don't want to go to Berlin this way" (he's a Glasgow chap). I told him I was going for a stretcher and would take him in. He said, "All right, Martindale I know you'll not desert me." (We had both been through the Gallipoli mill and were both at the landing there, and this begets confidence in one another). Well, I crawled back to our trenches, almost 400 yards, and asked for a stretcher. They looked at me – there were no stretchers and anyhow no stretcher parties were to go out till nightfall. An officer told me that the remnant of my battalion had been relieved that morning and that I was to go out too. It was forbidden for anyone to go out again in front. I nodded and walked away and then my eye fell on a scaling ladder about 7 ft long and nice and light. The officer disappeared, so did I, with the ladder and got out again safely, dragging the ladder beside me. I could have howled with rage and mortification when I found there were no stretchers but soon felt mighty pleased with myself. Got my officer on the stretcher-cum-ladder and off we sneaked, 5 or 10 yards at a time, for he was heavy and I was very weak, my knees knocking together. We stopped frequently to help the poor beggars who were lying about everywhere, begging for water. We helped and directed about a dozen chaps who were able to crawl, enabling them to regain our lines. One chap shot through the arm would make no effort to help himself. I tried in vain to get him to move, but no, he wanted a stretcher. He might just as well have wanted the moon. "Oh well," I said at last "it's no use leaving you here to be captured by Fritz or to die of thirst" – at the same time taking out my persuader – trenching tool handle with cast iron cog attached. (These are used in raiding jaunts – they don't take much room to wield and they don't make much noise.) "I'll kill you now". He arrived in our lines and had his wound bandaged before I got back – If he hadn't gone I believe I'd have killed him just for luck!

Another poor fellow I found up to his neck in the creek, one eye knocked out and his elbow smashed to pulp – I got him in too. He was as game as the Great Devil. With his arm off he'd make another Lord Nelson. I believe he would recover. After an hour's hard graft we had only about 100 yards to go. I had now another assistant, a lance corporal of the 60th, and now bad luck overtook us, Lt. Anderson getting a bullet through his buttock. The smack and his groan and I went clean Berserker. I grabbed my revolver I know and flourished it in the direction of the swine who fire on the wounded – for such is their custom – damn them. I yelled "Why the Hell didn't they hit me, if anyone was to be hit" and so on. This exhibition of rage and disgust was but momentary however. When I

looked round my helper had gone and we had still 40 yards to go. I tried to drag the ladder sledge-fashion but it ploughed into the ground and wouldn't move. So I picked him up in my arms and had another go and nearly got to cover when he was hit again through the ankle. Anyhow, I got him to a covering bank and laid him down (he's about 12 stone) he said then that he thought he could crawl – and crawl he did – about 50 or 60 yards and into our lines. Just as we got in several stretcher parties came along; one chap being a tent mate of mine at Broadmeadows in the old 5th (Bill Houghton is his name*). I at once called him and he and his mate took Mr. Anderson straight off to the dressing station. [* Probably L/Cpl 929 William Houghton, 5th & 57th Bns, RTA 12/3/18. – Ed.] Later Again. This is a kind of 'To be continued'. I've just read through the foregoing and have missed a few points I was going to mention, but let them pass. Do you remember my telling you how I discovered and appropriated 7 000 rounds of small arms ammunition in Gallipoli the day after the landing? My platoon sergeant was mentioned in dispatches. He is now a major – I met him again in No-man's land. Hadn't seen him for several months; he has also the Military Cross (Lone Pine). He and I got several poor devils in.

Notes: (1) **Sgt 901 George Gawthorp Martindale** was a 27 yo carpenter of Brighton, Vic. He enlisted on 21/8/14 and sailed with 5th Bn. Transferred to 59th Bn and RTA 25/11/17. George passed away in 1922. George's letters have been published in the book, 'Dodging the Devil', ISBN 9781743792155.

(2) **CSM Harry Norman** was awarded the DCM for the following: At Petillon on the 19/20th July 1916, after all his company officers had been casualties [sic], he took charge and acted with coolness and bravery under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire. He never discontinued his efforts in carrying in wounded from No-man's land under very heavy fire and continued doing so on the succeeding nights – 20/21st and 21/22nd – heroically exposing himself and saving many of the wounded.

To be continued in Part 3, next Newsletter.

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LAMBIS ENGLEZOS' SEARCH FOR THE MISSING, AND THE RE-BURIAL OF 250 SOLDIERS AT FROMELLES

[Compiled from posts by Lambis Englezos and Michael James on Facebook, and extracted from the as yet unpublished book of Geoffrey Benn – 'Fromelles: 100 Years of Myths and Lies.]

The location of the missing soldiers at Fromelles became the focus of the now historically famous and long-running investigation by Lambis Englezos, Ward Selby and John Fielding.

It started with Jack Bowden, who along with his mate Lt Wally Vaile, were keen rowers before the War, and Jack was Club Captain of his rowing club for a few years.

When Robin Corfield was researching his book "Don't forget me Cobber" he looked at many Red Cross Wounded and Missing Personnel files of the missing from the Battle of Fromelles. In only one file – that of Jack Bowden – was there mention of perhaps being buried near 'Pheasant Wood' in German records.

It was in a paragraph from Robin Corfield's book published in 2000, that Lambis Englezos first saw a reference to 'Pheasant Wood'.

Lambis has since referred to that reference as 'serendipity and chance'.

'None of us knew where it was. Research and advocacy, and Army's process led us to eventual confirmation and recovery. A wonderful result. Dignity and identity for the soldiers of Pheasant Wood, and those to come. Lambis had been to Fromelles in 1996 for the battle's 80th anniversary, but in 2002 embarked on his quest to find the missing. He was aware of the term 'Pheasant Wood' but didn't know what it meant. This was one of the most significant clues to eventually finding the 250 buried diggers.

An article was published in The Australian newspaper on 18 July, 2003. Lambis was cited as believing the

For those lost so far from home.



burial site for the remains of 250 missing Australia soldiers were believed to have been found. Why 250 specifically? He was pressed for a figure by the journalist, and replied '250', without certainty. The figure was quoted as having some degree of certainty. Little was he to know the exact number until the remains were exhumed in 2009.

Having met Martial Delabarre in 2002, he became aware of local farmers' comments about soldiers having been buried in a farmer's field.

Lambis had found aerial photographs of the site at Pheasant Wood, taken after the battle, showing what were believed to be burial mounds. Lambis thereafter concentrated his investigation on the site adjoining Pheasant Wood.

Lambis says: 'The research and advocacy was a team effort, with a wonderful result. Ward Selby, John Fielding and I presented to an expert panel in 2005. We made our case for a search of the site suspected of being a burial site, next to the Pheasant Wood. We followed due and official process.'

But the panel was insufficiently convinced and unmoved.

Then in 2006 everything changed. The German Burial Order of 1916 was found in archives in Munich, Germany. And this was the turning point in the search.

The Australian Army then established a process by which the excavation of the site at Pheasant Wood could be undertaken, leading to confirmation of the existence of soldiers' remains, and their eventual recovery.

2007 saw an exploratory non-invasive survey undertaken at Pheasant Wood, led by Tony Pollard of Glasgow University Archaeology and Research Department. In that investigation a heart-shaped medallion with 'ANZAC' written on it, and a Shire of Alberton medallion were found at Pheasant Wood, which were of Australian origin, in a location at which Australian soldiers had not reached in battle. There must be soldiers buried at Pheasant Wood after all.

In 2008, a preliminary and limited excavation was able to be undertaken. Human remains were found. This led to the approval of the excavation of the remains of soldiers now confirmed as being buried next to Pheasant Wood in 1916.

2009 saw the unearthing of the burial pits at Pheasant Wood, and the beginning of an archaeological excavation in which 250 soldiers' remains were located. The process resulted in detailed scientific analysis of the remains found, and a multitude of small items found with them.

One of the archaeological team was Dr. Louise Loe of Oxford Archaeology, who led the excavation of the clay pit graves and has been serving as a subject matter expert on the data analysis team, formed specifically for the identification process. In correspondence with Geoffrey Benn, she wrote that:-

The identification process was of the utmost scientific rigour from beginning to end. Subject matter experts systematically analysed all the pieces of available evidence, including all available military documentation, information from families, family trees, the results of the DNA analysis, items found with the soldiers, the results of the scientific analysis of the bodies and photographs of the soldiers as well. On the basis of this, recommendations were made to the Joint Identification Board for their consideration and the first identifications of the soldiers were made.

For those lost so far from home.

Since then, the data analysis team has met annually up until 2019 (with the exception of 2015) and has continued to recommend identifications to the Joint Identification Board. Unfortunately, the board could not meet [in 2020] because of the [Covid-19] pandemic.

In 2010 the new Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery at Fromelles was dedicated with all the remains unearthed in 2009, reburied in their own dedicated plots. The dedication ceremony took place on 19 July,

2010. The remains of the final soldier to be re-buried were interred at the ceremony, 94 years after the battle which claimed his life.

The identities of 96 soldiers had been determined before that dedication took place. It was the result of a long and detailed process of scientific analysis culminating in the first Joint Identification Board at Australia House, London, in the Spring of 2010. Names could now be inscribed in headstones bearing the identity of soldiers lost since 1916.

Dr. Loe was shown photographs of some of the soldiers identified, after the soldiers had been reburied, but before the new cemetery at Fromelles was dedicated. Dr. Loe wrote:-

'The first time that we saw the faces of the names we had matched with individuals who we had recovered was incredibly poignant.'

[Picture: Robert Courtney Green. AWM P10624.001]

One of those soldiers whose photograph was shown to Dr. Loe, was Robert Courtney Green.

Robert had left Nottinghamshire, England for a better life in Australia, only to encounter the ravages of drought on a farm outside Fremantle. He enlisted and would serve in the 32nd Battalion. He was hit with shrapnel in the chest and bled to death in the German 2nd line trench.

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Lambis was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2009.

Jack Bowden hasn't been identified as yet although Lambis believes he is buried at the new Pheasant Wood Cemetery. Hopefully, confirming DNA for Jack Bowden can be found.

From Lambis and the families who have been involved in identifying the missing soldiers of Fromelles, we thank the Australian Army for establishing a process that eventually led us to confirmation and recovery of 250 missing diggers. A video from the ABC recorded in 2010, is available on Youtube and is titled 'Australian Mass Graves Discovered in France' It mentions 90 having been identified through DNA and other means. That figure is now 166, and we expect there will be more to come following the convening of Joint Identification Boards.

As Lambis frequently says: 'Dignity and identity for the soldiers of Pheasant Wood, and those to come.'

LEST WE FORGET.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P10624.001

For those lost so far from home.

ANZAC DAY 2021

On Sunday, April 25 2021, Australians and New Zealanders, both at home and overseas, will stop to commemorate ANZAC Day. A day of national and international significance that gives us all the opportunity to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who have served in defence of our nation, and those who continue to serve today.

ANZAC Day Sydney, 2021

An exemption has been granted for the Anzac Day march organised by the RSL NSW, to be held in Sydney's city centre on Sunday 25 April 2021.

The exemption allows for a maximum of 10,000 people to participate in the outdoor event.

To participate in the RSL NSW march in Sydney, veterans should register with their unit/ship/squadron/association.

RSL NSW has asked the Secretaries of unit/ship/squadron/associations to register their intention for their association to march with the RSL NSW.

RSL NSW has prepared information for Anzac Day 2021.

Major roads in the Sydney CBD will be closed between 2am and 4pm for the Anzac Day Dawn Service in Martin Place and march on Elizabeth Street. For full details and real-time traffic conditions, visit Live Traffic NSW.

ANZAC Day 2021, Melbourne

ANZAC Day 2021 will be commemorated in Melbourne and across Victoria this year within the State Government's COVID-Safe Public Events Framework. While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way Victorians can commemorate this ANZAC Day;

Many local ANZAC Day activities are taking place at RSL Sub-Branches across the State;

- The Melbourne Dawn Service will be broadcast on ABC and livestreamed on RSL Victoria's Facebook page at 5.40am on ANZAC Day, with 1,400 tickets to attend at the Shrine of Remembrance available via the Shrine website from 15 April 2021.
- The ANZAC Day CBD march to the Shrine of Remembrance will go ahead with a maximum of 5,500 veteran participants marching along St Kilda Road and will be broadcast on ABC and livestreamed on RSL Victoria's Facebook page;
- The Melbourne Commemoration Ceremony, including the laying of the Official Wreath will take place after the ANZAC Day CBD march. This service will be livestreamed on RSL Victoria's Facebook page.
- The RSL Annual ANZAC Day Church Service is occurring on Sunday 18 April at St Paul's Cathedral for Evensong from 4:00 pm to 5:00pm.

ANZAC Day Brisbane, 2021

From our friends in the 31st Battalion Association:

You may have seen where we are having our normal ANZAC Day March this year. Members of our 31st Battalion Assoc., Brisbane branch will be attending the 2/31st Battalion short service at their memorial at Southbank at 9.00 am and then moving to the CBD to take our place in the main Brisbane march commencing around 10.45 am for us. Afterwards, we'll be lunching at reserved places at the Grand Central Hotel.

Best wishes for your Commemorations.

Cheers

Mick James

For those lost so far from home.

LOOKING FOR ARCHIE HORSINGTON'S RELATIVES!

From Marg O'Leary, Vice-President, and Director of Soldiers' Stories.

We are looking for help regarding missing soldier 3119 Archie Horsington, 56th Battalion.

In the search for DNA we have been unable to find any Horsington relatives in Australia

Archie was the second son of Alfred and Sarah nee Ryan, who were married in 1885 after the death of Sarah's first husband Thomas Riordan. Their parents were from the bush ranging area of Lambing Flat near Little Wombat New South Wales,

Archie had 3 brothers, Alfred, Aubrey and Roy. (died aged 1). They had one sister Rita and older half siblings John and Stella Riordan.

John joined first - 6 August, - Archie and Fred a week later.

The three brothers were in the same reinforcement battalion embarking on the Suevic and all at Fromelles, Archie and Fred remained in the 56th, while John transferred to the 14th Machine Gun Company, 11 March 16.

Archie was missing, the other two boys wounded and sent to England to Hospital. We now know that Alfred who returned to Australia had a son William Cornelius Horsington and William had a son Robert Clive Horsington who died in 2004. And Robert has descendants.

We are hoping there are family out there who would contact us at:

royce@fromelles.info the DNA project or
or marg@fromelles.info the Story project.

Cheers

Marg

Marg O'Leary

VP Fromelles Association of Australia

Director Story Project.

Hunter Valley NSW



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MEDIA ASSISTANT NEEDED

We are also looking for ongoing assistance from volunteers, with media writing skills, to develop advertisements and short stories, seeking families, and particularly DNA donors for our "Fromelles soldiers", for whom all our genealogical searching has failed to find a connection. Target media will be newspapers, and local radio.

For those lost so far from home.

These appeals are in many ways 'the last chance' for many of our Fromelles soldiers to have a modern day connection found for them.

All persons interested in providing assistance should contact our Director of Genealogical Searches, Royce Atkinson, by:-

Phone: 02 4913 1949

Mobile: 0490 5128 628 or

Email: royce@fromelles.info; royceatkinson@hotmail.com

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**COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES
ON 20 JULY, 2021
AT THE ANZAC MEMORIAL, HYDE PARK, SYDNEY NSW.**

The Fromelles Day Commemoration planning will take place progressively through February to June in the context of needing to be compliant with the NSW Government's Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Orders that may vary from time to time with a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

On the assumption that FFFAIF wishes to again assist the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial to discharge their commitment given in 1966 to the final Parade of the veterans of the 5th Division on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles in response to their request to the Trustees to always remember the sacrifice of the 8,100 soldiers of the 5th Division Killed in Action during the First World War and those who had died since, this will require flexibility.

The NSW Government has opted for COVID-19 Safety Plans to be specific for specific activities or industries with key parameters varying as appropriate to the current circumstances in the geographical area, i.e.:

- physical distancing
- Density per square metre
- Use of face masks
- Attendee checked ins and contact details recording

Accordingly, for the purposes of discussion and planning, several scenarios have been envisaged, which can be adapted to the circumstances prevailing in July. We will still need to plan this activity with the above guidelines to be considered.

Pre-scheduled activities at the Anzac Memorial, Sydney which are taking place on Monday 19 July have also had an impact on the holding of this event this year.

After some discussion by the organising committee of FFFAIF, it was determined that either 19 or 20 July are suitable dates with 10am on 20th in Sydney corresponding to Midnight in Fromelles, a time when the fighting was desperate.

Last year, when the Commemoration was held on a Monday, some communications issues were significant. Therefore, it has been Resolved that the Fromelles Day Commemorative Procession and Commemoration be held on **Tuesday 20 July 2021**, as it is both appropriate and lower risk when considering the planning issues, and is therefore preferred.

More information will be issued closer to the day, both in our Newsletter, and via our Facebook page.

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Geoffrey Benn — email: Geoffrey@fromelles.info; 13 Bromfield Avenue, Toongabbie 2146

For those lost so far from home.