



IDENTIFICATION BOARDS FOR FROMELLES TO NOW TAKE PLACE IN AUSTRALIA.

We are pleased to report that all future Identifications for soldiers who were killed at Fromelles, will now be dealt with in Australia. In a letter to us dated 24 November, 2022, from Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel the Honorable Matt Keogh, we were advised that:

'..the Fromelles Project was interrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also been subject to recent process review, which included contract negotiations with service providers. The transition to Australian-based identification boards has impacted the usual timing of Fromelles identification announcements; however, the transition is now complete.

I share your desire for identification announcements to be publicized as soon as possible and in good time for families to attend any scheduled commemoration activities.'

The identifications announced in November 2022 were the result of an Identification Board convened in Australia during 2022.

Minister Keogh went on to commend the Fromelles Association for its research to date, and for its assistance to Army and the Fromelles Project in identifying our First World War soldiers.

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'POMPEY' ELLIOTT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, BURWOOD CEMETERY MELBOURNE

Friends of the 15th Brigade commemorated The 92nd Anniversary of the death of 'POMPEY' ELLIOTT at Melbourne's Burwood Cemetery on 23 March 2023.

Lambis Englezos welcomed everyone to the ceremony with special thanks to students from the Ballarat and Clarendon College for their attendance. He then introduced their guest speaker Dr Ross McMullin, Historian, Author, 'Pompey' Elliott's Biographer.

Ross described the details of two soldiers profiled in his newly released book 'Life So Full of Promise.' Both were connected with

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Pompey Elliott before and during WW1.

The first was Murdoch Mackay from Bendigo, who as a student of law at Ormond College, Melbourne University, became acquainted with Pompey's brother George Elliott, and who at the age of 20 emulated Pompey Elliott six years after Pompey's own completion of legal studies, and came top in final year law and won the Supreme Court Prize.

[Picture: Lambis Englezos welcoming participants to the service]

When Mackay moved to Melbourne to work as a barrister, he and Pompey served in the same militia unit. Pompey's solicitors firm briefed Mackay to appear in various court cases.

Mackay went on to become an AIF Company Commander in the 22nd Battalion, but was killed in action on 5 August, 1916. Pompey was dismayed. "I am very sorry as he was a splendid fellow", Pompey wrote; he was "a very fine boy and a great friend of mine".

After the war Pompey reminisced about Mackay and praised him glowingly. So there was a strong connection between the pair.

The second soldier was Mac Gibbs, a 15th Brigade officer. Pompey also got to know Gibbs through his brother George. Mac Gibbs and George Elliott were team-mates in the University football team in the VFL, and overlapped as medicine students. Gibbs is in the book because he was connected to Mackay, in that his fiancée and Mackay's wife were sisters.

Soon after the formation of the 15th Brigade, when Pompey was looking for capable officers to join the brigade, Mac Gibbs arrived in Egypt with a batch of reinforcements. He agreed to become a lieutenant in the 59th Battalion.

Gibbs had a significant role at Fromelles. With his company commander wounded at the outset, Gibbs took charge of the company and led it across no-man's-land very competently despite heavy enemy fire. To quote from the award recommendation that Pompey wrote, Gibbs's "calm and collected" leadership "gave his men the impulse necessary to carry them as far as it was possible to go", and he was later awarded the Military Cross for his conspicuous gallantry.

Not many in the 59th ended up closer to the Germans than Mac, but he was missing after the battle, and months later he was officially declared to have died at Fromelles.

The sisters who were attached to Mackay and Gibbs heard about their fates in the same week. The fate of Mac Gibbs was just one of the far too many losses that Pompey had to endure at Fromelles, with the result that he could never be the same after such a terrible disaster.

For those lost so far from home.

Ross went on to detail the work done by Pompey Elliott in bringing his Brigade to a first class one. In summing up, Ross went on to state that 'We're here today on the anniversary of Pompey's death, and the story of Fromelles is a significant factor in Pompey's death, in the how, when and why of his death.'

Ross's book 'Life So Full of Promise' will be launched at the Shrine of Remembrance on 20 April, and the Friends of the 15th Brigade are welcome to attend. Here are the event details:

<https://www.shrine.org.au/life-so-full-promise-book-launch>

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Students from Elliott House, Ballarat and Clarendon College, with their teacher Mr David Struth, laid the wreath on behalf of their school.



Jan Dimmick and her son Guy laid the wreath on behalf of Friends of the 15th Brigade.. Jan's father John James Graham Colcough survived Fromelles, earned a DCM at Polygon Wood and earned the Belgian Croix de Guerre Maria Baker, Secretary of The Friends of the 15th Brigade.

Maria Baker, Secretary of The Friends of the 15th Brigade.



Bugler :
Mr Ian Douglas

For those lost so far from home.

Maria Baker, bugler Ian Douglas & Lambis Englezos standing next to the gravestone of Brigadier General H.E. 'Pompey' Elliott. (Photo: Luke Savage)

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**SERVICE TO HONOUR CAPTAIN
NORMAN GIBBINS, HELD AT
CITYHOPE CHURCH, RIPLEY,
IPSWICH ON 2 APRIL, 2023.**

The material for this post has come from our friends at 31 Bn Memorial Association, Michael James in particular.

It is about an Anzac Service held at the Cityhope Church at Ripley, Ipswich on 2 April, 2023. It includes a video about the life of Capt Norman Gibbins and the effect of the Battle on his family, after the Battle of Fromelles

The service was conducted by Senior Pastor at Ripley, Ps Mark Edwards OAM who has been there for 33 years.

This service has been continuing for a decade now.

This year they had their video story on Capt Norman Gibbons AIF who grew up in Ipswich and went to Ipswich Grammar School.

Follow the link below to access the video footage of the documentary dealing with the life and service of Captain Norman Gibbins, who fell at Fromelles on 20 July, 1916.

Fallen: A Tragic Story of the Unnamed (Anzac Documentary) – Youtube

Produced by Pastor Mark Edwards, Cityhope Church, Ripley (Ipswich) Qld.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtbqshSM4Ac&t=214s>

For Michael James, and 31st Bn Assoc (Brisbane Branch) Secretary, Tony Wadeson, it was the 2nd year they have attended.

As the Video was on a 55th Bn Soldier, Michael arranged for Geoffrey Benn, as President of Fromelles Association of Australia, to receive an invitation, with his concurrence, of course. Geoff is mentioned in the program. At the end of the Service, 2 copies of Pierre Seillier OAM's Tribute to Capt Norman Gibbins were presented to Ps Mark Edwards OAM & Ipswich Grammar School Headmaster, Richard Morrison, by Geoff.

If you view the footage of the service itself (see link below) you will see 20 photos of soldiers shown on the screen during the Hymn. All are 55th Battalion soldiers. Their photos and brief histories were also placed on chairs throughout the congregation.

For those lost so far from home.

The Anzac Service is held some days prior to Anzac Day to allow many Defence Service people to attend. It also usually coincides with the end of the first school term in Queensland. It was a very moving Service.

[Tribute card prepared by Pierre Seillier]

Follow the link below to access the video footage of the church service (without the documentary) via the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcGaU0ZQW0g&t=1681s>

LEST WE FORGET

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THE FAMILIES OF FROMELLES

In November 2022, we published a pamphlet dealing with the Brothers in Arms Project at Zonnebeke, Belgium. James and John Hunter fought at Polygon Wood near Ypres in Belgium. John Hunter was killed, and Jim Hunter ultimately returned to Australia.

John's body was recovered along with four others in September, 2006 during roadwork and pipe-laying excavations near the small village of Westhoek. Two other soldiers' remains have been identified since. The identifications were able to take place with the assistance of DNA, and that process became the standard for Fromelles when bodies were discovered there in 2008.

In the last year or so, we've been compiling a list of soldiers who were at Fromelles, and in the course of doing so have identified a number of brothers, and even father and sons, who fought at Fromelles. Some fatally. Some to fight elsewhere but not return. Some who would ultimately return after the loss of a brother, or a son.

The following list has been compiled from material from Pierre Seillier, and Geoffrey Benn, Bronwyn Stanley and Stephen Brooks, and is a work in progress.

These are the names we've identified so far. If you are aware of any more, please pass on the details to Geoffrey Benn via geoffrey@fromelles.info.

Some material First Published March 17, 2019, updated 18th March 2023



For those lost so far from home.

Brothers Killed On 19 July 1916

CAREY: 3481 John Stephen 3481, aged 23, and 3480A Timothy Joseph, aged 27, 53rd Battalion.

[Picture source—*Digger Issue 21*]

Sons of Patrick and Bridget Carey of Kinchela, New South Wales.

John is buried in Rue du Bois Military Cemetery Fleurbaix,
Timothy is commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.

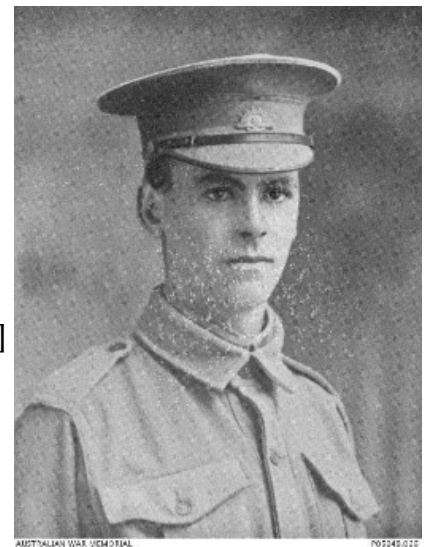


BROMLEY. 4744 Albert Clive, 4744, aged 19, and 4903 Sidney Reginald, 4903, 53rd Battalion.

Sons of S. A. De M. Bromley and Alice Louisa Bromley of 4 View Street, Waverley, New South Wales.

Sidney is buried in Ration Farm Military Cemetery at La Chapelle d'Armentieres.

Albert is commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.



CLEMENTS: 4076 Harold George, aged 23, and 3055 Vivian John, aged 26, 59th Battalion.

[Picture source: *Australian War Memorial*]

Sons of Thomas and M. J. Clements of 737 Glenhuntly Road, Glenhuntly, Victoria. Both brothers had been born in Healesville, Vic.

Vivian is buried in Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery Fleurbaix.

Harold is commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.

FRANKLIN: 3105 Charles Wyndham, aged 26, and 3104 Herbert Leyshon, aged 24, 60th Battalion.

[Herbert and Charles Franklin—source VWMA
(Faithe Jones)]

Sons of Herbert Wyndham Franklin and Mary Margaret Franklin of 21 Wallace Avenue, Toorak, Victoria and natives of Melbourne. Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.



For those lost so far from home.

FRASER: 1703 Alexander Gregory, aged 25, and 3282 Roderick John, aged 24, 60th and 59th Battalions.

Sons of Robert and Catherine Fraser of 27, Alma Road, St. Kilda, Victoria and natives of Yarraville, Vic.

Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.

HENDERSON: 3798 Ernest Albert, and 2603 Leslie Donald, 60th Battalion.

[Ernest Albert Henderson—source *Australian War Memorial*]

Sons of William and Annie Henderson of 110 Arden Street, North Melbourne and native of Kensington.

Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.



HOSIE: 2844 Gustave, 59th Battalion, and 1948 Russell, 60th Battalion.

Sons of Robert Russell Hosie and Emily Helena Hosie of Ligar Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria. Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.

Their stories can be found on our website www.fromelles.info under 'Soldiers Stories'

Their Duty Done: A tribute to the men and women of the East Gippsland Region who Died as a result of their participation in World War One : 1914 -1919

MITCHELL: .2746 Alfred Charles, Aged 21, and 2714 Sydney James, aged 23, 59th Battalion.

Sons of James T. and Lucy Mitchell of Stratford, Victoria.

[Alfred Charles and Sydney James Mitchell -
source *Australian War Memorial*]

Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.



Another Brother William Mitchell was killed at Gallipoli 25th July 1915.

Their stories can be found on our website www.fromelles.info under 'Soldiers Stories'.

McLEAN: . 3200 Alexander Leslie, aged 22, and 3209 Victor Henry, aged 19, 60th Battalion.

Sons of Alexander and Margaret McLean of 165, Bank Street, South Melbourne and native of Geelong.

For those lost so far from home.

Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles. Their father was serving in the same battalion and initially reported missing in action on 19 July 1916 but he was later reported safe, and returned to Australia.

You can read their stories on our website www.fromelles.info under 'Soldiers Stories'.

McMANUS: 3831 Patrick John, aged 24, and 2719 Samuel Paul, aged 21, 60th Battalion.

[Patrick and Samuel McManus - source *Trove* (*Mebourne Herald*)]

Their brother 2703 Thomas McManus, 60th Bn, Also fought at Fromelles; and their brother 3888 Alfred, 22nd Battalion fought in France.

Both Patrick and Samuel are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.

Sons of Patrick and Catherine McManus of 47, Kerford Road, Albert Park, Victoria and native of South Melbourne. You can read their stories on our website www.fromelles.info under 'Soldiers Stories' - **Patrick John**, **Samuel Paul**, **Thomas** and **Alfred**



MILLER: 2736 Robert Charles, and 2735 William Henry, 26, 60th Battalion.

Sons of Henry and Rebecca Miller; William was married with Alice Miller of Elizabeth Street, North Wagga, New South Wales. Natives of Melbourne.

Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.

PERKINS: 2014 Colin Ernest, aged 23, and 2421 Eric, aged 25, 59th Battalion.

Sons of Alfred Joseph and Alice Ethel Perkins of 17 Mitchell Street, St. Kilda, Victoria. Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.

PHILLIPS. Alfred Ernest, 1804, aged 32, 59th Battalion, and Edwin John, 1743, aged 34, 60th Battalion.

[Picture source—*Australian War Memorial*]

Sons of Edward and Julia Phillips of 8 Elizabeth Street, North Richmond, Victoria. Both are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.



For those lost so far from home.

SHEPHARD: 2776 George Arnold and 2778 Thomas Henry Phillip, 60th Battalion.

Sons of John and Ellen Shephard of 60 McKean Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria. Both brothers are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles. Their brother John Shephard of the same battalion died of illness on 12 July 1916 and is buried in Mazergues War Cemetery at Mar-seilles.

Further information can be found here at

[2011 Spirit of ANZAC Prize Tour: A record of my travels to Turkey and France whilst on the 2011 Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize Tour.](#)

TURNER: 3462A Arthur, Aged 20 and 3455 Harry, Aged 22, 53rd Battalion.

[Picture source - Australian War Memorial]

Sons of J Turner, 73 Shaw Street, Petersham, New South Wales. Both brothers are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles.



WILSON: .4887 Eric Robert, Aged 20, and 3534 Samuel Charles, 3534, aged 30, 53rd Battalion.

[Picture source— Australian War Memorial]

Sons of G. Wilson of Hibbard, Port Macquarie, New South Wales. Both are buried in adjacent graves in the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Cemetery. Their brother 3533 James Arthur also served at the Battle. You can read their stories on our website www.fromelles.info in the Soldiers Stories section: [Eric Robert](#), [Samuel Charles](#), [James Arthur](#)



Brothers Killed On 20 July 1916

CHOAT: 66. Archibald Percy, 19, and 67 Raymond Hadden, 24, 32nd Battalion.

[Picture source Australian War Memorial]

Sons of Joseph and Alice Mary Choat of Francis Street, Clarence Park, South Australia, both natives of Adelaide. Archibald is buried in Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, and



For those lost so far from home.

Raymond is commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles. Their brother, Wesley Paul Choat was taken as a prisoner of war at Fromelles and successfully escaped in 1917.

You can read their soldiers stories on our website www.fromelles.info in our Soldiers Stories section under: **Archibald**, **Raymond** and **Wesley**

Brothers Killed Or Died Of Wounds From The Battle

BALDSON. 2774 James, Killed in Action 19/20 July 1916 and 2276 Russell Henry, Died of Wounds 28 July 1916 and 2275 Joseph Tucker, 2275, Wounded 20 July 1916, 30th Battalion.

BARR. 3474A David, Killed in Action 19 July 1916 and 3479 Colin Campbell, Died of Wounds 31 August 1916, 60th Battalion

DALY. 4474 William Warren, Died of Wounds 22 July 1916 and 4643 James Fitzgibbon, Killed in Action 19 July 1916, 58th Battalion.

JONES. 798 Geoffrey Ernest, 60th Battalion, Killed in Action 19 July 1916 and 3523 Rolf Stanley, 59th Battalion Died of Wounds 15 February 1917.

MCLEOD. 3273 Hector John, 55th Battalion, Killed in Action 20 July 1916 and 3121 William Edward, 53rd Battalion, Killed in Action 19 July 1916

WILLS. 652 George Charles, Killed in Action 20 July 1916 and 651 Robert Joseph, Died of Wounds 2 August 1916, 29th Battalion.

They also had a cousin Private Robert Herd **Harker** (Robb) A Company, 31st Battalion, of Koo-wee-rup, Vic., who was killed in action on 20th July 1916.

Brothers Killed, Or Wounded And Survived The Battle

CLAXTON: 1239 Maurice James, Killed in Action 20 July 1916 and 1238 Theodore, Wounded and taken prisoner, 20th July 1916. Another brother Edward John served with the 5th Battalion.

You can read the soldier stories for **Maurice** and **Theodore** under Soldiers Stories at www.fromelles.info.

CRESSY: 4179 Henry Alfred, Killed in Action 19th July 1916 and 4164 Edward Brougham, Wounded, 54th Battalion.

DONALDSON: 3088 Frank Harold, Killed in Action 19th July 1916 and 2090A Donald David "Don", Wounded (Amputation), 60th Battalion.

You can read the soldier story of **Frank** and **Donald** under Soldiers Stories at www.fromelles.info.

GILBERT: .4786 Owen Stanmore, Wounded in Action (GSW to shoulder) and 4787 Andrew, Killed in Action 19th July 1916, 53rd Battalion.

HOLLINGS: 1402 William Craven, Killed in Action and 3921 Fred, Wounded in Action, 32nd Battalion.

For those lost so far from home.

HUNTER: 4816 John, Killed in Action 19th July 1916 , 58th Battalion and 4815 David, , Wounded in Action, 58th Battalion.

LEE: 3071 William, Killed in Action 19 July 1916 and 3072 Thomas Alfred, Wounded in Action, 60th Battalion.

TICKNER: 6036 Walter, Died of wounds 22 July 1916, 15th Field Company Engineers and 6032 George Edward, 15th Field Company Engineers, Wounded in Action

WOODCOCK: 3968 Arnold, Killed In Action 19/20 July 1916 and 3967 Hanson John, Wounded in Action, 59th Battalion.

Brothers Who Fought Together At Fromelles

ANTROBUS. 1969 Harold, Returned to Australia, 29th Battalion and 1968 Aubrey William, Wounded in Action, 29th Battalion.

ARNOTT. 1968 Colin, Killed in Action 20 July 1916, 30th Battalion and 1969 Kenneth Alfred, 8th MG Battalion, Returned to Australia.

ASHWORTH. 1656 Percy Alexander, Killed in Action 19th July 1916 and 1657 Alexander John Thomas, 60th Battalion.

You can read their soldier stories on our website www.fromelles.info under Soldiers Stories: [Percy Alexander Ashworth](#) and [Alexander John Thomas Ashworth](#)

BALLARD. 4730 Harold Archurst Smith, Killed in Action 19/20th July 1916, 54th Battalion and 5034 Edward Henry Smith, Returned to Australia, 54th Battalion

BOLDER. 3400 Alfred Vincent, Returned to Australia, 55th Battalion and 3489 Horace Dudley, Returned to Australia, 31st Battalion.

BOYD. 2562 Hugh, Killed in Action 19th July 1916 and 2561 John Alexander, 59th Battalion - returned to Australia.

BRADNEY. 2376 John, Killed in Action 2 April 1917 and 846 Donald Walter, 14th Field Artillery Brigade, returned to Australia, 9 December 1918; and 1620 Wentworth Edward, Killed in Action 24 September 1917, 54th Battalion.

Cousin: Lieutenant Brice BRADNEY, returned to Australia;

Nephew: 1888 Reginald Raymond WILDMAN, Killed in Action 19-20 July 1916, 54th Battalion.

BROOKS. 3034 Arthur Edmond, Killed in Action 20 July 1916, and 3035 Elliott Harvey, 27th and 32nd Battalions.

You can read their soldier stories on our website www.fromelles.info under Soldiers Stories : [Arthur Edmond](#) and [Elliott Harvey](#)

BURBIDGE. 411 Herbert John Charles, Killed in Action 19/20 July 1916, 32nd Battalion and 56 Maurice, Died of Illness 25 February 1919, 32nd Battalion.

COLLINS. 832 Herbert Alan, and 831 Frank Austin, Wounded, both survived and returned

For those lost so far from home.

to Australia. You can read their soldier stories on our website www.fromelles.info under Soldier Stories: **Herbert Alan** and **Frank Austin**

DANN. 2128 Alfred James, Returned to Australia, 31st Battalion and 2126 Richard Harold, Wounded in Action, 31st Battalion.

DYKES. 2021 Cecil Leonard, Killed in Action 23 July 1916, 30th Battalion and 2022 Ernest George, Prisoner of War, Returned to Australia, 30th Battalion.

EADIE. 839/4408 Alexander McKinlay, Killed in Action 19th July 1916. 8 Field Company Engineers and 840 Robert McGillivray, 5 Field Company Engineers and 2108 Henry Erskine, 5 Field Company Engineers. Returned to Australia.

FITTON. 4782 William Reid, 4782, Killed in Action, 57th Battalion and 1108 Hubert James, 29th Battalion, returned to Australia.

HURDIS. 2818 Jonathon John, 2818, 54th Battalion, Killed in Action and 2919 Thomas Hurdis, 59th Battalion, Wounded in Action, 26 September 1917, Polygon Wood, France. Died of Wounds, 03 Oct 1917.

You can read their soldier stories on our website www.fromelles.info under: **Jonathon** and **Thomas**

JARRETT. 3165 Thomas Charles Betram, Wounded in Action, 32nd Battalion and 3164 Allan, Killed in Action 17 April 1918, 32nd Battalion.

JONES. 274 Norman Percival, Killed In Action 23 Oct 1916 and 276 Alfred James, 5th Pioneer Battalion, Returned to Australia.

LEPP. 4539 Albert Edward, Killed in Action, 58th Battalion and 4540 Reginald Charles, 58th Battalion, survived battle, later wounded twice and invalided home.

You can read their soldier stories on our website www.fromelles.info under **Albert** and **Reginald**

LANCASTER. 2085 Victor Leslie, Died of wounds 23 June 1918, 30th Battalion and 3584 Gordon William Horace, Returned to Australia, 30th Battalion.

LIDDELOW. Aubrey, (Captain), Killed in Action, 59th Battalion and Roy (Lieutenant), Wounded in Action, 59th Battalion, returned to Australia.

You can read the soldier stories for **Aubrey** and **Roy** on our website www.fromelles.info under Soldiers Stories.

MILLS. 3582 Leslie Charles, Killed in Action 19 July, 1916, 59th Battalion and 3583 James Henry, Returned to Australia, 59th Battalion and 7341 Peter Frank, 1 MG Battalion, Returned to Australia.

PFLAUM. 161 Raymond Holstein, Killed in Action and 327 Theodor Milton, 327, died of wounds, 24 July, 32nd Battalion.

Their brother 1591 Elliott Frederick, was with the 9th Light Horse Brigade and 68th Royal Flying Corps.

For those lost so far from home.

You can read the soldier stories for **Raymond**, **Theodor** and **Elliott** on our website www.fromelles.info under Soldiers Stories.

PHILLIPS. 2654 Edgar Muerance, and 3622 William George, Wounded, both survived and returned to Australia.

You can read their soldier stories on our website www.fromelles.info under Soldiers Stories: **Edgar Muerance** and **William George**

ROBERTSON. 2944 William Hugh, Killed in Action 19/20 July 1916, 53rd Battalion and 2943 Samuel, Returned to Australia 53rd Battalion.

RUSSELL. 4299 Arthur, Killed in Action 19-20 July, 1916, 54th Battalion and 4300 William Russell, Killed in Action 25 September, 1917, 54th Battalion.

SCHRODER. 2438 Charles George, Returned to Australia, 57th Battalion, and 3127 John Donald, Returned to Australia, 54th Battalion.

SMITH. 3255 Arthur John, Killed in Action 19/20 July 1916, 30th Battalion and 539 Walter George MM, Returned to Australia, 30th Battalion.

STEPHENSON. 2935 George Dalton, 53rd Battalion, Returned to Australia and 2904 Joseph Vipond, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, Returned to Australia.

TREBLE. 973 Arthur Gilbert, Killed in Action 20 July 1916, 31st Battalion and 1248 George, Killed in Action 2 March 1917, 29th Battalion.

WALSH: 201 Richmond Ambrose, (real name Andrew), Killed in Action 20 July 1916, 32nd Battalion and 220 Francis Raphael, 32nd Battalion, Returned to Australia

WARNER. 202 Ernest Edward, Prisoner of War, 32nd Battalion and 203 Edgar Albert, Died of Wounds 22nd July 1916, 32nd Battalion

YENDLE. 2698 George, Killed in Action 19 July 1916, 54th Battalion and 2741 Albert Charles, Killed in action 27 September 1917, Polygon Wood.

The Parents At Fromelles

ECKERSLEY. Percy Augustus, Major, 31st Battalion HQ and
His son, Percy Charles, 2nd Lieutenant, 31st Battalion, Returned to Australia

KIDD. 3271 George James, Returned to Australia, 32nd Battalion, and
Son: 2938 John Wark Kidd, Returned to Australia, 32nd Battalion.

MURPHY. 3227 James Parson, 32nd Battalion, Killed in Action 19 July 1916.

His son: 1744A James Thomas Murphy, 32nd Battalion, Killed in Action 20 July 1916.

SPOONER. 2663 Edward Mason, Died of wounds 31 July 1916, 60th Battalion, and his
Son: 3941 James Edward, Killed in Action, 19th July 1916.

For those lost so far from home.

The Cousins At Fromelles

DOUST: 3557 Willie Hilton, 3557, Killed in Action 20 July 1916, 54th Battalion and

His cousin 3558 Roy DOUST, Died of wounds 30 October 1916, 54th Battalion

FLINDELL. 1621 Walter Richard, Wounded in Action, 32nd Battalion, Returned to Australia.

1st Cousin: 1620 Frank Richard FLINDELL, Killed in Action 3 May 1917, Bullecourt, 32nd Battalion.

GRIFFITHS. 1584 Edwin Beynon, Killed in Action 20 July 1916, 31st Battalion.

His Cousin **KEEN**, 3159 George Culverwell, Died Of Wounds 26th Aug 1916, 58th Battalion.

SINIGEAR. 16 Alfred, Killed in Action 19 July 1916, 32nd Battalion.

His Cousin: **ROWE.** 2102 William Arthur, Wounded in Action, 32nd Battalion, Returned to Australia.

You can read their soldier stories on our website www.fromelles.info under Soldiers Stories: **Alfred** and **William Arthur**

SNOOK. 2110 Godfrey, Killed in Action 19/20 July 1916, 32nd Battalion.

His Cousin: SNOOK 186 Arthur George, Wounded in Action, 32nd Battalion.

WALSH, 311 Leslie Gordon, Killed in Action 20 July 1916, 31st Battalion and

His cousin: 3344 **BAYLEY**, William John, Died of wounds 31 August 1918, Lille.

WILKIN: 1314 Ernest Frank, Aged 23, 29 Bn, Killed in action 19/20 July, 1916.

WILKIN: 1269 Harold John, 29 Bn POW Fromelles, discharged 17 June, 1919

Twin brothers, sons of William Wilkin, 376 Chancer Street, Canterbury, Victoria.

Their cousin 2575 Frank Allen **DIXON**, Killed in Action 19 July 1916, 59th Battalion.

WILLS. 652 George Charles, Killed in Action 20 July 1916 and 651 Robert Joseph, Died of Wounds 2 August 1916, 29th Battalion.

Their cousin 345 Private Robert Herd **Harker** (Robb) A Company, 31st Battalion, of Koo-wee-rup, Vic., was killed in action on 20th July 1916.

If you know of any other connections of relatives who fought at Fromelles, would you please pass on the details to geoffrey@fromelles.info

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PIERRE SEILLIER , OAM

We wish to bring to your attention, the conferral of the Order of Australia upon our long-time friend of the soldiers of Fromelles, as reported in the latest Newsletter of the Friends of the 15th Brigade:

For those lost so far from home.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Pierre Seillier, a true friend and supporter of Friends of the 15th Brigade, has been awarded **the Medal of the Order of Australia.**

[With the Beret of the 31st Infantry Bn Association]

Many of us have had the privilege of meeting Pierre and enjoyed his hospitality and support. On February 2023 the Office Governor General stated:

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following award in the Order of Australia:

Mr Pierre SEILLIER, La Bassee, France.

The media note tells us more of the man. Mr Pierre Seillier has dedicated a large part of his life to preserving the memory of Australia's military service, particularly in Fromelles, France. Fromelles is the site of the worst tragedy in Australia's history, with 5,533 Australian soldiers dead or injured in less than 24 hours during World War I - most of them in their early 20s and fighting in their first and last battle. Mr Seillier regularly organises, or represents Australian organisations, at commemorative ceremonies and dedications in France.



On the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles in 2016, the 31st Infantry Bn Association Inc. presented Mr Seillier with an Honorary Life Membership to acknowledge the voluntary assistance he has given to so many Australians in finding the gravesites of their loved ones and producing special tributes to the fallen. Mr Seillier has also been honoured with Life Membership of the Rats of Tobruk Association Inc.

Mr Seillier is dedicated to ensuring the gratitude and remembrance of Australian soldiers is spread throughout the community and also passed down to younger generations. Mr Seillier regularly teaches at the Cobbers School, Fromelles, about their town's historic links to Australia, and developed an 'Adopt a Soldier' initiative where each primary school student takes on an Australian soldier buried in the Pheasant Wood Cemetery and learns about that soldier in the form of a school project. This is usually in conjunction with that soldier's relatives in Australia, thus preserving and extending the relationship between Australia and Fromelles, France, for future generations.

Another example of Mr Seillier's service was in organising for the Cobbers School children to

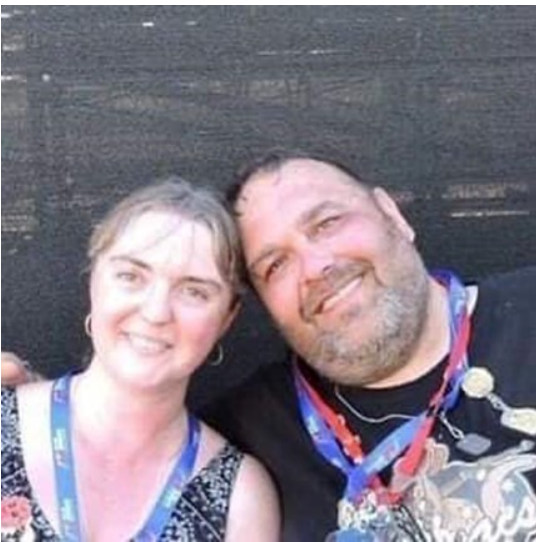
For those lost so far from home.



write messages of support to, and raise money for, the East Gippsland Primary School which was tragically damaged by the 2019 bush fires in Victoria.

[Even during the Covid pandemic, with the late Marie Paule Demassiet and her family]

In November 2022, Mr Seiller was honoured to be made the French representative of the Keith Payne VC Veterans Benefit Group by Mr Keith Payne VC AM.



[Pierre with his No. 1 Supporter, Corinne.]

Mr Pierre Seillier's largely voluntary service to commemorating Australia's military service, particularly during World War I at the Western Front at Fromelles, France, is worthy of formal national recognition with a Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia (OAM).



[Pierre with his 'ami Australienne' Lambis Englezos.]

May we all offer our congratulations to our 'mate' in Fromelles, Pierre Seillier, OAM.

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JOHN LAFFIN MEMORIAL LECTURE 22 APRIL, 2023 AT ANZAC MEMORIAL, SYDNEY

Along with our Newsletter, we are attaching a copy of the invitation received for people to register for, and attend the next John Laffin Memorial Lecture, hosted by our friends at the Families and Friends of the 1st AIF. Please register if you can by contacting Paul Simadas as detailed in the attached material. We hope to see you at the Lecture.

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For those lost so far from home.

RELATIVES WITH MULTIPLE SOLDIERS NOW RESTING AT FROMELLES

In the course of compiling material on our lost soldiers, we come learn who is related to a particular soldier. Sometimes we find more than one person is related to a soldier in the course of seeking DNA for testing. Sometimes our contacts advise us of having found they are related to more than one soldier now identified at Fromelles.

These are the soldiers and their connections that we have identified so far.

Jim Munday is related to brothers 4887 Eric Wilson and 3534 Samuel Wilson, both of 53 Bn, and both identified alongside each other, and now laid to rest alongside each other at Fromelles.

Stuart Quarmby is related on his mother's side to 1520 A/Sgt William Polding Ryan, 31 Bn.

Stuart is also related on his father's side to 1252 Cpl Alfred Tuck, 29 Bn.

Both have been identified, and both are laid to rest at Fromelles.

John Clingan is related to 3168 Pte Alexander Stanley Clingan, 53 Bn.

John's wife **Dorothy Clingan** (nee Grogan) is related to 3114 Sgt Vincent Michael Grogan, 60 Bn.

Alexander Clingan has been identified and is laid to rest at Fromelles.

Vincent Michael Grogan is remembered on the VC Corner Cemetery Wall of Remembrance.

Peter Stroud-Watts is related to 4533 James Joseph Lee, 54 Bn, a brother of his maternal grandmother.

Peter is also related to 3606 William Henry Turner, 54 Bn a brother of his maternal grandfather.

So his grandmother and grandfather had brothers in the same battalion, and fought in the same battle.

James Joseph Lee is remembered on the VC Corner Cemetery Wall of Remembrance.

William Henry Turner was taken prisoner of war, and returned to Australia in March, 1919.

Bruce Lees is related to 2 Lt James Benson, 32 Bn. He was his grandmother's father. His headstone was dedicated at Fromelles in 2016.

Bruce's wife **Dianne Lees** is related to Major Victor Horatio Buller Sampson, 53 Bn. His remains were identified in 2010 and he is now laid to rest at Fromelles.

Glennys Gow is related herself to 1520 William Polding Ryan, 31 Bn. His headstone was dedicated in 2010. She is a 1st cousin, 3x removed.

Her late husband John Oliver Gow is a 1st cousin 1x removed to 4807 David George Irvin of 36 Heavy Artillery Brigade, who was killed in action 19/20 July 1916, and his headstone was dedicated at Fromelles in 2010.

Jeff Nash is through his father Clarence Nash, a nephew of 4341 Pte Clarence Ernest Nash of 54 Bn who was Killed in Action 19-20 July, 1916. Clarence is remembered on the VC Corner Cemetery Wall of Remembrance.

For those lost so far from home.

Jeff is also a nephew via his mother Mary, of 4190 Pte Keith Whitmee Davis of 54 Bn, who died of wounds from Fromelles, on 22 July, 1916. Keith staggered to assistance following him being injured, and is buried at Bologne Eastern Cemetery.

If you know of any more related people who are related to multiple soldiers who served at Fromelles, please pass on details to geoffrey@fromelles.info.

All we can say when learning of these connections is 'It's a small world'.

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THE CONTINUING SEARCH FOR DNA

Some time ago we arranged for a media release to be issued in the search for relatives of Lemuel Batey, of 29 Bn. We had a response from that and we are hoping it will lead us to find suitable dna testing candidates so that we can submit details to Unrecovered War Casualties Unit, in the hope of identifying him at Fromelles.

We recently arranged for a media release to be issued in the search for relatives of 974 Pte William Keating, 32 Bn. We have had a response from that and we will work with the person concerned, again in the hope that it will lead us to find a suitable dna testing candidate.

Sometimes the feedback we receive is from persons who are themselves not able to provide a dna test, but hopefully their knowledge of the family network is sufficient to enable us to approach another person in the family's extended tree. This has prompted us to include the following information and explanation about the search for dna, for your understanding.

In the years following the end of World War 1, our soldiers and their families took steps to rebuild their lives and to develop their own families.

Sometimes the soldiers who served had children who survived them.

Thus there were soldiers' own children who went on to give birth to grandchildren.

Sons of the soldiers had grandsons and granddaughters.

Brothers of the soldiers had nephews, who in turn had great nephews, who shared the Y-DNA line.

This is the 'male line', and it is passed on by fathers to sons and sons to sons and so on.

Daughters of the soldiers had granddaughters and grandsons.

Sisters of the soldiers had daughters, who in turn begat nieces, who shared mitochondrial DNA (mt-DNA) with the soldier.

Sisters of the soldiers who had daughters all shared the same mt-DNA line with the soldier, going back to the soldier's mother, and her mother before her.

But if those daughters, nieces, granddaughters had a son, their son did not pass on the mt-DNA to his own children. The son's children would instead receive the mt-DNA from their own mother, i.e. their father's female partner. Thus the mt-DNA link with the soldier would not get

For those lost so far from home.

passed down further.

This is the 'female line' DNA.

So the trail of connections via DNA extended and radiated around the world. We seek to find the families who are alive today, who can help us to make a positive linkage to a soldier who was killed at Fromelles. So in the same way, our search for DNA linkages has also extended and radiated around the world.

DNA has proven to be the vital element needed to identify the remains of all the soldiers remains uncovered in 2008 and 2009. The process of identification is undertaken by the Australian Army in conjunction with expert advisors in the United Kingdom and wherever else information may be required to be scrutinised.

The Australian Army now seeks DNA from two male-line donors, and two female-line donors in order to establish the best chance of identification by DNA.

We don't research the full family tree, just the part of the tree around the DNA e.g. male line or female line. Or both, if requested by the Army.

By tracing the linkages genealogically, our work often results in us finding connections with the descendants of a soldier who did not know of each other before our research began.

When a soldier is identified by use of DNA matching on the female and male lines, these families share a bond which they are unable to break.

You will therefore soon appreciate that the identification of the necessary donors will only take place after extensive genealogical research.

We get to learn a lot about DNA. They get to learn a lot about their family.

The Fromelles Association welcomes all contact regarding the soldiers at Fromelles. Contact: royce@fromelles.info or geoffrey@fromelles.info.

We also urge any family members to contact and register with the Australian Army Unrecovered War Casualties Unit.

Contact: army.uwc@defence.gov.au or phone 1800 019 090.

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TO THE ROOF OF THE EARTH AND BACK

In late February/early March, one of our fantastic support team, Bob Griffith, recently attempted a trip to Base Camp in Nepal. Sadly he had to turn back about 4km from Base Camp due to signs of altitude sickness.

For Bob it was a big win to get that close.

Both his kids made it to Base Camp. So there will be lots of stories to be told in the years ahead.

We'll let him do his recovery work, and hope to read more of his Soldiers' Stories for our website in the coming months.

For those lost so far from home.

Bob sent us this picture of himself with Everest, Nuptse, and Lhotse in the background, en route to Mt. Everest Base Camp.

Well done Bob, and glad you made a safe return.

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LT ERNEST PONSONBY DAHL

Some times we need to go to meet up with a person who can assist us in our work, as they cannot come to us.



We recently compiled a story for our website in relation to Lt Ernest Ponsonby Dahl, of 53 Bn, who fought at Fromelles and returned to Australia at the end of the war. We received all the material for the story from Jim Dial, via the post. Jim does not have a computer, or a phone.

Once the story had been finalised and uploaded to our website, Royce Atkinson arranged for a former mutual colleague to visit Jim Dial and show him the website, and the story of Lt Dahl. His reaction was quite emotional and Jim was 'over the moon'.

A great outcome everyone!!

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A CALL FOR MEMBERS AND/OR DONATIONS

The Fromelles Association maintains this web site, purely by Membership fees, and from donations received.

If you haven't yet joined as a member, we are attaching a copy of the Application form for you to complete and return (which can be done, scanned, and emailed to us).

If you are able, please make a donation to contribute to the upkeep of this resource.

Contact our Treasurer, Bill Irvine : bill@fromelles.info for account details.

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UPCOMING ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Services will be held across Australia on 25th April, to reflect on the service of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, medical and nursing staff, and all those who have been affected by Australia's involvement in wars and conflict around the world. Their service has affected many families around the country and overseas. May we all pay our respects on the day. Lest We Forget.

For those lost so far from home.