



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

For those lost so far from home

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NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

IN THIS EDITION



Roy Martin
Identified



Spotlight on:
The 54th
Battalion



Fromelles Cemeteries
Across Europe



New
Soldier Stories



Researching and
Remembering
Fromelles



Commemorative
Events 2026



David Wilson Retires –
Dean O'Brien Takes
the Lead



Professor Tony
Pollard Retires



Gary Mitchell
Awarded OAM



New
Videos Online



Annual General
Meeting & Membership



**181 Found.
Help Us Find
the Rest.**



Calling All
Volunteers

ROY MARTIN

IDENTIFIED AFTER 110 YEARS

1896-1916

Private, 30th Battalion AIF



REMEMBER. RESEARCH. IDENTIFY.

www.fromelles.info





ROY MARTIN IDENTIFIED

One of the Missing Soldiers Found at Fromelles



LESLIE ROY MARTIN	
	Regimental Number: 1584
	Known As: Roy
	Unit: 30th Battalion AIF
	Born: 26 May 1896 Young, NSW
	Occupation: Labourer
	Fate: Killed in Action 20 Jul 1916, Fromelles, France Aged 20
	Place of Burial: Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery II.C.5
	Positively Identified: Yes

The Fromelles Association of Australia acknowledges the identification of **Private Leslie Roy Martin (1896–1916)**, who was killed in action during the Battle of Fromelles.

For more than a century, Roy had no known grave. Following the discovery of the mass graves at Pheasant Wood in 2008, the soldiers recovered were reinterred at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery, many as unknown.

Through the ongoing work of the Unrecovered War Casualties – Army (UWC-A), with support from the Fromelles Association of Australia and our researchers, and with the support of Roy's family, including a nephew, grand-nephew and grand-niece who donated DNA, Roy has now been formally identified.

A headstone bearing his name will be unveiled at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery in July, ensuring he is remembered not as one of the unknown, but by name.

We extend our sincere thanks to Roy's family for their contribution, and to all those involved in this work — particularly UWC-A, the many researchers, and volunteers of the Fromelles Association. Each identification is the result of years of dedication and collaboration.

After more than 110 years. **Roy has been found.**



ONE OF THE FOUND

250 SOLDIERS RECOVERED FROM PHEASANT WOOD

181 IDENTIFIED

ROY MARTIN IS ONE OF THEM

FAMILY DNA

Roy's identification was supported by DNA provided by a nephew, grand-nephew and grand-niece.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Roy's family, UWC-A, researchers and volunteers whose commitment and expertise made this identification possible.

AT A GLANCE

- Twin of Sylvia Clarice May Martin
- Served in the Newtown Cadets
- Described himself as a "good rifle shot"
- Brother Frank Martin also enlisted
- Labourer from Newtown, NSW
- Served with the 30th Battalion AIF
- Killed at Fromelles, July 1916



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION
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for those who've gone before us

Newsletter | June 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON THE 54TH BATTALION



14TH BRIGADE, 5TH DIVISION, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE





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Newsletter | June 2026

THE 54TH BATTALION

The Road to Fromelles



OFF TO WAR

With the doubling of the AIF, the 54th Battalion was formed at Tidal Kulla in Egypt from Gallipoli veterans and newly arrived reinforcements from New South Wales.

The men marched to Ferry Post, trained at Kanterzaht Ridge, and sailed for France in June 1916.

Within weeks they would be fighting at Fromelles.



**MAJOR
ROY HARRISON**

“*The men don't know yet what is before them...*”

Four days later, Major Roy Harrison was killed at Fromelles.

THE ROAD TO FROMELLES



AUSTRALIA



EGYPT



TEL-EL-KEBIR



MARSEILLES



HAZEBROUCK



ARMENTIÈRES



FROMELLES

FACES OF THE 54TH BATTALION



WILLIAM BENTLEY

The Leader



ARTHUR STANLEY KINGMAN

The Young Soldier



THULLIER LAKE CARRÉW

The Adventurer



WALTER ARTHUR POTTER

The Prisoner of War



THE 54TH BATTALION AT FROMELLES



19-20 JULY 1916

WHAT HAPPENED?



THE PLAN: As part of the 5th Australian Division's diversionary attack, the 54th Battalion was ordered to capture the German trenches to the left of the "Sugar Loaf" and link up with neighbouring battalions.



THE ATTACK: At 5.50 pm on 19 July, the 54th went over the top in four waves. Despite intense fire, the battalion advanced rapidly and pushed almost 600 yards, capturing the German front line and linking with adjoining units.



THE FIGHT: Although the 54th captured its objectives, the Sugar Loaf remained in German hands. Exposed to machine-gun fire and repeated counterattacks, the battalion fought throughout the night to hold its hard-won ground.



THE WITHDRAWAL: At 6.30 am on 20 July, orders were received to withdraw. The retreat was chaotic and many wounded were left behind in No-Man's-Land.



“ They ran forward with the bayonet and drove the enemy back about 50 yards. ”

Lt-Col H. Cass, 14th Infantry Brigade
War Diary, July 1916.

AWM4 23/14/4 - Appendix N:321/15

THE COST TO THE 54TH BATTALION



982

MEN WHO LEFT
EGYPT WITH THE
54TH BATTALION



534

CASUALTIES
AT FROMELLES



102

ORIGINALLY
REPORTED
MISSING



28

IDENTIFIED AT
PHEASANT WOOD
SINCE 2010



Of the 534 casualties suffered by the 54th Battalion at Fromelles, 172 were killed in action or died of wounds. Of the 102 originally reported missing, 28 have since been identified and now rest in known graves at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery.



FROMELLES: THEIR LEGACY ACROSS EUROPE



More than 2,000 Australians lost their lives during the Battle of Fromelles, its aftermath and the fighting that preceded the attack.

Many have no known grave and are commemorated at memorials such as VC Corner. Others were buried on the battlefield, died of wounds in hospitals, succumbed to illness, or died as prisoners of war.

Today, soldiers connected to the Battle of Fromelles are buried or commemorated in cemeteries and memorials across France, Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Together, these sites tell the story of the battle's human cost and the journey of the men long after the fighting ended.

FRANCE



VC Corner Memorial



Pheasant Wood Cemetery



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial

UNITED KINGDOM



Brookwood Cemetery



Fort Pitt Military Cemetery



Arnos Vale Cemetery

BELGIUM



Tyne Cot Cemetery



Lijssenthoek Cemetery



Bedford House Cemetery

GERMANY



Berlin Cemetery



Hamburg Cemetery



Cologne Cemetery

EXPLORE THEIR RESTING PLACES

From the mass graves of Fromelles to hospital cemeteries in England, prisoner of war cemeteries in Germany, and Commonwealth cemeteries across France and Belgium, these sites preserve the memory of the men who fought in Australia's costliest 24 hours.



Explore all cemeteries and memorials associated with the Battle of Fromelles at:
<https://fromelles.info/cemeteries-and-memorials-across-europe/>



NEW SOLDIER STORIES

— *More than 80 new stories added since July 2025* —

Name	Rank	Battalion	Link
Peter Anderson	Private	30th Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/90-private-peter-anderson/
John Henry Stuart	Private	32nd Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1057-private-john-stuart/
David Joseph Gleeson	Private	60th Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3549-private-david-joseph-gleeson/
Patrick Edward Ryan	Private	30th Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1606-private-patrick-e-dward-ryan/
Leslie Albert Cartledge	Private	60th Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2597-private-le-slie-albert-cartledge/
Albert Duncan Taylor	Private	53rd Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/4878-private-albert-duncan-taylor/
James Thomas Murphy	Private	32nd Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1744-private-james-thomas-murphy/
James Parsons Murphy	Private	32nd Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3227-private-james-parsons-murphy/
Leslie Gordon Walsh	Private	31st Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/311-private-le-slie-gordon-walsh/
Livingstone Thomas (Tom) Fisk	Private	32nd Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/494-private-livingstone-thomas-fisk/
Leonard George Wall	Private	32nd Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/200-private-leonard-george-wall/
William Brasher	Private	60th Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3458-private-william-brasher/
Charles Mondy	Private	54th Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/2636-private-charles-mondy/
Duncan Peter Cameron	Private	32nd Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/1316-private-duncan-peter-cameron/
David Barr	Private	60th Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3474-private-david-barr/
Colin Campbell Barr	Private	60th Battalion	https://fromelles.info/soldiers/3479-private-colin-campbell-barr/





RESEARCHING AND REMEMBERING FROMELLES

From the ANZAC Memorial to Regional Victoria



Geoffrey Bean presenting "The AIF in 1916, with a Focus on Fromelles" for the Western Front Association (Australian Branch) at the ANZAC Memorial, Sydney, on 23 May 2026.

REVISITING THE NUMBERS OF FROMELLES

On 23 May 2026, Fromelles Association of Australia President Geoffrey Bean delivered a presentation for the Western Front Association (Australian Branch) at the ANZAC Memorial, Sydney.

The presentation, *The AIF in 1916, with a Focus on Fromelles*, examined one of the most enduring questions surrounding Australia's costliest 24 hours on the Western Front.

Are the Official Numbers for the Battle of Fromelles Reliable?

For many years, the battle has been associated with the figures of 1,917 killed and 5,533 casualties. Geoffrey's research examined the evidence behind these long-accepted statistics and has revealed a significantly higher toll.

Current research indicates that **2,116 Australians were killed or later died** as a result of the Battle of Fromelles and the fighting associated with it. This includes soldiers killed in the lead-up to the attack, those who later died of wounds, and casualties identified through ongoing research into individual service records and contemporary sources.

The presentation was video recorded and will be made available online in the coming months.

THE NUMBERS

	TRADITIONAL FIGURES	CURRENT RESEARCH
 KILLED	1,917 Killed	2,116 Killed
 CASUALTIES	5,533 Casualties	6,092 Casualties



REMEMBERING LOCAL SOLDIERS

On Remembrance Day 2025, Fromelles Association of Australia Vice President Bronwyn Stanley addressed approximately 80 people in Shepparton, Victoria.

The presentation focused on local soldiers who served and fought at the Battle of Fromelles, ensuring that the stories of these men continue to be remembered more than a century after the battle.

Drawing upon local research and soldier records, the presentation highlighted the experiences of men from the Goulburn Valley region who enlisted for service during the First World War and later found themselves involved in one of Australia's most costly military actions.

Events such as these demonstrate the continuing community interest in Fromelles and the importance of preserving the stories of local servicemen for future generations.



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA
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Newsletter June 2026

FROMELLES EVENTS 2026

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES

SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026

Fromelles Events of Commemoration of the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles will be held in Sydney, Ipswich (QLD), Melbourne and Fromelles, France on Sunday 19 July 2026.

SYDNEY



ARCHIBALD FOUNTAIN & ANZAC MEMORIAL



10:10 AM

Procession assembles at the Archibald Fountain, Hyde Park to re-enact the final parade of the 5th Division Veterans to the Anzac Memorial in 1966.



10:55 AM

Commemorative Service and wreath laying at the Anzac Memorial.



FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Visual Art Exhibition highlighting aspects of the Battle of Fromelles story.



www.ffaif.org.au

IPSWICH, QLD



HONOUR STONE RSL MEMORIAL HALL



11:00 AM

The commemoration will commence at the Honour Stone, RSL Memorial Hall, Ipswich, QLD.



ORGANISED BY
31st Infantry Battalion Association (Brisbane)

The 31st Battalion played a significant role at the Battle of Fromelles and the annual Ipswich service continues to honour the battalion and the men who served within its ranks.



www.31bnassn.org

MELBOURNE



SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE



1:30 PM

The commemoration at the Shrine of Remembrance.



The commemoration will be live streamed on the Shrine of Remembrance website.



ORGANISED BY
The Friends of the 15th Brigade

The service honours the men of the 15th Brigade who fought at Fromelles and continues a long tradition of remembrance in Victoria.



shrine.org.au

FROMELLES, FRANCE



VC CORNER MEMORIAL & PHEASANT WOOD MILITARY CEMETERY



Commemorative services will be held at the VC Corner CWGC Memorial.



Followed by a ceremony at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery.



Including the ceremony for Roy Leslie Martin.

Representatives from Australia, France and the United Kingdom join descendants and visitors from around the world to remember the men who fought and died at Fromelles.



www.musee-bataille-fromelles.fr/en



RECOGNITION AND FAREWELLS

The work of remembering the soldiers of Fromelles is only possible because of the efforts of many dedicated people. In this edition, we acknowledge three individuals whose contributions have helped families, researchers and the wider Fromelles community.

FAREWELL DAVID, WELCOME DEAN

After many years of dedicated service, Major David Wilson has retired from the Australian Army's Unrecovered War Casualties – Army (UWC-A) team.

David assisted countless families seeking answers about missing soldiers, not only from Fromelles but from battlefields across Belgium and France. He attended numerous commemorations in Fromelles and helped oversee the unveiling of headstones for soldiers identified through the work of UWC-A.

Warrant Officer Class One Dean O'Brien has now taken over as UWC-A's Fromelles case officer and continues the important work of helping identify Australia's missing soldiers and supporting families throughout the process.

PROFESSOR TONY POLLARD RETIRES

Professor Tony Pollard has retired after a distinguished career as Professor of Conflict History and Archaeology at the University of Glasgow.

For the Fromelles community, Tony's most significant contribution came in 2008 when he was part of the Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) team that confirmed the existence of the mass grave at Pheasant Wood.

The discovery ultimately led to the recovery and identification of many of the soldiers buried there. Many families will also remember Tony's visit to Sydney in 2018, where he spoke about the discovery and excavation of the Pheasant Wood soldiers.

GARY MITCHELL AWARDED OAM

Long-time friend of the Fromelles Association of Australia, Gary Mitchell OAM, was recognised in the 2026 Australia Day Honours.

Gary received the Medal of the Order of Australia for decades of work identifying and honouring World War I servicemen and women buried in unmarked or neglected graves.

Through the Forever Remembered Project, Gary has spent almost thirty years researching forgotten veterans and ensuring their service is properly recognised. Many soldiers who served at Fromelles have become better known through his dedication to remembrance and historical research.

Congratulations Gary on this well-deserved honour.



NEW VIDEOS ONLINE

Watch the latest videos about Fromelles, our soldier stories and ongoing research.



Channel 7 News – Chris Reason Report

📅 7 June 2026

Channel 7 News recently featured the identification of Roy Martin, who will be commemorated at Pheasant Wood in July 2026. The report also explores new research suggesting the Battle of Fromelles may have been even more devastating than wartime records indicate.

▶ Watch Report: www.facebook.com/share/v/1CzVEZJ4bD/?mibextid=wwXlfr



Fromelles: The Missing

📅 6 June 2026

A compilation of news coverage and archival material relating to the discovery at Fromelles and the search for the missing graves at Pheasant Wood. The video also features Lambis Englezos and the story behind the discovery.

▶ Watch Video: <https://youtu.be/maGZ6nSq5PM?si=pe83dD1Wliv4MwO0>



Battle of Fromelles Then & Now

📅 25 May 2025

An aerial battlefield guide showing where the Australian battalions fought at Fromelles. Using drone footage, trench maps and modern overlays, the video traces the advances of the 53rd, 54th, 59th and 60th Battalions and highlights key locations including Sugar Loaf, VC Corner and the German front line.

▶ Watch Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnAdlsVa1k4>



24 Hours in Hell: Australia's Darkest Day (WW1 Documentary)

📅 24 May 2025

This documentary examines the events leading to the Battle of Fromelles and explains how a diversionary attack became Australia's costliest 24 hours of the First World War. Produced by Battleguide.

▶ Watch Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsSf1Yt4UZA>



For more Fromelles videos visit:
www.fromelles.info/videos/



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE



DATE:

Saturday 18 July 2026



TIME:

To be advised (TBA)



VENUE:

Online via Zoom

BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

- 1 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM
- 2 Reports on the activities of the Association
- 3 Presentation of financial statements and reports
- 4 Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members
- 5 General Business

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations must be received by the Secretary no later than **seven (7) days** prior to the AGM, in accordance with the Constitution.



Meeting papers and Zoom details will be circulated to members prior to the meeting.

SUPPORT OUR WORK BECOME A MEMBER

Membership of the Fromelles Association of Australia helps us continue our vital work to remember the fallen and support their families.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS SUPPORT:

- ✓ Research into the soldiers of Fromelles
- ✓ DNA identification projects
- ✓ Educational and commemorative activities
- ✓ The preservation of soldier stories on www.fromelles.info
- ✓ Publications, newsletters and member communications

MEMBERSHIP FEES

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	ANNUAL FEE
Single Membership	\$10.00
Family Membership*	\$20.00

* Includes additional family members under 18 years of age.

ALSO SUPPORT US

FAA Lapel Pin / Hat Badge
\$5.00 each

FAA Embroidered Badge
\$6.00 each

Postage
\$2.50 per order

Order using the Membership & Orders Form available online (link below).



JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

<https://fromelles.info/association/membership/>

✉ Email: bill@fromelles.info

FOLLOW US



LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/fromelles-association-of-australia-72408028a/>



Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/fromellesassociation/>



Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/FromellesAssociationofAustralia>



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA

For those lost so far from home

Newsletter June 2026

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Help Us Preserve the Stories of Fromelles

WHY WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

The Fromelles Association of Australia is a volunteer-run organisation dedicated to:



TRACING RELATIVES

of soldiers killed or missing at Fromelles.



PRESERVING SOLDIER STORIES

on www.fromelles.info.



SHARING THESE STORIES

through podcasts, videos and public presentations.

CHOOSE HOW YOU CAN HELP



FAMILY RESEARCHERS

Help locate descendants through:

- Trove newspapers
- Family history websites
- Electoral rolls
- Online archives



PROOFREADERS & FACT CHECKERS

Help review:

- Soldier stories
- Family histories
- Research articles



PODCAST & DIGITAL VOLUNTEERS

Assist with:

- Audio recording
- Editing
- Interviewing
- Video production
- Social media



NO SPECIAL SKILLS REQUIRED

Training and guidance are provided.

Even a few hours a month can help identify a missing soldier or preserve a family's history.

GET INVOLVED



carla@fromelles.info



www.fromelles.info

Together, we can honour their service and ensure their stories are never forgotten.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Helping Identify and Remember the Soldiers of Fromelles

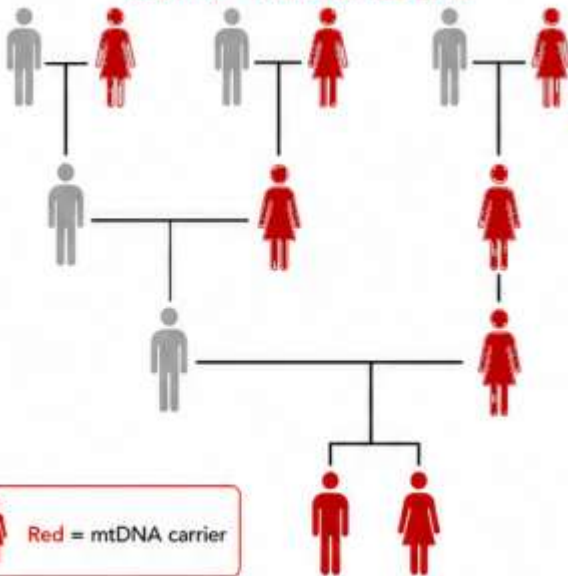


Since the discovery of the Pheasant Wood mass grave in 2008, **181** Australian soldiers have been identified through historical research and DNA.

The Fromelles Association of Australia continues to assist these efforts by researching family trees, locating DNA donors and preserving the stories and memories of those who served.

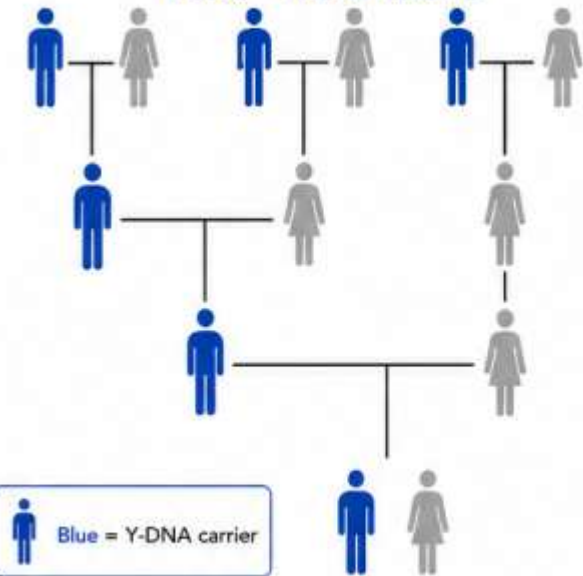
UNDERSTANDING DNA

mtDNA – THE FEMALE LINE



mtDNA is passed from **mother** to **all children**, but only **daughters** pass it on to their children.

Y-DNA – THE MALE LINE



Y-DNA is passed from **father** to **son** through the direct **paternal** line. Only males inherit Y-DNA and only **males** pass it on.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

HELP IDENTIFY SOLDIERS

- ✓ Research your family tree
- ✓ Help locate relatives
- ✓ Consider providing DNA
- ✓ Share family information
- ✓ Connect us with potential DNA donors
- ✓ Spread awareness of the search



HELP REMEMBER SOLDIERS

- ✓ Share photographs
- ✓ Share family stories
- ✓ Share letters and diaries
- ✓ Help research soldiers
- ✓ Contribute information to Fromelles.info
- ✓ Support commemorations and memorial projects



FIND OUT MORE



GENEALOGY & DNA RESEARCH
carla@fromelles.info



WEBSITE
www.fromelles.info



FROMELLES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

For those lost so far from home

MEMBERSHIP & MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Thank you for supporting the work of the Fromelles Association of Australia.
Please complete this form to join or renew your membership and/or order merchandise.

1 MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Please tick your membership type:


 **SINGLE MEMBERSHIP** **\$10.00**


 **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP** **\$20.00**

Family Membership includes additional members under 18 years of age.



MERCHANDISE

 **FAA LAPEL / HAT BADGE** **\$8.00 each**

 **FAA EMBROIDERED BADGE** **\$6.00 each**

 **POSTAGE** **\$2.50 per order**

2 MEMBER DETAILS

Please print clearly

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / TOWN: _____ STATE: _____

POSTCODE: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE (H): _____ PHONE (M): _____

3 SOLDIER CONNECTION (OPTIONAL)

If applicable

SOLDIER NAME: _____

SERVICE NUMBER: _____

UNIT: _____

4 MERCHANDISE ORDER


ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
FAA Lapel / Hat Badge		\$8.00	
FAA Embroidered Badge		\$6.00	
Postage		\$2.50	
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE			\$

5 DECLARATION

I hereby apply for (tick) Sole Membership Family Membership of the Fromelles Association Inc. and agree to abide by the Constitution of the Association.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

6 PAYMENT OPTIONS

 **CHEQUE**

Make cheque payable to:
The Fromelles Association Inc.

Mail to:
The Fromelles Association Inc.
Attn: Bill Irvine
41 Chantilly Court
Goulburn NSW 2580

 **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Account Name:
The Fromelles Association Inc.

Bank:
Westpac Bank

BSB: 032 721
Account Number: 310953

Please include your surname as the payment reference.

7 RETURN YOUR FORM

 **EMAIL**
bill@fromelles.info
or
geoffrey@fromelles.info

 **ONLINE**
You can also join or order online at:
<https://fromelles.info/association/membership/>

 **ENQUIRIES**
For any enquiries, please email:
bill@fromelles.info or
geoffrey@fromelles.info



REMEMBER. RESEARCH. IDENTIFY.

www.fromelles.info

