



Order of Service

Commemoration of the Battle of Fromelles and
Headstone Rededication Ceremony for Australian
soldiers killed during the Battle on 19-20 July 1916

19 July 2019

at Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery

Introduction

The Battle of Fromelles was a combined attack by British and Australian troops on 19-20 July 1916, in France, during the First World War. The aim of the operation was to seize the German-held salient just north of the village of Fromelles. It was the first offensive operation by the Australian Imperial Force on the Western Front and was intended to divert German troops away from the epic Battle of the Somme. The British and Australian attackers had little time to prepare and the odds greatly favoured the well-entrenched Germans. After a night and day of fierce fighting the German defensive line remained unbroken. When the attack was called-off on the morning of 20 July, over 7,000 British and Australian troops had been killed, wounded, captured or were missing. The high casualties from Australia's 5th Division, fighting alongside the British 61st Division, remind us that the battle remains the worst loss of life in a 24 hour period in Australia's history.

The remains of 250 Australian and British soldiers recovered from mass graves in 2009, were reinterred in the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery, with full military honours, in 2010. A ceremony to dedicate the new cemetery occurred on 19 July 2010, the anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles, during which the dead of Pheasant Wood gave their lives.

During the period of 2010 to 2014 a Joint Australian and British Identification Board identified one hundred and forty four (144) Australian soldiers by name. From 2015 to 2018 the Australian Army's Fromelles Identification Board have identified a further fifteen (15) Australian soldiers by name.

On 14 March 2019 the Australian Fromelles Identification Board identified another seven (7) Australian soldiers who we honour here today, leaving eighty-four (84) soldiers still to be identified.





Order of Service

Arrival of the Official Party

Arrival of the Flag Bearers and Official Party

Welcome

Master of Ceremonies - Lieutenant Colonel Ben McLennan, CSC –
Australian Army

Mayor of Fromelles – Mr Jean-Gabriel Masson

Opening Prayer

Father Patrick Irwin

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.

Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

French Commemorative Address

Senior Representative of the French Government

Australian Commemorative Address

Senior Representative of the Australian Government

Official Wreath Laying

Headstone Rededication (Roll of Honour)

- 715 Lance Corporal Ralph JOHNSON, 31st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Killed in action 19-20 July 1916.
- 641 Private Leslie Clark DUNN, 31st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Killed in action 19-20 July 1916.
- 352 Private Arthur George BATT, 32nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Killed in action 20 July 1916.
- 1291 Private George HONEY, 32nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Killed in action 19 July 1916.
- 77 Lance Corporal John Alexander CRAWFORD, 32nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Killed in action 20 July 1916.
- 3433 Private Peter Paul SHANNON, 53rd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Killed in action 19 July 1916.
- 4188 Private Edward James HOPE, 54th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Killed in action 20 July 1916.


Ode of Remembrance

In French and English

Ils ne vieilliront pas, contrairement à nous qui aurons cette chance,
Ils ne seront pas épuisés par l'âge, ni condamnés par les années,
A la tombée de la nuit et au petit matin,
Nous nous souviendrons d'eux

Réponse: Nous nous souviendrons d'eux





They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

All: We will remember them

The Last Post

A Minute's Silence

Rouse

National Anthems

The National Anthems of France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Australia will now be played.

Final Blessing

Father Patrick Irwin

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

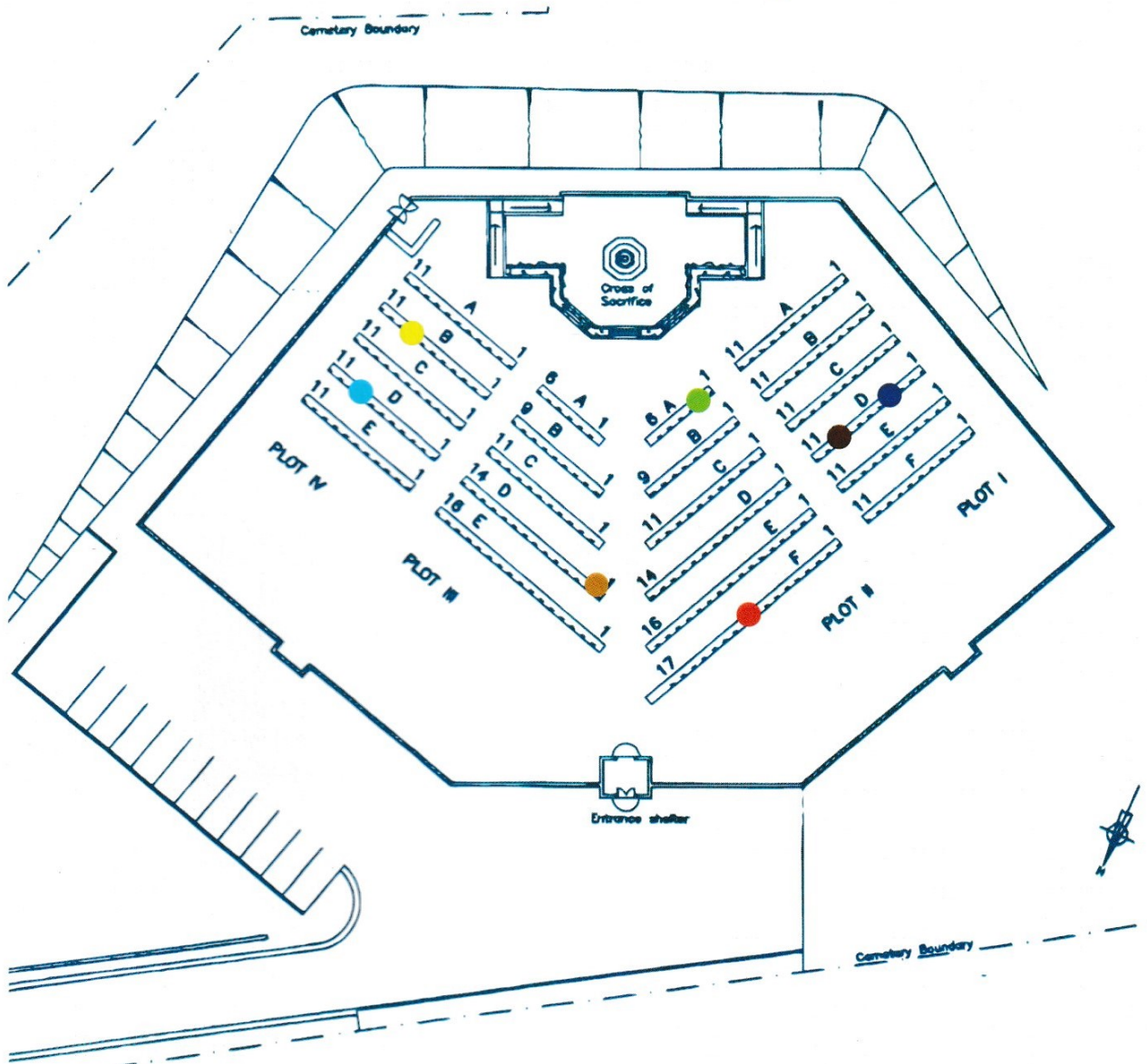
Farewell and Conclusion

Flag Bearers Depart

Official Party Departs

After the official party has thanked the flag bearers the general public are invited to join the officials and families within the cemetery. The public are invited to lay Australian Commemorative Crosses and pay their respects at other Australian and British soldier's graves in the cemetery.

Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery



Location of the Identified Soldier

- 715 Lance Corporal Ralph JOHNSON, Plot II. Row F. Grave 9.
- 641 Private Leslie Clark DUNN, Plot I. Row D. Grave 10.
- 352 Private Arthur George BATT, Plot IV. Row D. Grave 9.
- 1291 Private George HONEY, Plot III. Row D. Grave 1.
- 77 Lance Corporal John Alexander CRAWFORD, Plot II. Row A. Grave 2.
- 3433 Private Peter Paul SHANNON, Plot IV. Row B. Grave 8.
- 4188 Private Edward James HOPE, Plot I. Row D. Grave 4.