

Headstone Rededication



3558 Private Charles Alfred Gage
56th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force



London Cemetery And Extension, Longueval
France

2.30pm Monday 11 July 2022

Historical Background

The 56th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 4th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 4th, the 56th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 30 June 1916, the battalion entered the frontline trenches for the first time on 12 July and fought its first major battle at Fromelles a week later. The battle was a disaster, resulting in heavy casualties across the division. Despite these losses the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

On 3 December 1916, it was noted that 14th Infantry Brigade (incorporating 56th Bn AIF) that enemy artillery and enemy snipers were fairly active and it was almost impossible to reach the front lines without effect. By dawn there was heavy shelling in the direction of Gueudecourt.

Eight members of the 56th Bn were killed on 3 December 1916.

Record of Service Extract

11 Mar 16	Enlisted Australian Imperial Force
5 Aug 16	Embarked Sydney, Australia per H.T Ballarat
30 Sep 16	Disembarked Plymouth, England
12 Nov 16	Proceeded overseas to France per S.S Onward
13 Nov 16	Disembarked Etaples, France
29 Nov 16	Proceeded to join 56th Battalion
1 Dec 16	Reinforcement taken on strength
3 Dec 16	Killed in Action, France

Awards and Decorations



British War Medal

Victory Medal

Order of Service

Arrival of the Official Party

Arrival of the Flag Bearers and the Official Party

Welcome

Master of Ceremonies – Major Cameron Clarke – Australian Army

Opening Prayer

Australian Army Chaplain – Major Frank Langford

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

Official Wreath Laying

Headstone Rededication

• 3559 Private Charles Alfred Gage
Australian Imperial Force, Killed in Action 3 December 1916.

Ode of Remembrance

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

Bugler - Lance Corporal Aaron Pasfield - Australian Army

National Anthem

The National Anthem of Australia will now be played.

Final Blessing

Major Frank Longford

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