

FROMELLES DISCUSSION GROUP IS A COLLABORATION AND INPUT FROM AFFILIATES AND SUPPORTERS IS IMPORTANT. IT INFORMS, HELPS SHAPE OPINION AND GIVES THE GROUP DIRECTION. PERIODICALLY NEWSWORTHY AND NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION LIKE THAT CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENT BELOW, IS DISSEMINATED ELECTRONICALLY TO KEEP ALL ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS.

NEWS UPDATE—FEBRUARY 2010

Dear Friends, Affiliates & Supporters:

FromellesDiscussionGroup.com has continued to be developed in recent months, with the Home Page benefitting from the inclusion of a map titled 'The Western Front, April 1916' which was posted with the approval of the Australian War Memorial. The map is accompanied by a LINK to the First World War Official Histories component of the AWM website, a LINK to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) *Fromelles Campaign Map* and one to the Campaigners for War Grave Commemorations (CWGC), whose website is dedicated to identifying military personnel missing from CWGC registers as well as the correction of erroneous service details.

Multiple Walkley award-winning cartoonist Mark Knight kindly gave us permission to post his evocative caricature of the recovery process at Fromelles, the National Library of Australia has allowed us to publish two historic articles and a small locality map on the subject, and support continues from a wide section of the community as shown by the number of inquiries we receive and the names which have been added to the supporter list. The 'Breaking News in Australia' section of the website continues to be updated, as do other parts like 'Discussion Papers', 'Internet Resources', 'Reading List' and 'Other Resources'. For example, besides news on the proposed Red Cross Digitization Project and the need to keep alive the memory of all the missing from the attack, links relating to the Somme Offensive have been added to give the Battle of Fleurbaix context, and a number of 'Miscellaneous' items have also been incorporated. The latter include correspondence between the group and SBS Television, Darlow Smithson Productions, Deutsches Generalkonsulat—Melbourne, the State Library of Victoria, the Australian Greens, the Liberal Party of Australia, New Zealand Government, British All-Party Parliamentary War Graves & Battlefields Heritage Group and West Australian.

Naturally the pace of reporting has quickened again somewhat lately. Reinterments have begun and there has been a renewed interest in Fromelles by the media. Consequently in the lead up to the main commemorative event this coming July, I intend to seek affiliate agreement to post a few other articles or items of interest, including some further biographical notes on the full complement of Australia's missing at Fromelles. There have been a couple of contributions come in for 'Expressions of Support' and there are some other communications to place in 'Miscellaneous', should affiliates consider this process of merit. This section was developed to provide visitors to the website with more background on the group and its attempts to influence public officials with respect to excavation and recovery.

Additionally I would like to post some background on the 5th Division AIF and take on board one or two suggestions that were made previously but which have not as yet seen the light of day. As a result, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas which might assist development during 2010. Particularly resources that might enhance the platform's usefulness and value to the family historian and genealogist. I am always open to your input and at this

point should add, that I am quite pleased with the results of our combined efforts up to this point. 2009 was surprisingly busy, guiding relatives with avenues of research, lobbying various instrumentalities and supporting registration.

Beyond this I should extend my best wishes and hope all and sundry had a wonderful Xmas and holiday season. 2010 is upon us and for the moment at least, Fromelles will continue to occupy media attention. Current page views are over 113,360, I have had further contact with the West Australian and reference to Fromelles Discussion Group has just appeared in an article titled '*Search on for Wellington soldier frozen in Fromelles*', which appeared in the Daily Liberal published in Dubbo NSW. Though labelled an unofficial website by the Department of Defence, we have networked with This French Life, History in the News, and participated in the Wandin Silvan Field Days, where the group mounted a display and participated as an Exhibitor. Fromelles Discussion Group has also been acknowledged on CULTURE.GOV.AU, The Australian Government's Cultural Portal. Titled "Australians on the Western Front", the group is one of four organizations listed.

Shortly I will need to write to the Chief of the Army about the AustraliaTO controversy and the conduct of one or two members of the Australian Fromelles Project Group. But more of that later when I have had the opportunity to clarify my thoughts.

To date the authorities have not taken up the notion of aggregating the remains of all missing and unidentified First AIF Diggers involved in the assault at Fromelles. However that is not from wont of trying so I ask all our friends, affiliates and supporters to continue to fly the flag and to uphold our commemorative role and public support of this important cause.

In concluding this communication I should add that a reply has just been received from the Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv — Kriegsarchiv based in Munich. It will take me a while to digest the contents of the letter, so more on this when circumstances permit.

Regards

Grant Triffett, Convenor/Administrator, Fromelles Discussion Group

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