

ON 21 OCTOBER 2009 FROMELLES DISCUSSION GROUP COMMUNICATED WITH DOCTOR ANNE-MARIE SCHLEICH, THE GERMAN CONSULATE-GENERAL, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, TO SEEK HELP WITH COMPILING A LIST OF GERMAN MISSING AT FROMELLES. THIS REQUEST WAS PASSED ON TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO LOTHAR SAUPE, BAVARIAN CENTRAL STATE ARCHIVES, DEPARTMENT OF THE FORMER BAVARIAN MILITARY ARCHIVES, MUNICH.

THE ARCHIVOBERRAT REPLIED IN A LETTER DATED 29TH JANUARY 2010, A LETTER WHICH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A TABLE CONTAINING BAVARIAN LOSSES FROM THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES AND A FEW PAGES FROM THE OFFICIAL PRINTED LISTS OF SOLDIERS OF RESERVE-INFANTERIEREGIMENT 21, LOST BEFORE JULY 26 AND AUGUST 7, 1916 (VERLUSTLISTEN), THE FIRST APPARENTLY PUBLISHED FOR THE REGIMENT AFTER THE DEFENCE OF THE VILLAGE BY GERMAN FORCES. AS DOCTOR SAUPE EXPLAINS, "THIS REGIMENT ALONE LOST 725 MEN (KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSED) ON THIS OCCASION", SO THE FIGURES GIVEN PROBABLY DO NOT REPRESENT TOTAL LOSSES.

EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THE MOMENT FOR ARCHIVES STAFF TO SEPARATE GERMAN SOLDIERS LOST AT FROMELLES FROM THOSE LISTED IN THE PAGES REFERRED TO, DOCTOR SAUPE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING FIGURES FROM 6. RESDIV, BUND 104, AKT 4: COMMISSIONED OFFICERS [DEAD 17; WOUNDED 26; MISSED 2]. NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS U. NORMAL SOLDIERS [DEAD 452; WOUNDED 952; MISSED 204]. TOTAL LOSSES BEING 1653.

THE REQUEST OF FROMELLES DISCUSSION GROUP HAS NOW BEEN FORWARDED TO THE [Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V.](#) (GERMAN WAR GRAVES), THE SOCIETY IN CHARGE OF WAR BURIALS OF GERMAN SOLDIERS WORLDWIDE. THAT GROUP WILL NOW TRY TO IDENTIFY AT LEAST SOME OF THE SOLDIERS KILLED DURING THE COMBINED ACTION MOUNTED BY BRITISH TROOPS AND THE AIF.

DOCTOR SAUPE, ARCHIVOBERRAT, BAYERISCHES HAUPTSTAATSARCHIV—KRIEGSARCHIV:

Dear Doctor Saupe,

Refer your communication dated 29 January 2010 forwarded in response to my request to the German Consulate—Melbourne, in relation to German missing at Fromelles. The reply which I received this week was appreciated. Though if it is not too inconvenient I would like to ask the following.

Obviously in the context of our initial request, this group would like to have your permission to upload your letter, the table of Bavarian losses and the official printed lists of soldiers of Reserve-Infanterieregiment 21 on to our website. If you

are willing to accede to this request we would be glad to receive approval in writing.

The material you furnished is informative and fairly self-explanatory and would be of interest to the general public. From our end the only problem is the quality of reproduction. The communication that you forwarded appears to have been printed on a faint photocopy of a letterhead and the printed lists of soldiers lack clarity.

Is it possible to have better quality scans of the material involved transmitted electronically to me via [PRIVATE EMAIL ADDRESS DELETED]? Naturally I understand the official lists have been extracted from a bound volume but if reproduced using an overhead scanner or copier we might obtain facsimiles with better resolution and a higher level of readability.

Kindest regards and thank you again.

Regards

Grant Triffett, Convenor/Administrator, Fromelles Discussion Group

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