

THE FROMELLES WAR CEMETERY

This week, the remains of the last of the 250 Australian and British soldiers, recovered from mass graves on the Fromelles battleground of World War I, were re-interred with full military honours at a ceremony in France.

The battle of Fromelles, on 19 and 20 July 1916, was the bloodiest 24 hours in Australian history, with 5,533 Australian soldiers killed, wounded, or missing.

The remains of a Granville man could be among those recovered. Private Horace Frederick Robinson is included in a list of 191 Australian soldiers who were killed at Fromelles and known to be buried by German troops. However he is not one of the 96 whose remains have been identified. Private Robinson, aged 20, a clerk of Cowper Street Granville, who served with the 30th Battalion, was initially reported missing after Fromelles. Confirmation of his death came when the German War Office returned his

identification disc in March 1917. Born in Kent, England, he came to Australia at the age of 17, and worked as a clerk before enlisting on 20 July 1915.¹

¹ National Archives of Australia (NAA): B2455, Robinson H F 1312; Australian War Memorial (AWM): Roll of Honour (ROH) Circular, Red Cross Report