

Fromelles
Remember the 19th of July, 1916

By John Edwards



In Flanders fields, a cemetery small and forlorn
No graves here, no headstones mark a spot
Just a wall, revered by Australians
Set in the middle of what was once No man's Land
Never forget the 19th of July.

On the afternoon of that day in July, young men died here for their country
The Battle of Fromelles was a catastrophe from the word go
Some were killed by their own artillery as rounds dropped short.
Others by German Artillery and the withering fire of Maxim machine guns
Never forget those who died on the 19th of July.

Fit, strong, young men, slaughtered in their prime.
Twelve hundred and ninety nine names are chiselled on the wall - all Australian
Why are their names there? No one knows where their bodies lie!
"Jimmy" Downing of the 57th wrote "Hundreds were mown down in the flicker of an eyelid".
Never forget our Australian boys lost on the 19th of July.

The 15th (Victorian) Brigade was decimated in fifteen minutes
The 53rd fought well; some were Kangaroo Marchers.
Tom Baker, Harry Fleming and Will Harden have their names upon that Wall.
It is difficult to contemplate the horror of war
It is even more difficult to contemplate the senseless waste of young men's lives
Never forget those who never again saw, the 19th of July.