



Missing Soldiers of Fromelles Discussion Group

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MUSEUM

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Fromelles Discussion Group to enquire into news that Red Cross HQ is digitizing the Great War section of its archives. From what group affiliates understand from news reports, the Red Cross Museum is granting access to the material in order to have the records posted online by 2014 to support the commemoration of the centenary of that conflict and to help the global community pay ultimate tribute to the sacrifice of the millions of combatants who participated.

Established to encourage the British and Australian governments to exhume, identify and re-inter the Great War soldiers discovered at Pheasant Wood, this group would appreciate receiving more detail about the decision to release the records. Besides hoping to obtain further background on the decision to give access, we would like to learn from a practical viewpoint, what the process of digitization entails, as well as the actual parameters of the project that has been proposed.

Since the depository which contains these records is managed by the International Red Cross and the organization has called for widespread support to facilitate the project, would the administration of the museum be prepared to provide us with a detailed description of its World War One holdings as well as a background to the project which could be uploaded to our website.

Please also clarify what Great War records besides those mentioned by BBC News and MailOnline are held by the museum. Fromelles Discussion Group would be interested to know whether there are authentic document files previously used to generate pro forma letters, notices and memorandums in the hands of the Red Cross, besides those control items mentioned by the media. That is, the original card indexes and ledgers that have been referred to by the Secretary of the British All-Party Parliamentary War Graves And Battlefields Heritage Group, historian Peter Barton who has apparently had the opportunity to rummage through the archives.

In order to obtain updates on the project I have subscribed to the E-NEWSLETTER of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and would also like to request English version copies of annual or other reports that might shed light on the holdings.

Regards Grant Triffett, Convenor/Administrator, Fromelles Discussion Group

Forwarded to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum at 11:46 PM on the 17th March, 2009, the Email posted below was framed and sent after Fromelles Discussion Group received news from the Australian Fromelles Project Group, that Red Cross Headquarters was intending to give the international community access to its World War I depository. The Email requested further information from the Red Cross Museum about the digitization process and also sought clarification of the project itself.

As of April 23, 2009 there has been no reply to this enquiry.

Further detail about the decision by Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva can be found under Discussion Papers in the Quick Guide of this site.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MUSEUM:

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to my Email last evening I would like to refer you to the article titled "*Piecing together the past*" posted on BBC News at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7940540.stm on Friday, 13th March, 2009 which contains a video clip depicting military historian Peter Barton exploring the archives of the Red Cross in Geneva. During the feed Peter indicates the emergence of the archive is hugely important because the records contain German death lists, biographical information on many Great War casualties as well as entries about mass graves.

It would be remiss of me therefore not to ask Red Cross headquarters for a good quality copy or reproduction of all index cards and ledger entries relating to the Battle of Fromelles and any extant list pertaining to the mass grave at Pheasant Wood. Fromelles Discussion Group would like to post the material on the internet in an effort to better inform the public within Australia and overseas about what is likely to happen at Fromelles, and thereby support a broadening of the consultation process in relation to this find.

For the moment I presume there would be no cost associated with duplicating or scanning this material as Fromelles Discussion Group has a largely educational aim and we would be releasing the aforesaid documents in the public interest.

Regards Grant Triffett, Convenor/Administrator, Fromelles Discussion Group

This Email was forwarded to the International Red Cross in Geneva at 9:36 PM on the 18th March 2009 as an adjunct to that transmitted on March 17. Primarily it was designed to enquire into the nature of the records held by the Red Cross Museum and to formally request reproduced copies of all index cards and ledger entries relating to the Battle of Fromelles; to enable them to be posted on FromellesDiscussionGroup.com because after all, this is the *raison d'etre* of this collaborative group including its affiliates and supporters.

As of April 23, there has been no reply to this enquiry but the Australian Department of Defence has released a second revised listing of who it believes is buried at Fromelles.

Further detail about the decision by Red Cross Headquarters can be found under Discussion Papers in the Quick Guide.



The Fromelles Discussion Group aims to promote public debate on this important issue and by doing this, hopes to encourage a general exchange of ideas and information within the broader community.

Find the Fromelles Discussion Group at: www.FromellesDiscussionGroup.com and register your interest and support. Information or comment can be directed to the following E-mail address: info@FromellesDiscussionGroup.com.