



The Office of
THE HON WARREN SNOWDON MP
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

Mr Grant Triffett
PO Box 573
HEALESVILLE VIC 3777

9 FEB 2009

Dear Mr Triffett

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2008 to the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, concerning a copy of the Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) report on the limited excavation at Fromelles last year, as well as further information about the non-invasive survey conducted at the site in 2007. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Between 26 May 2008 and 13 June 2008, under direction from the Australian and British Governments, GUARD conducted a limited excavation at a suspected First World War burial site in Fromelles, France, known as Pheasant Wood. On 28 October 2008 Defence published GUARD's full Data Structure Report, excluding sensitive imagery, on its website at

www.defence.gov.au/fromelles/summary.htm

May I encourage you and your affiliate members, supporters and friends who are interested in the report to download a copy at your convenience. Hardcopies of the report have not been provided by official means to anyone outside the Australian Government and Departments that were directly involved in the excavation.

I note your request for access to the initial non-invasive survey report, also produced by GUARD, and have directed that an electronic version of this document be uploaded to the Defence website with the full Data Strategic Report.

With regards to the engagement of GUARD to conduct a non-invasive survey, the Government has met the requirements set by the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. The contract details appear on the Australian Government Tender System website under reference CN97695, and can be accessed directly via the link below

www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.cn.view&CNUUID=E220D6D3-AF87-36E7-1FAA889297336DFA

I trust this information will be of assistance to you and welcome your continued interest in the Fromelles project.

Yours sincerely

Kim Isaacs

KIM ISAACS
Chief of Staff