



## E-NEWS – FROMELLES AND POZIERES COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES IN FRANCE

*Issue 1 - March 2016*

Welcome to the first edition of E-news – a newsletter to keep you informed about critical dates and provide helpful advice about how to prepare and what to expect while attending Centenary commemorations in 2016.

### **Attendance passes**

If your attendance has not yet been confirmed, please check what details are required; e.g. have you updated your passport details? Is your passport current? Is the 60 days from the date of your application nearly up?

Once your application has been confirmed, attendance passes will be posted throughout the month of April 2016.

### **Changed your mind?**

We recognise circumstances change. If you registered for an attendance pass and for whatever reason can no longer attend, , please email us at [westernfrontcentenary@ticketek.com.au](mailto:westernfrontcentenary@ticketek.com.au) as soon as possible so that your attendance pass can be reallocated to the next applicant on the waitlist. *Please remember the passes are non-transferable.* (see clause 19 of the Terms and Conditions available at [www.anzaccentenary.gov.au](http://www.anzaccentenary.gov.au))

### **Book your travel early**

July is a very busy holiday period in Europe, so hopefully you will have already booked your flights. Similarly, it is recommended you book your accommodation as early as

possible. Many of the villages surrounding the commemorative sites are very small and accommodation is limited.

The Australian Government cannot assist or make recommendations to attendance pass holders organising or booking their travel to attend the commemorations.

It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance to cover you for unforeseen circumstances, for example medical expenses due to injury or illness, insurance for theft of valuables, baggage delay or damage and for trip cancellation or interruption.

## **Smartraveller**



Make sure you register your travel and contact details online before you travel, to ensure Smartraveller can contact you or your family in the event of an emergency. The registration information you provide is protected by Australia's privacy laws.

## **Getting to the sites**

### ***Fromelles***

Parking in and around the town of Fromelles will be very difficult and the French authorities plan to have road closures in place. Individuals travelling on tour coaches or in organised groups, can be dropped off and collected in Fromelles, however there is no parking within close proximity to the sites.

Parking for private travellers will be in the town of Lille, approximately a 20 minute drive away. Nord Tourism have confirmed that they will be running a shuttle service from Lille to Fromelles and return, once all services have finished. There will be a small fee to cover coach hire costs.

Lille is approximately a three hour drive from Paris, or one hour on the TGV fast train.

### ***Pozières***

For the service at Pozières, Somme Tourism are planning a similar shuttle service from the nearest major towns of Amiens and Arras travelling to the park and ride location at Albert airport. All transport to the service will be from the Albert airport, where free shuttles will take you to the service. After the service, you will be returned to Albert airport.

## **Fromelles - Laying a Wreath or Floral Tribute at VC Corner**

There will be an opportunity for you to lay a wreath at VC Corner cemetery.

A shuttle service will be in operation between Pheasant Wood Cemetery and VC Corner during the morning of 19 July 2016 from 9:00 am to mid-day.

Shuttle timings will be published closer to the event.



*Wreaths laid at the Digger Memorial, Bullecourt, France on Anzac Day 2015*

## **Accessible seating and assistance**

Accessible seating and mobility assistance is available to visitors who have a need. While every effort is made to accommodate visitor requests for mobility assistance, assistance is limited. It is therefore important that your application is kept up to date with any accessibility requirements you may have. If you have not done so already, please log into your application and update your details as soon as possible.

Mobility assistance includes (non-allocated) seating in reserved sections, access to a disabled toilet and shuttle bus transport as required for the individual and one carer.

Further information about mobility assistance will appear in future issues of E-News.

## **Do you need help?**

### ***Ticketek***

**Email:**

westernfrontcentenary@ticketek.com.au

**Telephone:** 1300 364 002

**Send Completed Application Forms To:**

2016 Commemorations

GPO Box 1610,

SYDNEY NSW 2001

### ***Department of Veterans' Affairs***

**Email:** France@dva.gov.au

**Telephone:** 133 254

**Regional Callers:** 1800 555 254

**Or write to:**

Western Front Centenary

Department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

CANBERRA ACT 2601