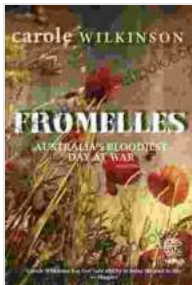


Australia's Bloodiest Day at War: The Battle of Fromelles

On 19 July 1916, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) suffered its heaviest losses in a single day of fighting during World War I. The Battle of Fromelles, fought on the Western Front in France, saw 5,533 Australian soldiers killed, wounded, or taken prisoner.

The battle was part of the British Somme Offensive, which began on 1 July 1916. The AIF was tasked with capturing the German-held village of Fromelles, which was seen as a key strategic objective. However, the attack was poorly planned and executed, and the Australians faced overwhelming odds.



Fromelles: Australia's Bloodiest Day at War (The Drum)

by Karen Harper

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4663 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 146 pages



The Australians went over the top at 6.30am on 19 July, and were immediately met with heavy machine-gun fire. They managed to reach the

German front line, but were unable to break through. The Germans counter-attacked, and the Australians were forced to retreat.

The Battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the AIF. In just over 24 hours, the Australians suffered more casualties than they had in any other battle of the war. The battle also had a profound impact on Australia's national identity. It was the first time that so many Australian soldiers had been killed in a single day, and it brought home the true cost of war.

The Aftermath of the Battle

The Battle of Fromelles was a turning point in the Australian experience of World War I. It marked the end of the AIF's innocence and optimism, and it led to a growing sense of disillusionment and anger among the Australian public.

In the aftermath of the battle, there was a public outcry over the high number of casualties. The Australian government ordered an inquiry into the battle, which found that the AIF had been poorly led and that the attack had been poorly planned.

The Battle of Fromelles also had a significant impact on the way that Australians commemorated their war dead. The battle led to the establishment of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, which is now one of the most important national monuments in Australia.

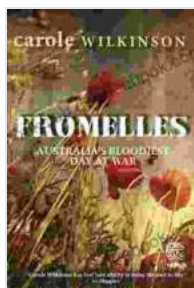
The Battle of Fromelles Today

The Battle of Fromelles is still remembered today as one of the darkest days in Australian history. The battle is commemorated by a number of

memorials in Australia and France, including the Fromelles Memorial Park in France, which was opened in 2010.

The Battle of Fromelles is also studied by military historians as a case study in the horrors of war. The battle is a reminder of the importance of good leadership and planning, and it is a warning against the dangers of hubris.

The Battle of Fromelles was a tragedy for Australia. It was the bloodiest day in Australia's military history, and it had a profound impact on the nation's identity. The battle is still remembered today as a reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of peace.



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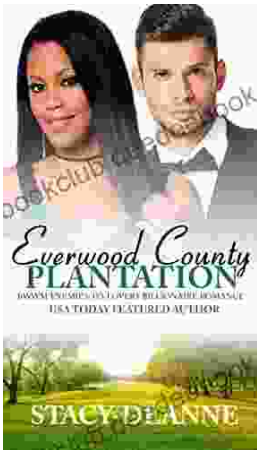
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