



**Caption**

Claude Ward, WWI, remains identified.

**What**

Newspaper article from the Auburn Review Newspaper, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Claude Ward's remains identified.

**Where**

Killed during the Battle of Fromelles in 1916

**When**

Newspaper article from the Auburn Review Newspaper, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

**Who**

Claude Ward

Compiled by Ronald McLennan

# 'Young boy' honoured

KILLED during the Battle of Fromelles in 1916 the body of 23-year-old private Claude Ward was buried alongside the bodies of hundreds of other soldiers in a mass grave.

Earlier this year authorities finally identified the Auburn plumber's remains using a relative's DNA. It brings the total number of Australian remains identified at the site to 110.

Pvt Ward's niece, Lorna Taylor (nee Ward) said he was one of 11 children and explained that their family knew he had died at Fromelles.

She said his mother had been sent a hand-written note made by the young soldier the day before he was killed and describing how he had spent his last day.

"It was a bit sad, reading this note from this young country boy," Mrs Taylor said.

"It's just exciting to know he was identified. It was a cousin, Ken Ward who is 94 now, who provided the DNA sample."

On July 20, the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence David Feeney, paid his respects to the nine most recently identified Australian soldiers, including pvt Ward, at a headstone dedication ceremony in France marking the 96th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles.

The Ward family inscribed the words: 'Claude Ward. Loved and long honoured by his fam-



*A studio portrait of Claude Ward, wearing a cadet uniform (left), and his elder brother Joseph (sitting down). Claude enlisted as a reinforcement for the 30th Battalion on September 6, 1915 and was killed in action on July 20, 1916. Photo courtesy of THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL*

ily for his deeds in World War One' on his headstone.

The Army's Fromelles project team are working towards identifying the remains of all of the 250 soldiers discovered near Fromelles in 2009.

Relatives of soldiers who died in the Battle of Fromelles are encouraged to contact Army, in the hope that they may be able to contribute to efforts to identify the remaining 131 men.