



Churchill College  
Storeys Way  
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## CSAR Lecture Announcement

**Professor Margaret Cox**

Churchill College

7.30 p.m., Monday 26th November 2012

Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge

### The Lecture:

On 19 July 1916 near the village of Fromelles about six miles from the city of Lille in northern France, a force of about 9,250 Australian and British soldiers attacked a group of heavily fortified German positions. The conflict was initiated after Allied intelligence reports indicated that German troops in that area could reinforce their compatriots engaged in the Battle of the Somme, which was raging nearly 50 miles to the south.

The battle near Fromelles would prove disastrous for Allied forces, with nearly 5,533 Australians and 1,547 British killed during the two-day action. Shortly after the conflict was over, German troops hurriedly buried in unmarked graves several hundred of the Allied soldiers who had fallen over their lines in an effort to stop the spread of diseases. These bodies would remain in these unmarked locations until their discovery in (June 2008), when the mass grave site was discovered adjacent to woodland (Pheasant Wood) near Fromelles.



### About the Speaker:

Professor Margaret Cox, with a colleague specialising in molecular genetics, acted as scientific advisor to the Australian Department of Defence and the UK ministry of Defence in organising the excavation, analysis and identification of those buried there. Working with such organisations as Oxford Archaeology and LGC Forensics they managed and quality assured the process leading to the recovery and identification of the mortal remains of those soldiers who had lost their lives in the conflict and allow them to be reburied in individual graves with military honours.

In her lecture to CSAR on 26 November 2012, Professor Margaret Cox, will describe how the sciences of forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology, molecular genetics and genealogy have all contributed to the identification of 119 of the 250 Allied soldiers who were excavated from their resting place at Pheasant Wood and reburied in Fromelles village in the first new Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery to be constructed since WWII.

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**Website:** [www.csar.org.uk](http://www.csar.org.uk)

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Professor Cox served served on the faculty of Bournemouth University from 1994 to 2006, before joining the faculty of Cranfield University from 2007 to 2009. In 2001 she founded the charity *Inforce* (International Centre for Forensic Excellence), and served as its chief executive officer until her retirement in 2009. *Inforce* is now one of the world's foremost forensic organisations which provides scientific assistance in the location, recovery and identification of victims of mass fatalities in the context of human conflict, accidents or natural disasters and provides training in these areas.

Professor Cox earned her BA in History and Archaeology from King Alfred's College in Winchester in 1984, an Open University degree in 1985 and her PhD from the Institute of Archaeology from University College, London in 1989. She was honoured with the European Woman of Achievement Award (humanitarian section) in 2002 for her work.

The lecture is free to students.



CSAR lectures are open to all; members are admitted free, and non-members are asked to make a nominal contribution of £3.00.

Coffee and biscuits are available in the Wolfson Foyer from around 7pm.

For further directions see [www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/visitors/directions.php](http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/visitors/directions.php)