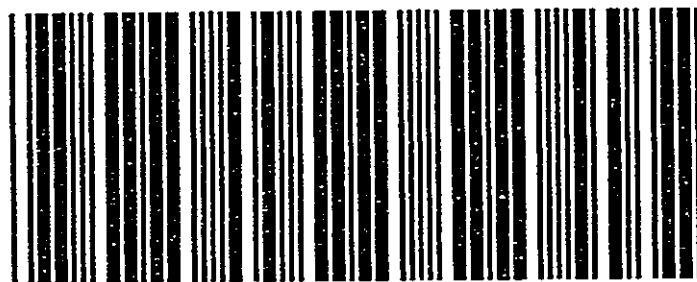


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**1886B Private
James Henry Bird**

18th Battalion



0390303I

A.I.F. 18.

BIRD J.H. 1886.

K. 9.11.16.

He was with a party of Pioneers on 9th. Nov. at Flers. They were changing over at night. A shell came over and lobbed between Bird and Pte. Arthur Javy. Neither of them were seen again. They must have been blown absolutely to pieces. Pte. Jsa. Humphries, Bn. Pioneer, was near by at the time and I heard him give the facts. I was a pioneer and discussed the case that night. Sgt. R. Fountain, Pioneer Sgt. 18th. Bn. could also give details.

Reference: Pte. H. Grey. 3505. C. Co. (prev. Bn. Pioneer.)
2 A.D.B.D.

SA.

Staples.
24.2.17.

*Sgt. Fountain
written by Humphries*

18th A.I.F.

Bird, J.H.
Pte. 1886.

K. Nov. 9. 1916 Dets. D & B.

Informant states that "On one day in November at Flers, Bird was doing pioneer work in the trench when he was killed instantly by a shell. He was buried near the place where he was killed.

Eye-witness. No. Generally reported throughout the Coy.

Description.

Informant:- 2236 Cpl. J. Cunningham. 18th A.I.F.
3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth.

Home Address:- Goulburn,
N.S. Wales.

I. Garrard.
18.3.17.

18th A. I. F.

J. H. BIRD, 1886.

Killed 9.11.16.

He belonged to B Co. I saw him last November on Salisbury Plain at Rollestone in good health. He is a man aged about 22, dark and stands 5 ft.7.

Reference: Pte. F. J. Edwards, 3838.

No.5 General, Rouen. 21.3.17.

FS.

Not sent on

18th A. I. F.

J. H. BIRD, 1886.

Killed 9.11.16. Details D & E.

Informant states that he was told by Pioneer Sgt. Fountain who was still with the Batt. when he left it 9 days ago, that he had seen Bird blown to pieces by a shell close to Flers in November last. Informant knew Bird well and ~~was~~ once spent a day's leave with him.

Reference: Pte. Tucker. 1586.

No.3 Stationary, Rouen. 29.3.17.

GJS.v

A.I.P. 18.

BIED, J.N. 1886.

K/Novr.9th.1916.

He was blown to pieces by a shell at Fiers on Novr.9th. as we were coming out of the front line trench. There was a party of three men there together. Bird was one of them. He went on ahead and the shell caught him. The other two escaped. Pts.W.Ohlsen, Bn Scouts, was one of these men. He himself gave me the facts. Bird was a Bn.Pioneer.

Reference: Opl.W.Scott, 2292, C.Coy.,
No.2 A.D.B.D.

Staplos.
24.3.17.
SA.

*Written W. Ohlson
12.4.17*

18th Batt. A. I. F.

BIRD J.H. 1886.
" B " Coy.

" K. Nov. 9th '16. Det. D & B "

Witness says soldier was killed by a shell when the
battalion was being relieved on Pozieres Ridge. He saw the grave
in the " British Cemetery " at Albert, and states that a cross had been
erected, bearing soldier's name, number and battalion. The grave
and cemetery can easily be found. Witness knew soldier well,
being " Mates ".

Description. Hgt. 5ft 6. Dark complexion.

Witness. Brown. B. G. R. (Cpl) 496.
19th Batt. " B " Coy.

~~February~~ April
19th '17.
S. F.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

Suff
S B d

A.I.F.
18th. Battn.

BIRD.
Pte. J.H. 1886

" Killed 9. 11.16"

Received your letter dated 12/3/17 re ¹⁸⁸⁶ Pte. Bird J.H. 18th.Bn. A.I.F., who was killed by shellfire on 9.11.16 at Flers and buried on the Field 9/11/16 and the grave roughly marked, with whether it was-a registered I cannot say. Pte. Bird was about 5ft. 4½" in height of medium build clean shaven and rather ruddy complexion and had a habit of stuttering, further particulars I am sorry I cannot give you.

Cert by letter from R.G. Fountain.
Pioneer Sgt.

London.
20.4.17.

France.
25.5.17. S.

18th Battn.
A. I. F.

Bird.
J. H. 1886.

"Killed in Action 9.11.16."

re 1886 J. H. Bird. Referring to your letter of 12th ult. I was well acquainted with a man who was (with others) blown to pieces by a shell at Flers on 9.11.16. Description of deceased. About 5 feet 3., dark, slight, with a stutter in his speech.

Letter from:-

Pte. W. Olsen.

per L.L.B.
Battn. Scouts.
France. 12.5.17.

Pte. Olsen suffering from wounded right hand.

London.
22.5.17.

S.

Ack
F.M. 12-4-17

* 1/18/18

1886 RE J. H. BIRD
18 Batt^r AIF

K. 9. 11. 16.

2

11

March 12th. 1917. --

Pte. Jas. Humphries.
~~Battn~~ Pioneer.
18th. ~~Battn~~. A.I.F.
B. E. F.

1886. J. H. Bird., 18th. Battalion. A.I.F.
Killed 9. 11. 16.

J. H. Bird.

March 12th. 1917.---

Sgt. R. Fountain.
Pioneer. Sgt.
18th. Battn. A. I. F.
B. E. F.

1886. J. H. Bird. 18th. Battn. A. I. F.
Killed 9. 11. 16.

J. H. Bird.

April 13th 1917.

Sgt. R. G. Fountain
Pioneers. 18th Battn. A. I. F.
B. E. F.

Dear Sgt Fountain;

Very many thanks for your letter of March 25th in
answer to our enquiry for 1886. Pte. J. H. Bird. 18th Battn. A. I. F.
The information you have sent will be of much assistance.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.

SECRETARY.

J. H.

Oct 17⁵ 17 PM

France
~~28/2/1917~~
12.5.17

Mr. Lecky.

Courtesy of Mrs. Lecky,
Paris.

Dear Madam:

Re 1886. J. B. Bird

Referring to your letter of 12th
re: it; I was well acquainted with a man who
was (with others) blown to pieces by a shell
at Flers on 9.11.16.

Description of deceased.

About 5' 3", dark, slight, with a stutter
in his speech.

Yours truly

Pte Olsen

per L.L.B.

Batt
Scouts

1886 J. B. BIRD

1886 J. B. BIRD

1886 J. B. BIRD

(Pte Olsen authoring from wounded right hand)
L.L.B.

10.5.17

Lt. W. Olsen.
Battn. Signals
18. Battn. A.I.F.
S.E.F.

Dear Lt., Olsen.

Very many thanks for your letter of May 15th in answer to our
enquiries concerning

<u>1886 J.E. Bird</u>	18 Battn. A.I.F. and
<u>1999 H.C. Redwood</u>	" "

The information you have sent will be of much assistance and we trust
your hand is now much better. Please convey our thanks to the friend
who acted as secretary for you.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully

V. D

Jlu