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

3046 Lance Corporal Archibald James Forrest

15th Battalion



1090305I

Havre. 14th April.1917.

15th AUSTRALIANS FORREST, L.Cpl. A.J. 3046

M. Feb. 1st. 1917.

His Brother a L.Cpl. in the 1st Pltn. told me he (A.J.Forrest) was hit by a shell and blown to pieces at Gueudecourt.

Informant: Pte. P.J. Foley No. 1189
15th Australians A. Co. I.Pltn.
No. 1. General Hospital.

ROP.

Written Lofl Forrest 23.4.17

15th A. I. F.

L/Cpl. A. J. FORREST. 3046.
W. Shirer. 4911.

M. 1.2.17.

Informant said these men were both missing in attack near Gueudecourt on February 1st and a few weeks ago L/Cpl. A. A. Forrest A Co. 1 Pl. told him his brother's body and that of Shirer had been found together by the 13th Batt. when they went over the same ground. Informant said Forrest was in A Co. 1 Pl. his initials were A.J. and he came from W. Queensland. ~~Shirer~~ Shirer's initial was W., he was in A Co. 1 Pl. and had a No. in the 4000's.

Reference: Pte. H. B. Cook, 4770, A Co.
No.6 General, Rouen. 21.4.17.

Off dlb

DLP

A. I. F. 15. FORREST, L/Cpl. A.J. 3048.

H. February 1st. 1917.

I went over the ground where his battn. attacked and found his body from which I took the 2 discs(produced) and I had his body buried. This was at end of February between Flers and Ligny Tilloy (in front of Bapaume). He was buried where I found him and a small cross with name and number on erected.

Reference:- Lieut. H.T. Crain. A. Coy.
L. Gun School.

PHE.

Etaples
21.5.17.

15th Battn.
A. I. F.

Forrest.
L/Cpl. A.J. 3046.

Shirer.
W. 4911.

"Missing 1.2.17."

I had a letter dated 1st March from L/Cpl. T. W. Shannon 1977 of my Pl.I A Coy stating that their dead bodies were found in No Man's Land in front of Gueudecourt.

Witness:-
Lcpl T. O'Laughlin. 3171.
15th Battn.
Dartford.

L.P.J.

London.
31.5.17. (A reliable witness)

Note Written L/Cpl Shannon.
28.5.17.

Off.M.
Off.M.
P.I.

15th Battn.
A. I. F.

Forrest.
L/Cpl. A. J. 3046.

"Missing 1.2.17."

Yoir letter of inquiry re L/Cpl. A.J. Forrest and addressed to his cousin L/Cpl. A.A. Forrest received. As addressee has since been killed by a shell on the 11th of this month, I opened the letter and am hastening to answer same. L/Cpl. A.J. Forrest was killed in action on the morning of 2nd Feb.1917. His disc and pay book were handed into our orderly room. They were found on his dead body in No Man's Land.

Letter from:-
E. Rowe.
Coy.Sergt.Major.
A Coy. 28.4.17.

London.
1.6.17.

Off. M.

A.I.F. 15th Btn

FORREST
L/Cpl A.J. 3046

"M. 1-2-17"

Missing 1-2-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 27-2-17.

Killed in Action 1-2-17 - previously reported missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 6-6-17.

OFF.M.

London
25-6-17

15th Battn,
A.I. F.

Forrest.
L/Cpl. A.J. 3046

Shirer.
W. 4911

"Killed in Action 1.2.17"

With reference to L/Cpl.Forrest and W.Shirer. I knew the both of them as they happen to belong to my platoon. L/Cpl.Forrest was a short, stocky built man, between 35 and 40 years of age, grey eyes, red face and very heavy jaws. He had a nephew in the same platoon. He also was killed at --- in April last, they used to pass for brothers. Bill Shirer was a dark complexioned man, between 35 and 40 years of age, medium height, about 10 stone in weight. A native of London, also married, his wife and family live in London. He had been some time in Australia out Cloncurry, North West Queensland way for some time before enlisting. His most particular friend was a man named Bob Parkinson from Ipswich, Queensland. That is about all I can tell you about them myself, but there is no doubt about them being dead, the 46th Battn found their bodies and buried them and sent their effects to our orderly room. They were killed about Feb.1st-2nd last.

Letter from:-
1977 Sgt.Shannon
A.3.Ward 11th Gen.Hospital.
France. 21.6.17.

London.
4.10.17.

Off.M.
Off.M.
P.I.

Lcpl T. W. SHANNON
1911

A Co.
15 Batt AIF
BEF

3046 Lcpl A. J. FORREST
15 Batt AIF

M. 1. 2. 17

28. 5. 17

HOSPITAL Kitchener, Brighton, Aus

INFORM

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No
	Palmer	C. B.	2645

GIV

SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.
Brebner	C. W.	–

STATEMENT O

(to be taken

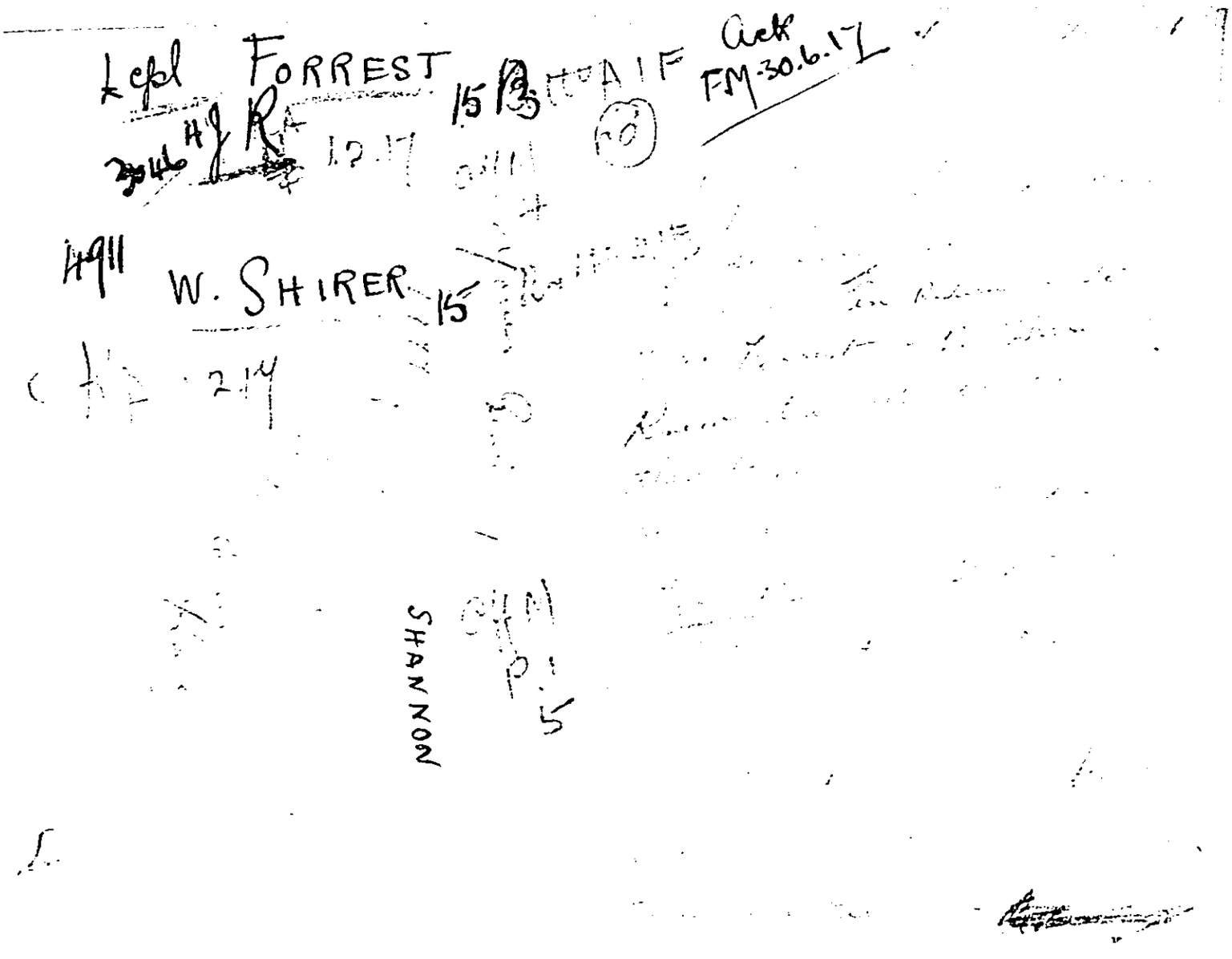
NOTE. In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

3 Lieut. C. W. Brebner state Pte 6
Le Transloy on the Somme
was lying down in a shelte
and killed him instanta
He was buried within a fe
of his Comrades outlined h
debris. It was intended to fu
was carried out I am unable
57 C. S.W.N. 34. B. 6.
were taken from the body a

5

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?	Yes	2. If not, of the
3. Was the ground held or lost?	In a trench	4. If Inform was de the bod
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?	Yes	6. Was ther name
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.	Medium height & bui	
8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence*	An intelligent and quite reliable informant	


Lepl FORREST
15
Ack
FM-30.6.17
W. SHIRER
15
SHANNON

they used to Pass as Brothers
Has to Bill Shirer He was
A dark Complexion man —
Between 35-40 years of age
medium Height about 10 stone
in weight A native of
London also married His
wife and Family lives in
London he had been Some
time in Australia out Concurring
North West Grand way [illegible]
Some time before enlisting His
most Picturing friend was A
man name Bob Parkinson

from Ipswich Ground that
is about all I Can tell you
about them myself But there
is no doubt about them being dead.
the 46th Batt A I F
found their Bodies and buried
them and sent their effects to
our orderly Room they were
Killed about Feb 1-2 last at
G[redacted]. if there is any doubt
write to 46th batt they may have
Rept Records of them and [illegible]
I wish to be excused for not
answering before but I happened
to be wounded in the meantime
it had not an appointing of
[illegible]

Lcpl FORREST 15 Batt

A.J. KA 1.2.17 OFFM 4

4911 W. SHIRER 15 Batt

KA 1.2.17

Sgt Jas SHANNON

A.3 Ward

11 General Hospital

Camden

Rome

OFFM P.1 5

25th April 1917.

L/Cpl. Forrest,
A. Company.
15th Australian Inf. Battn.
B.E. F.

Dear Corporal Forrest,

We have been making enquiries for your brother:-

No. 3046. L/Cpl. A.J. Forrest, 15th Battn. A.I.F.
Rep. Missing 1.2.17.

and have been told if we apply to you we shall find that you know your brother to have been killed on that date.

We should be very glad if you would write and tell us if our informant was correct in his statement and if you have written home to tell your people all you know.

If there are any points in connection with your brother on which you are not quite satisfied, we shall be very pleased if you would send us all details so far as you know them when we would instruct our searchers to continue their enquiries on these lines.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully, V.D. Hu.

Ack FM 8.5.17 3048

L/Cpl A J FORREST 15 Battn

France April 28th 1917

M 12.17

O/M B4

The Secretary
W. & M. Inquiry Bureau
Aust Branch B. R. C. S.
London

Dear Madam

Your letter of inquiry re L/Cpl A. J. Forrest and addressed to his cousin L/Cpl A. A. Forrest received. As addressee has since been killed by a shell on the 11th of this month I opened the letter and am hastening to answer same.

L/Cpl A. J. Forrest was killed in action on the morning of 2nd Feby 1917

His disc & pay book were handed into our orderly room.

They were found on his dead body in No man's land.

Trusting that the above statement will be sufficient. I am

Yours faithfully
E. Rowe
Company Sergt Major
F. Coy

11.5.17

C. Sgt. Maj. E. Rowe
A. Co.
15 Batt. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of April 28th in answer to our enquiry about 3046 L/Corp. A.J. Forrest 15 Batt. A.I.F. made to his cousin L/Cpl. A.A. Forrest. Though we much regret the cause of your writing, i.e. the cousin's death, we are very pleased to have your information concerning L/Corp. A.J.Forrest.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully,

V. D

H.M.

2nd July. 1917.

1977. Sgt. T. Shannon,
15th Batt. A.I.F.
A. 3rd Ward
11th General Hospital,
B.E.F.

Dear Sgt Shannon,

Very many thanks, for your letter, of June 21st, in answer to our enquiry concerning:-

3046. L/Cpl. A.J. Forrest, 15th Bat, A.I.F.

4911. W. Shirer. 15th Batt. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance. We regret our enquiry found you in Hospital, and trust you are now making good progress, and will soon be able to enjoy your furlough.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary,