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

1199 Private Reginald Gilmour Forbes

20th Battalion



1080906O

Havre. 2nd. November. 1918.

20th. Australians. Forbes. R. C 1199.

K. August. 8/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private 'Darkie' Forbes, D. 14. under 30, medium height, sturdy, very dark, and clean-shaven. L/Corporal Hunter Nolan, S/Bearer attached to H.Q. told me that he buried Forbes near where he was killed at Aubigny on August 7th. 1918. I did not see his Grave. Nolan was with the Unit when I left a few days ago.

Inf:- Private. R. R. Reid. 6164.
20th. Australians. H.Q.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

S.
M.

RDM.

Written L/Cpl Hunter Nolan
7.11.18

J. E. A.

CP.

20th Bttn.
A.I.F.

FORBES.
R.G. 1199.

NOTE TO MELBOURNE & SYDNEY.

"Killed in Action 8-8-18."

We wrote to Pte. Forbes on 1-8-18 asking him to give us particulars of the death of 4736 Pte. E.A. Morris, 20th Battalion, reported Killed 9-10-18. The letter has been returned to us with a note signed Charles W.T.Rogers, Chaplain, 57th Bttn. A.I.F. stating that "Pte. Forbes was evidently killed in action, as his personal effects found their way to my unit."

6-11-18.
London.
14-11-18.

S.& M.

20th Batn.,
A.I.F.

FORBES,
R.G1199.

"Killed in action - 8-8-18."

"He was in D.Coy. I did not see the casualty but heard from several, whose names I cannot remember, that he was wounded at Villers Bretonneux and when going out was hit again, this time by a Machine Gun bullet in the chest, death being instantaneous. He was first wounded in the advance in the early morning and I was told an Officer was attending to him when he was wounded again and killed.

I knew him well and he came from Sydney. I did not see his grave, but remember hearing in conversation that he was buried at Villers Bretonneux and grave was marked by a cross having full details marked thereon.

Informent:- Pte.Layland, E., 3617,
"C" Coy., H.Q., 20th Batn.,
3rd A.A.H. Dartford.

W.Oman,
London,
29-11-18.
J.E.A.

H.S.

A.I.F. 20th Battn.

Forbes
R. 1199.

"Killed 8.8.18."

Austral Cemetery near Villers Bretonneux, I helped to bury him; there was the Padre present. We put up a temporary [redacted] I knew him well, same company as me.

Informant:- 6847, Thomas,
Ward 41,
Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.
London
12.12.18.

S.
M.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

FORBES.
R. 1199.

"Killed in Action 8-8-18"

at Villers Bretonneux. Killed at Once by shell just after we hopped over in the advance. I saw him killed. I was near him at the time. Did not see his grave. We went on.

Informant:- Crook. 6303.
W.20.HAREFIELD.

D.P.Dickson.
London.
2012-18.
H G.

S & M.

A.I.F. 20th Battn.

FORBES
R. 1199. Pte.

"Killed 8.8.18."

I, David Hones knew Forbes very well, he was under my charge at A.M.C. and was a regimental Stretcher Bearer. Forbes was wounded in the foot and was limping out when he was shot by a Hun Prisoner. Some Huns were found in a trench afterwards, and shot; it was a very foggy morning and these had not been mopped up. Casualty happened on 8th August 1918, at Villers Bretonneux. Ground was held. His grave is marked with a cross. We called him "Darkie".

Informant:- 46, Pte. David Jones,
20th Battn.,
The Grove,
Military Hospital,
Tooting.

Home address:-
c/o Gurimbah Post Office,
New South Wales.

C.A. Stevenson.
London
23.12.18.
H.G.

S.M.

20th Batn.,
A.I.F.

FORBES,
R. 1199 Pte

"Killed 9-8-18."

"He was a chum of mine, D. Coy. I don't think he had any definite abode. He was a station hand and travelled up and down the country. He was wounded slightly in a village in advance of Warfusee, and was killed going back to Dressing Station. His body was found with that of an Officer and a Pte. Ray. They were all buried just behind the old German lines at Warfusee. Pte. Donadlson, 20th Batn., Transport Section buried them, and the Padre of 18th Batn. read the burial service.

Eye-Witness :- No.

Home address:-
35, Levy Street,
Sydney, N.S.W.

Informant:- Scholfield, J. 1311, Tpt. Dvr. (Fair),
20th Batn., A.I.F.,
No. 1 Military Hospital,
Canterbury.

Walter S. Inman,
London,
7-1-19.
H.G.

H. & S.

A.I.F. 20th Battn.

FORBES
R. 1199.Pte.

"Killed 6.8.16"

Buried at Villers Bretonneux.

The Maire of Vignacourt has arranged for a Commemeration Ceremony to be held in the British Military Cemetery, Vignacourt, this afternoon at 1430.

The children of the village will place wreaths and flowers on the graves of English and Australian Soldiers buried there, and the graves are to be handed over to the care of these children for the future.

Delegates from the French Government and the French Army will be present and will address the gathering.

The Battalion will form up on road in front of B.O.R. ready to move-off at 1400. Dress - belt and side.arms.

All available men to attend this parade.

The Maire to the Cemetery the following will be the order of the procession:-

Australian Troops. (17th, 18th, 20th Bns;. 5th A.L.T.M. Bty, Bde.H.Q., and Field Ambulance.

School Children.
MassedBands.
Military and Civil Authorities.
French Soldiers.
Civil Population.

At the ceremony the "Funeral March" will be played while the school children place flowers on the graves. The Authorities will make speaches, after which the massed bands will play the "Marseillaise" and the "National Anthem", then the "Last Post" will be sounded.

Letter from:- The Adjutant,
20th Aust. Bn.
Headquarters.

London
22.1.19.

20th. BATTALION A.I.F.

FORBES R. G. Private
No. 1199.

Killed in Action 9/8/18.

Informant did not see Forbes killed but saw him after he had been killed at Villers Bretonneux in August 1918 and helped to bury him. He was buried in the Austral Cemetery at Villers Bretonneux. He was dark, generally clean shaven, medium height. He and Informant were in No. 15 Platoon, D. Company.

Informant:- Private J. Thomas, 6847.

Home address:- Gardeners' Road, Mascot.

C.E.W.
No.4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
19/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.20th Bttn.

FORBES.
Reginald.1129.

Killed in Action.8.6.18.

Re-buried Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery.62D.O.17.c.4.3.
Plot 12. Row B. Grave 3.
Cert by ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Captain Spedding's List 3.8.19.
Sheet No.155.

London.
30.9.19.

S. R.

To

Bl/Opl Hunter Nolan

S/B.H.Q. 20 Bltn

A.I.F.

About

1199 Pte R. Forbes

20 Bltn

A.I.F.

K 8.8.18

Written 7.11.18

MGS

HOSPITAL Southwark Military.

INFORMATIC

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Ra
	Robertson Johnson	A. M.	—	C

GIVE

	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	R
	Alexander.	L. C.	3191.	

STATEMENT C

(to be taken

R

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

3 Heard that Cpl. ~~Grah~~ at Mallincourt on He was C. O. of B Comp

PLEASE ALSO ANSWE

1. **Was Informant Eye-Witness?** —

2. If not of

3. Was the ground held or lost? —

4. If In wa the

5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? — Initials right.

6. Wa na

7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. —

8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence* — Quite intelligent