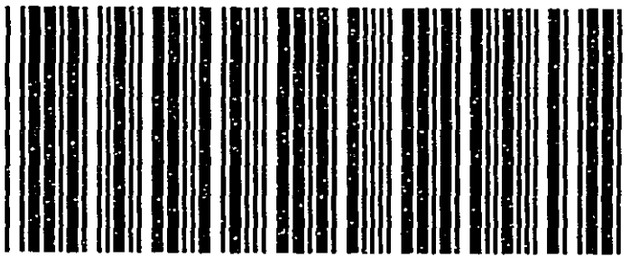
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1384 Private
Samuel Irwin Forster

35th Battalion



1090505K

35th A. I. F.

S. I. FORSTER, 1384.
N. M. LEESON, 2347.
H. S. BUTLER, 2529.

Killed 25.5.17. Det.D/B.

These men were with me on a working party on the way up "The Only Way" Trench at Ploegsteert towards the end of May. We were on the way to fix the front line for the "hop over" and were about 100 yards from it at the time. A shell burst right amongst us. It gave me a shaking up and I had seven days laid up with it. I saw at the time, a mangled mess of the killed. An hour after, the Sergt. called the Roll. I was quite well enough to notice this Roll Call. Seven failed to answer including these three. I had seen them in my vicinity just before the shell came. They must have been killed instantly. Butler came from Adamstown, Newcastle, and his address was C/o. Mrs.J.Shearer, Railway St. Merryweather. Forster was a school-teacher on the Hawkesbury River. Leeson came from Sydney- he went round with a milk cart, he was about 18. I have seen all their graves with crosses over them bearing their names. They are in a Military Cemetery for Australians near Ploegsteert towards Hill 63.

Reference: W.Cummings, 2302.
No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 9.8.17.

FEP.

35th A. I. F.

K. 25.5.17. Det.D/B.

S. I. FORSTER, 1384.
W. M. LEESON, 2347.
H. S. BUTLER, 2529.

I saw them killed at Ploegsteert about the date named. We were attached at the time to the 10th Fd.Coy. Engineers and were going up the "Only Way" Trench into the front line to repair the Trench. Half way up the "Only Way" the enemy lobbed a shell right among us. It killed several besides these three. I was not more than 20 yards away at the time. Forster was killed by shock - I saw no wound on him. Butler and Leeson were considerably knocked about but of course none of them knew anything about it - they were killed instantly. I understand they were buried right foot of Ploegsteert Wood. Forster came from Sydney and was a school teacher, his people lived in the country. He was aged about 24/25. He came with me in the Ascanias leaving Australia on Oct. 25th/16. Leeson was a recent reinforcement. He had not been with us long when this happened.

Reference - Pte. W. Johnston, 1407.
No. 11 Con. Camp, Buchy, Nr. Rouen. 10.8.17.

FRP.

35th Battn, A.I.F.

FORESTER.
S.I. 1384.

"Killed 25.5.17".

Refer to Pte. J.Shepley, who is now in England and who was with him and two others. Killed at Plugstreet Wood by a shell and can give all particulars.

Witness:-
Pte.F.H.Garratt, 1388,
34th Battn, A.Coy,
3rd Aust: Aux: Hospl,
Dartford.

W.Oman,
London.
14.8.17.

S.

NOTE:- written Pte. Shepley., 13.8.17.

35th A.I.F. Forster. S.I. 1384.

K. May 25th/17 Det D/B

Eventually was also S.I.

"I have a man down in my book named C.J. Foster, No.1384. who was killed by a shell May 25th. I remember he was with some others and the shell buried them. They were in the 3rd line in a communication trench, and the R.A.M.C. was close by and buried them. This was at Plug Street (PloegSteert) It was daytime in the afternoon. I think he was fair; but cannot remember much about his appearance."

Eye Witness:-- No.

Description:--

Informant:-- L/Cpl A.E.Jones. 128,
35th A.I.F. A.Co.,
Horton War Hospital,
Epsom.

Home address:-- Wallace Street,
West Wallsend,
Australia.

C.A.Braidwood.
Aug; 14th/17.

35th Battalion,
A. Coy,
A.I.F.

FORSTER.
S.I. 1584

"Killed 25.5.17"

I saw him buried near hill 63. near Pont-De-Nieppe. I was at the burial. and saw the grave, and it was marked by a cross bearing his Number, Name, and Unit. I did not see him killed, but wastold by~~s~~ Pte Cummings, 2302, B. Coy, 35th Battn, who is still in France, that he was killed by a shell, death was instanteous.

Witness Pte. R.T. Cundry, 2501
35th Battn B. Coy,
5th Platoon,
3rd A..., Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London,
17. 8. 17.

Note Written Pte. Cummings,
16.8.17.

S

Havre 3rd Sept. 1917.

35th AUSTRALIANS FORSTER, S.I. 1384
Butler, H.S. 2529

K. 25.5.17. Dat. D/B.

They had just arrived with reinforcements and were attached to the Engineers temporarily on the 25th May, 1917, when they were killed at St. Yves. They are buried in the Plugstreet Wood cemetery. I saw their graves. There is a cross on each.

Informant: Pte. W.L. Murray, 2629
35th Australians, A Co., 4th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

J. RDM

10-8-17

Pte J. SHEPLEY
35 Batt A.I.F.
No 1 Command Depot
Perham Downs
Hants

for

13814 S.J. FORSTER
35 Batt A.I.F.

K. 25. 5. 17

dmd 8. 11
15.

17.8.17

230th Pte CUMMINGS
B. Co
35 Batt AIF
BEF

for

138 H S. J. FORSTER
35 Batt. AIF

K. 25. 5. 17

21.8.17
K.H.M.