

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

2172 Private  
Thomas Evan Farr

59th Battalion



1040402B

59th Battn:

Farr, T.E. 2172.

K. 24/4/18.

We were in the same Company (A) and No: 4 Platoon. We were being hard pressed at Villers Bretonneux. All the ~~other~~ machine gun teams having been knocked out. Tom Farr said he would rush off and save the guns, I replied "You had better not, it's not worth the risk", he then said, "I'll chance it, we had better get it if we can." He had only got about 3 yards away when an explosive bullet hit him on the head, blowing his tin hat about 10 yards away and killing him outright. I do not know where he was buried.

59th Battn:

Butler, A.R.Pte. 5658.

15 A. Dartford. 30/7/18.

R.D.B.

J.P.A.

M

59th Bn.

PARR, T.E.  
Pte . No. 2172

Kia. in act. 24.4.18.

"His grave is just off the railway line between Villers  
Brettonneux and Amiens about a kilometre from Villers Bretonneux. He  
was the same reinforcements and I did not know he had been killed  
so ran across to the grave to see if it was his number on the cross."

Informant:- T.W. Smith  
No. 2250 59th Bn.

Private address  
C/o G. Anson,  
Grant Street,  
Colac.

W.F.J.  
13.2.19.

*M  
L  
Smith*

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

A. I. F. 59th Bn.

FARR, T. E. 2172.

K. April 24/18. Det.D/B.

I knew Farr verywell: he came from the same place as myself and I was making enquiries as I have been asked to find out what happened so as to send news home. ~~Pte. Smart of 59 Bn.~~ now employed at the Base Depot at Le Havre, will be able to give all particulars: he saw the whole thing. What happened was this:- The crew of a M.G. had all been killed and there was a danger of the Gun falling into Fritz's hands. Farr was running forward to bring back the gun when a sniper got him with a bullet through the head. My own mates told me that Farr was buried where he fell, quite roughly and on the spot, and a crude sort of cross was put up. There was no chance of doing anything else. We were at Villers Bretonneux at the time and the position of affairs was rather serious. I am writing home to tell what I have found out. Farr came from Flinders and was an only son. He was employed as a telegraph operator in the Post Office there.

Reference: Pte.W.S.D.Payne, 3224, 59 Bn.  
Cyclists Base Depot, Rouen, 26.9.18.

Letter returned marked "lost with him" - J.A. GPJ. Written Smart  
14.10.18 10.10.18

Havre.

3rd. October. 1918.

59th. Australians.

Farr. T. E. 2172.

K. April. 24/1918. Dets. D/B.

We were both in A. Company together. I knew him well; he was in my Company. He came from Melbourne; was of medium height and build, fair; I believe, he was a telephoneworker. I was not with him at the time. His Platoon was sent up to Villers Brettonneux to reinforce a position. They were fighting along a railway embankment and Farr got hit by a bullet and died almost at once. He was buried by our Padre at Villers Brettonneux in a shell hole. I did not see him killed but I saw the Padre with the Cross going up to his Grave.

Inf:- Private. E. C. Brinsley. 2867.  
59th. Australians. D. 13.  
Hospital Ship.

LAHI.

CP.

A.I.F. 59th Battn.

FARR  
T.E. 2172

"Killed 24/4/18"

He was killed on the morning of April 24th 1918 during the German attack on Villers Bretonneux, while out on patrol with Lieut. J.C. Christian of A. Coy, 59th Bn., A.I.F. (who is now in France) on the railway embankment west of Villers Bretonneux. Farr's name was Tom. He was L/Cpl in AyrCoy and the only Farr in the Coy. A stout built man of about 5ft.8ins., dark, with a wound scar on his upper lip.

Informant:- Lieut. G.S. Telfer,  
59th Battn,  
A. Coy,  
3rd London General Hospital,  
Wandsworth.

A.G. Campbell,  
3/10/18. London.  
31/10/18.

H.

*J.A.*

59th Battn.

A.I.F.

FARR

T.E. 2172

"KILLED 24-4-18"

I may say that I was with him at the time he met his death, and had been personally acquainted with him for a considerable time previous, so that should be enough to satisfy as to his identity. As far as his death in action is concerned, I may state that he was sniped, the bullet passing through the brain. He was buried where he fell and not in a Military Cemetery, and I fear that the grave would not be registered by the G.R.U. However, I personally placed a Cross over the spot on May 8th, containing his particulars and unit, and it is possible that our Reg. Chaplain may have some record of it as he was with me at the time. The grave is situated west of Villers Bretonneux about 150 yds. from the edge of the village and on the left of railway line about 15 yds. facing village. The map reference if that would help is O.28.C.1.2. of that particular area. I can personally find the spot without difficulty. I was past the place as recent as Oct. 8th and the grave was then in good order, and since the battle area is so far removed, it is safe to assume that it is still in good order. I personally wrote and acquainted his parents immediately after his death giving full particulars. I am the only one left of the party that were out when he met his heroic death.

Letter from - Orton. Pte. E. 2277

59th Battn.

France 4-11-18

London  
18-11-18

J.E.D.

M.

59th Btn.

FARR, T. E.  
Pte. 2172.

Kld. in act. 24/4/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, medium build, dark complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "Tom". Casualty was out on patrol at Villers Bretonneux. He was attacked in large numbers by a German party and could not get back. I did not see Casualty killed but I saw his body shortly after the attack. He was most severely wounded in the head. He was buried at Villers Bretonneux. A cross was erected with his name and number on it."

Informant:- Pte. G. H. O'Hea,  
No. 2012, 59th Btn.

Private address:-  
4 Archibald Street,  
Elsternwick.

T.C.F.  
17/1/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.



59th Battn.  
A.I.F.

FARR  
J.E. 2172

"Killed 24-4-18"

Farr was A.Coy, 4th Pltn. He was killed outside Villers-Bretonneux, in morning of 24-4-18, and I was told by Pte. Butler, A.Coy., who was with him when he was killed. He was buried close by where he fell. He was from Victoria.

Eye-witness: He.

Description: About 22, 5'11".

Inferant, Millard, W. 4850

59th Battn. A.Coy. 4th Pltn.  
University Hpl.,  
SOUTHAMPTON.

N.M.C.  
A.I.F.  
Barracks  
Vic.

G.R.B.  
18-9-18  
London  
4-10-18  
J.E.A.

Note:- Report by Pte. Butler.

M.

A.I.F. 59th Btn

FARR  
T.E. 2178

"Wounded"

Admitted 5th Aust: Div: Base Details A.P.O. S 17 France  
Cert. by letter card to H.Q. 12-4-17 & A.I.F.H.Q's 29-5-17

London  
7-6-17

M.

59th Battn.  
A.I.F.

FARR  
T.E. 2172

"Killed 24-4-18"

He was in A.Coy. Refer to S/B Pte. Phillips, A.Coy.  
59th Battn., who is now in France, for he carried him  
out and buried him.

Informant. Bray. Pte. S.J. 2136  
A.Coy. 59th Battn.,  
3rd A.A.H.,  
DARTFORD.

W. OMBRE  
London  
17-10-18  
J.E.A.

M.

Note:- Written Phillips 15-10-18.

Havre.

16th. April. 1918.

59th. Australians.

Farr. F. B. 2172.

K. April. 24/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private Tom E. Farr, A. 4. he came from Flinders District, Victoria and was working in the Post Office. I was with him at Villers Brettoneux on April 24th. 1918 when the British Troops were retiring. We were trying to reestablish the line when he was killed instantly by H.Q. Fire. We held the position and he was buried in the open near Villers Brettoneux on a Ridge along with Private. E. S. Davis, A. 4. who was killed at the same time. I could point out the Graves.

Inf:- Private. W. H. Ecclestone. 3098.  
59th. Australians. A. 4.  
Australian Camp.  
Rouelles.

HDM.

CP.

GC

Yo

Rt Phillips

S/B A. Co

59 Balth

a. J. F.

atmt

2172 Rt T. E. Farr

59 Balth

a. J. F.

K Apr 24/18

Written 15.10.18

Mrs

THIS REFERENCE MUST BE

Cross Index No. 32447

INQUIRY BUREAU, 39 BROAD STREET, BRISTOL.

NAME Lernette, J. No. 2927 Rank Lieut.

(Surname first)

Regiment A. I. F. Coy. 14 Plat. \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Red Maids Ward Jellicoe

Arrived \_\_\_\_\_ At Front from \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address 25, Rue des Ecooutley, Paris.

Depot \_\_\_\_\_

GIVES INFORMATION REGARDING:—

Missing man Johnson, Lieut. J. H. Casualty? K. May 2/18 Det.D/B

Regiment A. I. F. Battln. 14 Coy. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Red Cross List dated Sept. 1st page 10a

B. E. F.

Johnson was killed at night. He and Capt. Blinny went out with a night patrol, they met a German night patrol and Johnson was killed by a hand bomb.

FRONT The British Fleet in Rome

K.D.S.-V. 19857

**AS TO**

AS TO		Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
1	1	41st			20.4.18
2	2	Machine Gun Co			Died of wounds

BYS	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
k.	25 Machine Gun Co.			The Reddy.
INFORMANT				

**INFORMANT**

1 first person).

ing of a village named.  
 building in which he was  
 time. He was taken to the  
 died, and his body was buried  
 under a cross at the head of the  
 in glass.

C. Smith

A

RECEIVED  
9 SEP 1948  
FOR HONORARY TROOP

**2 THE FOLLOWING :**

give name, number, etc.,  
a man who told him.

mant says a man was killed,  
death instantaneous?  
the body buried, & if so where?

re any other man of same  
in Co. or Battalion?

3: Impressed unlike to get the line  
of my men in principle do many spots  
of the revenue.  
yes in the university of hierarchy  
for other of the same name

will, and gain hair

study,

**Signature of  
Searcher**

Elizabeth by Stokes

**Date of Report**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1918

Y

Pt Smart  
59th Battalion  
Infantry Bde Dept  
Australian. I. F.

Abmt

2172 Pt T. E. Farr

59th Battalion  
A. I. F.

K

Apr 24/18

Written 10.10.18

JWS



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
WOUNDED & MISSING  
ENQUIRY BUREAU

83, GROSVENOR PLACE  
LONDON, S.W. 1.



THE GUY  
MAG 2015

UNDELIVERABLE  
A. B. P. C.  
RETURN TO SENDER.  
RET.

UNDELIVERED  
FOR REASON STATED  
RETURN TO SENDER

*St. Smart*  
*Infantry Battalion*  
*Base Depot*  
*Australian Imperial Force*  
*B. C. F.*

NOT WITH 50% POST. INC. 8/10/15

LONDON S W I



concerned, I may state that he was sniped, the bullet passing through the brain. He was buried where he fell & not in a military cemetery, & I fear that the grave would not be registered, by the G.P.U. However, I personally placed a cross over the spot on May 8th, containing his particulars unit, & it is possible that our Reg. Chaplain may have some record of it as he was with me at the time. The grave is situated, west of Villers Bretonneux about 150 yds from the edge of the village & on the left of railway line about 15 yds facing village. The map reference if that would be <sup>Ref.</sup> 0.28.C.12. of that particular

area, & I can personally find the spot without difficulty. I was past the place as recent as Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, & the grave was then in good order, & since the battle area is so far removed, it is safe to assume that it is still in good order. I

personally wrote & acquainted his parents immediately after his death, giving full particulars, but up to date I have not informed them of the erection of a cross over the grave, as I was awaiting a reply to my previous letter, & which reply arrived a few days ago. However probably you are in communication with them yourself, so this information should suffice.

Should you desire any further  
information or P. H. Hare, I  
shall be only too ready to oblige,  
as I am the only ~~one~~ one left of  
the party that were out when he  
met his heroic death.

Believe me

Sincerely Yours

Plt. E. Outon

59<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>y</sup>.

J. E. D.

Tel: VICTORIA { 8576  
8577  
8578



A

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO

"THE SECRETARY."

WOUNDED AND MISSING

— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

10.10.18

*Pt Smart  
59 Batta ~~Art~~  
Infantry Base Depot  
A.I.F. B.I.F.*

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,  
*2172 Pt T. E. Farr 59 Batta - A.I.F.*  
*Who is reported killed Apr 24/18*

and have been told that you may be able to help us by  
supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can  
send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially  
to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the  
field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be  
registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short  
description of his personal appearance or any points that  
might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number,  
as without these particulars delay and confusion might be  
caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have  
written.

Yours faithfully,

*(Miss) Vera Deakin*

Secretary.

*Permes*