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

4911 Private
William Shirer

15th Battalion



2490403M

A.I.F. 15th Battn
A. Coy.

SHIRER
W. 4911

"Missing since 1-2-17"

Missing since 1-2-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 9-3-17

Killed in Action 1-2-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters List 19-3-17.

P.I.
OFF.M.

London
23-3-17.

15th A. I. F.

W. SHIRER, 4911.

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

Missing 1.2.17.

Informant said these men were both missing in attack near Gueudecourt on Feb.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 wasin A Co. 1 Pl. his initials were A.J. and he came from W.Queensland. 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.

L/C A. A. Forrest 23.4.17 re brother - await reply
Kina 11.4.17.

DLF. Off cl.
P.1 x

15th Battn.
A. I. F.

Shirer.
W. 4911.

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

"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.
P.I.
Off.M.

AUSTRALIANS. 15.A. SHIRER, W. 4911.

M. Feb 1st 1917.

Gaudecourt.

He was an Orders as killed, I have written more than once to his wife because I was Shiere's special friend and it broke me up a good deal when he "went West". I didn't say to his wife that he was killed but it is true that he was. (Searcher tried to get further details but informant was nervous and excitable)

Inf: L.Davis. 4772.
No. 8 Stationary
BOULOGNE. 6.7.17.

AAPW

M.F.W.
9 P.J.

A.I.F. 15.A. SHIERER, W. 4911.

M. Feb 1st 1917.

I knew Shirer. His number was over 4800 and he was in A.Coy. I saw him lying dead near the German trenches on the 1st Feb at Gueudecourt. He had been killed by shell fire. I am unable to say if his body was afterwards buried.

Inf: Pte R.C. Bate. 4751. 15.A.II.
No. 13 General
BOULOGNE. 10.7.17.

AGL

Off. M
1 P.9.7

15th Battn.
A. I. F.

Shirer.
W. 4911

Forrest.
L/Cpl. A.J. 3046

"Killed in Action 1.2.17"

With refefence 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 Battalion found their bodies and buried them and sentthier effects to our orderly room. They were killed about Feb.1st - 2nd last.

Letter from:-
Sgt.Shannon,
A.3 Ward 11th Gen.Hospital.
France. 216.17.

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

London.
4.10.17.

RECEIVED
6-MAR 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

19 Goodenough Rd
Wimbledon
Surrey

Dear Sir or Madam

I am just writing these few lines to ask if you could give me any information concerning my dear Husband late No 4911 Private H. Shirer A Company 15th Battalion 4th Brigade A.I.F. France I had the News from the War Office last week to say he had been missing since the 1st of Feb. I feel so worried I do not know what to think He may be prisoner I pray to God he is would you kindly

2

let me know if you get any news of him from Jour's truly

Mrs W. Shirer
29 Goodenough Rd
Wimbledon
Surrey
England

Lept T. W. SHANNON AG

15 Balt Alt

BEF

Spr

4911 W. SHIRER

15 Balt Alt

M. 1-2-17

28.5.17

Answered
[illegible]

29 Goodenough
Rd
Wimbledon

Dear Madam
Many thanks
for the Information
regarding my
Husband Pri. W. Shire
4911 15th Batt. 4th Bri.
A.I.F. who fell in
Action the 1st of Feb. 1917
would it be asking
too much for you

to send me the
address of the
soldier who informed
you said
you & that my husband
was buried I should
like to write to
him & thank him
for I am so thankful
for any news concerning
my dear Husband I
remain Yours truly
Mrs Shier

W. Shireo 4911 15th Batt

See under

L/Cpl. J. K. Forrest 3046
15th Batt

6/10/17.

15.6.17

Mrs W. Shirer
29 Goodonough Rd.
Wimbledon, Surrey

Dear Madame,

Referring to your inquiry for your husband NO 4911 Pte. W. Shirer 15th Battn. A.I.F. we are now in receipt of an unofficial report given by a man of his unit when in hospital in France. He says that he was told by L/Cpl. A.A. Forrest, since killed, that your husband's body had been found and buried by the 15th Bttn. when they occupied the ground on which the 15th Battn. had made an attack on Feb. 1st, in which your husband lost his life.

This is the only information we have received but we are making all possible inquiries and will advise you as soon as further particulars are to hand as we fully realize your anxiety for details.

With deep sympathy in your loss

Yours faithfully

L.D.

Secretary
L.A.W.

29th March 1917.

Mrs W. Shirer,
29 Goodenough Road.
Wimbledon.
Surrey.

Madam, No. 4911. Pte. W. Shirer, 15th Battn.
Prev. Rep. Missing 1st February 1917.

now Killed in action on that date.

Draft 2.

18.5.17.

Mrs Shirer
29. Goodenough Rd.
Wimbledon

Dear Madam.

In reply to your letter we beg to state that the name and address of the informant who gave the unofficial report concerning your husband is as follows:-

No. 4771. Pte. H.B. Cook A. Coy. 15th Aust. Inf. Battn. B.E.F. and he was in No. 6 General Hospital B.E.F. on 21.4.17.

We should advise you to write to the Hospital marking the letter "please forward" on envelope and also to his battalion as his wound may have been slight and he may have now rejoined his unit.

If you do not get into communication with him in due course, if you will advise us, we will see what we can do in the matter.

Yours faithfully

M R

Secretary.

Pte. M. Shirer 4911.
15 Batt.