

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

66 Private
George Forrest

34th Battalion



1090307K

34th Batta A.I.F.

FORREST.

Pte G. 66.

Killed in Action. 7.6.17.

He was a batman to Capt W.W. Matthews and begged to be allowed to take part in the big advance at Messines on the 7th of June 1917. By no wish of his captain he did so. On the morning of the 7th between the hours of 3 and 8. he was killed instantly by a shell near Ploeg-Straet.

He was buried next day in company with many others I was not an eye witness to the burial.

Capt Matthews has since returned to Australia and is residing at Wallsend N.S.W.

Discription- Height about 5ft 8. Heavy grey Moustache Aged about 50 yrs.

HOME ADDRESS:-

Angledool. Post Office N.S.W.

Informant Cpl Fraser H.W.
34th Batta.

W. W. Matthews

J. E. A.

*off. W. W. Matthews
K. A.*

34th Australian Imperial Force

Forrest, Pte. G. 66

A Coy. 3rd Pltn.

(*June 7th 17*
Missing June 4. 17.)

" Pte. G. Forrest who was my Servant, and a brave good soldier, who had been all through the South African War, was with me in an attack on the Germans, at Messines. We went over together and he was never seen again. I do not believe he was taken prisoner, because we were pursuing them long afterwards, and they were too far away. I feel sure he was blown up in our own big mines. I have a photograph of him. "

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - Age about 9 60. Gre. moustache, typical Irish face. Not very tall.

Informant :- Capt. W. W. Matthews,
34th Aus. Imp Force, A Coy. 3rd Pl.
3rd General Hospital, G.L. Ward,
Bandsworth. London, S. W.

Home address :-

3, Rufford Terrace,
Sept. 7. 17. South Lambeth, S. W.
E. Duvernet.

34th Batt,
A. I. F.

Forrest,
G. 66

"Missing 7.11.17"

Killed in Action 7/11.6.17 - Previously reported Missing
Cert, by A. I. F. Headquarters dated 3.12.17.

London 7.12.17

Off M

54th Battn
A. Coy.
4th Pltn.
A.I.F.

Forrest.
G 66

"Missing 7-11.6.17."

I saw him killed at Messines. I assisted to bury him at
place of casualty and the grave was not then marked, but it was seen ^{was}
to have been later. I knew him very well he was the only man of
that name in the Coy.

Witness:-

Pte. A.R. Pincher 1893
54th Battn A. Coy. 4th Pltn.
5rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
6.9.17.

Off. M.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHOLON.

(COPY)

Statement made by No. 1893 Pte Purcher A.R. 34th Btn

re NO. 66 Pte Forrest G. 34th Btn
Missing 7/11.6.17

No. 66 Pte Forrest G. was killed at Messines about 7th June. I did not see him killed but I was one of a party which buried his body about 12th June. I do not know the names of any others in the party, nor if his identity disc and pay book were taken from him. There was no mark placed on the grave to show that he was buried there.

Dated at Dartford this 23rd day of September 1917.

(Sgd) A.R. Purcher.

Statement made and signed before me

W. J. H. B. (Sgd) B. Ingram.

2 copies to HQ

E.S. Spedding.

26 SEP 1917

(COPY)

Statement made by No.-Capt Matthews W.W. 34th Bnre No.65 Pte Forrest G. 34th Bn
Missing 7/11.6.17

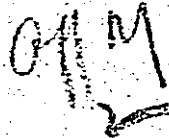
No.65 Pte G. Forrest, 34th Battalion was my Runner on the morning of the 7th June 1917, during an our attack on Grey's Farm he was with me until a few minutes after leaving our trenches. I did not see him again. There was heavy shelling and in my opinion he was killed by shell fire. He was missed by me before I had reached the front line of German trenches.

Dated at Sutton Veny this 19th day of October 1917.

(SGD) W.W. Matthews Capt

Statement made and signed before me

(SGD) J. Stapleton 2/Lieut



54th Batta.
A.I.F.

Forrest.
G. 66

"Missing 7-11.6.17"

I saw him hit by a sniper in the right hip, the bullet went into his body, he was not two yards from me when hit. It was in front lines at Passendale Ypres. He was suffering great pain and had to wait in a shell hole for about 5 hours before we could get stretcher bearers. I helped carry him to the Field Dressing Station, we thought he would die on the way. I did not know much about him as he was in B.Coy. but he told me his home was at Lithgow.

Witness:-

W. McKersie 853

C.Coy. 55th Batta.

No 3 Command Depot.

Hurdett.

G.W.Griffith.

London.

30.11.17.

O.F.N.

34th A.I.F.

Forrest Pte. G. 66,
4 Zpl.

Kia

(~~R~~ June 7-11/17)

Informant states that Forrest was in a charge at Messines on June 7/17 in the afternoon about 3 p.m. when he was struck by a shell and blown to pieces.

Eye-witness: No, told by a man named Smith in same Plt.

Description: Medium height, rather dark, probably between 40-50 yrs. of age.

Informant: Pte. James Droyer 59,
34th A.I.F., A. Coy. 4 Plt.,
Horton Hospt.,
Epsom.

Home address:
Government Rd.,
Rutherford,
West Maitland,
N.S.W.

Dec. 1917,
A.J. Heald.

*10/1/17
H.A.
Kia*