

**Netley Military Cemetery,  
Hampshire, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3747 PRIVATE**

**J. FORREST**

**10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**22ND NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 20**

*He Did His Duty*

## John FORREST

John Forrest was born at Paisley, Scotland around 1896 to parents Francis and Janet Stevenson Forrest.

John Forrest attended school at Mossvale, Paisely, Scotland.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – John came to Australia when he was 17 years old. John Forrest, Farmer, aged 17, was listed as a passenger on *Geelong*, which departed from the port of London on 28th August, 1913. John Forrest had listed his country of intended future permanent residence as South Australia, Australia.

John Forrest was a 19 year old, single, Farmer when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 13th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3747 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr F. Forrest, Longcroft, near Bonny Bridge, Scotland. As John Forrest was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. John Forrest signed on 13th August, 1915 "*I certify that both my parents are not resident within the Commonwealth.*"

Private John Forrest was posted to "D" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 13th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 10th Battalion on 1st October, 1915.

Private John Forrest embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on RMS *Malwa* on 2nd December, 1915 with the 10th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements.

Private John Forrest embarked from Alexandria on Troopship *Transylvania* on 29th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916.

Private John Forrest was sent to Hospital sick on 25th April, 1916 from 1st Australian Base Depot at Etaples. He was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 25th April, 1916 & transferred on 27th April, 1916 to 9th Stationary Hospital at Havre, France. Pte Forrest was discharged to Australian Base Depot on 4th May, 1916 having suffered from Balanitis.

Private John Forrest proceeded to his Unit on 26th July, 1916 from 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples & joined his Unit in France on 30th July, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private John Forrest was wounded in action on 26th September, 1916. He was admitted to 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 26th September, 1916 with gunshot wounds to head – severe. Pte Forrest embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Panama* on 13th October, 1916 with gunshot wounds to head.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Private John Forrest was wounded at the Battle of Somme. The War Diary for the 10th Battalion has the Battalion in Belgium in September, 1916.

### 10th Battalion

The 10th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. The battalion was recruited in South Australia, and together with the 9th, 11th and 12th Battalions, formed the 3rd Brigade.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 10th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bitter trench warfare. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme for winter.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private John Forrest was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 15th October, 1916 with gunshot wounds to head & fractured skull. His condition was reported as seriously ill on 17th October, 1916. A further progress report reported Pte Forrest's condition as "stationary" (no date recorded).

The Hospital Admissions form has the following information "*Label states – "GSW Head. Cmpd. fracture of skull. Slight but definite aphasia. Complete L. Herniplegia. Hernia Cerebri." On admission – slow in speech. L. arm complete paresis. L. leg flexion but not extension. Extensive Hernia over R. Occipito-panetal region. Septic Hernia protruding, strangulated & not pulsating." .....*

*29.10.16 Patient doing well, Hernia much cleaner. Speech still very slow. No improvement in Herniplegia .....*

*14.11.16 Intense headache; temp 105 °; Patient very dull....."*



**Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley**

Private John Forrest died at 6 pm on 22nd November, 1916 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to head.

A death for John Forrest, aged 20, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private John Forrest was buried at 3 pm on 24th November, 1916 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number N. 380 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Francis Forrest, father of the late Private John Forrest, in the sum of 5/- per fortnight commencing from 26th January, 1917.

Private John Forrest was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Forrest's father - Mr F. Forrest, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England.)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Forrest – service number 3747, aged 20, of 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Francis and Janet Stevenson Forrest, of 50 East Crawford St., Dennistoun, Glasgow, Scotland.

Private J. Forrest is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 59.



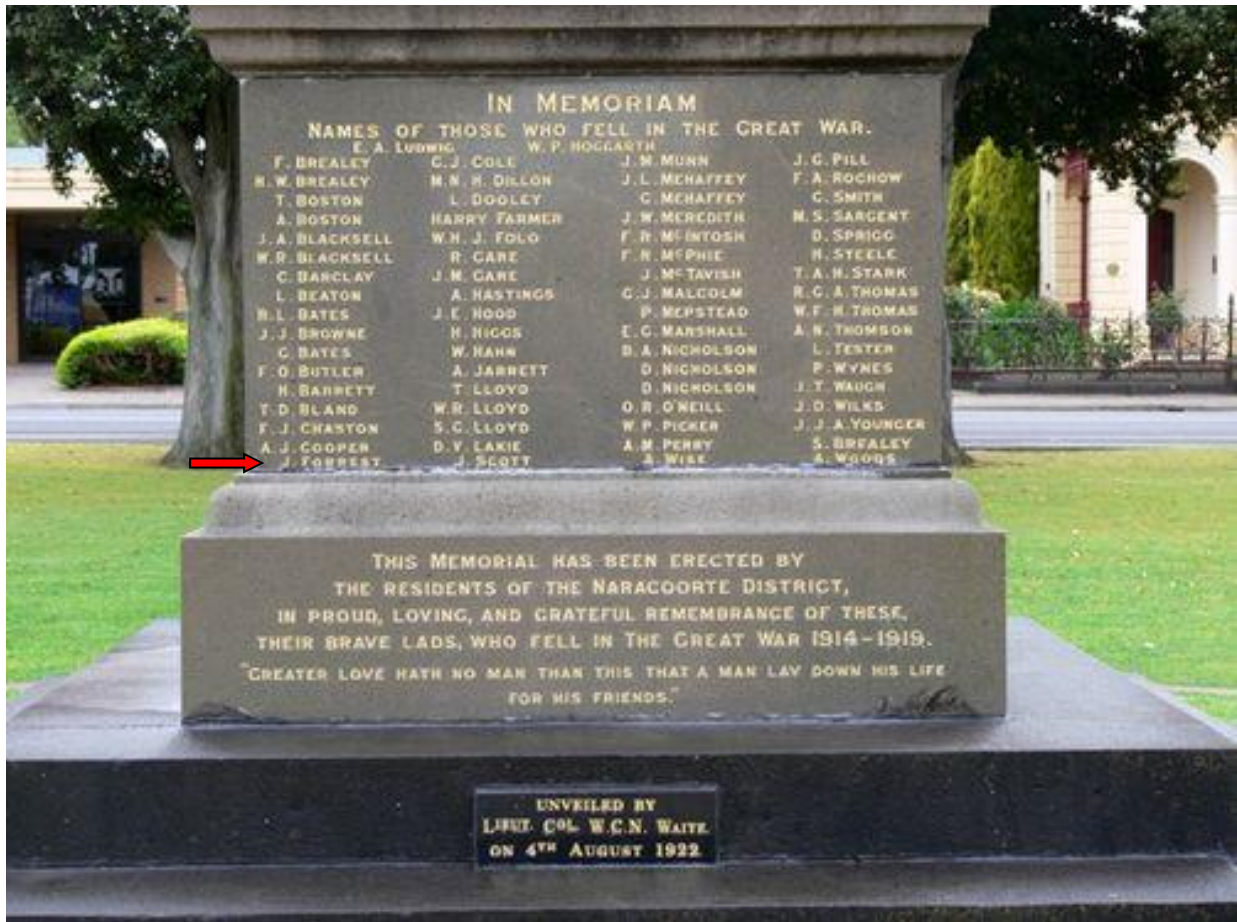
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

J. Forrest is remembered on the Naracoorte War Memorial, located on Smith Street, Naracoorte, South Australia.



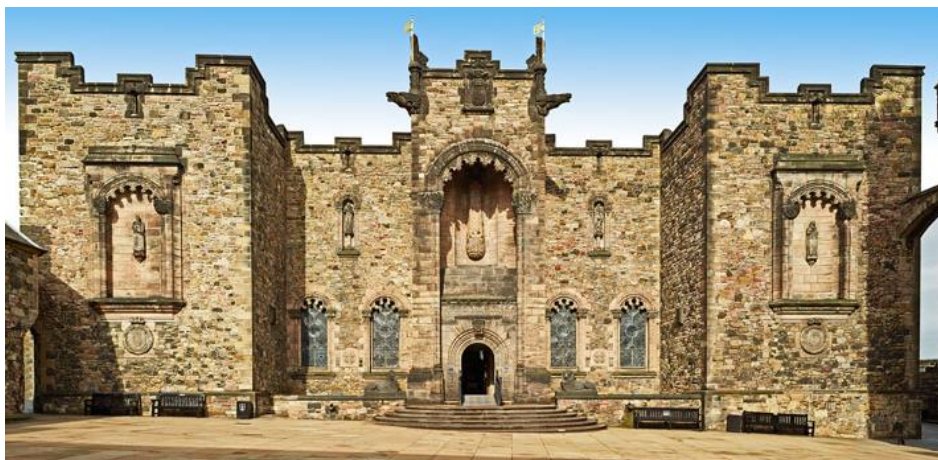
**Naracoorte War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)





**Naracoorte War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)

John Forrest is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.

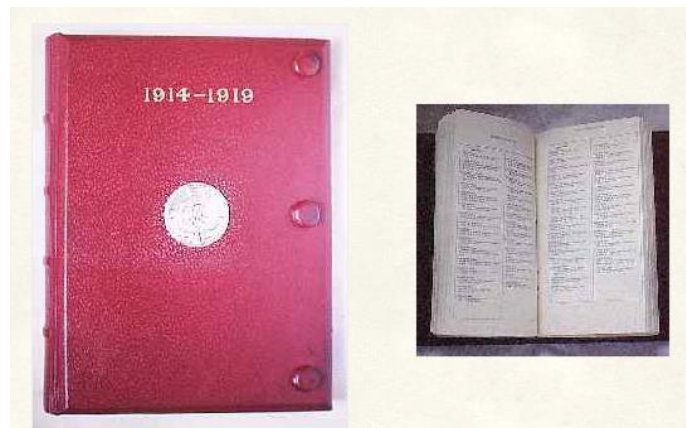


**The Scottish National War Memorial**

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)

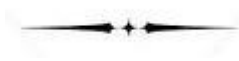


**The Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books at The Scottish National War Memorial**



(46 pages of Private John Forrest's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll,) & National Archives*



**Connected to Private John Forrest:**

Brother - Private Francis Forrest, 5654, 18th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry. Killed in action at Somme Battle on 17th July, 1916. Remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.





J. Forrest

(*Critic*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 December, 1915)





**Newspaper Notices**

*Brave South Australian Soldiers who have gone to the Front.*



Privates A. Mills, W. T. D. Weston, M. I. Flanagan, Sgt. W. Martin, Sgt.-Maj. Thompson, Privates Gordon, A. Parkinson, Elio, W. Grant.



Privates T. Harbord, A. Parr, Woodford, W. Wiley, T. Gardner, H. Elphick, K. Forzath, H. Edison, J. Chou.



Privates T. E. Duels, D. F. Day, A. E. Goldbach, C. R. Rowley, J. Gilbert, T. L. Jones, A. J. Dearman, L. Victory, R. L. Hight.



Privates G. C. Dukes, G. Cairnworth, Abman, E. Emmis, T. D. Eulpet, Stephens, R. Hazleton, Dalen, R. C. Falder.



Sgt. Drexler, Privates C. N. Farby, J. J. Barry, J. Forcum, L. Martin, W. Rowland, W. McDonald, V. White, Sanders.



Privates A. I. Wood, J. Scott, J. Rogers, Corporal Maynard, Privates J. Manning, W. L. Johnson, Sgt. J. Sharp, Privates P. Whitford, C. E. Eglin, etc.

More similar photos.

(Critic, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 December, 1915)



## **THE AUSTRALIANS**

### **241st CASUALTY LIST**

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

##### **PROGRESS REPORT**

Pte J. Forrest, Scotland (con. stat.)

*(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 November, 1916)*

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## **CASUALTY LISTS**

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOSSES**

#### **242nd LIST**

Wounded

3747, Pte J. FORREST, Scotland, and ser. sick

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 November, 1916)*

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## **THE AUSTRALIANS**

### **250th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

##### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Pte J. Forrest, Scotland (Nov. 22)

*(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 December, 1916)*

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### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Private J. Forrest does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Did His Duty*

## Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire**







**Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire** (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)





Photo of Private J. Forrest's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England



*(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)*





**Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery**