

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

**3413 Private  
Frederick Osmond  
Laycock**

**48th Battalion**



1570111G

A.I.F. 48th Batta.

LAYCOCK  
P.O. 3413

Prisoner of War - Died 23/8/19

Reg.No. 105 (1918.)  
Name Frederick Laycock, English Prisoner of War

Calling Farm labourer

Died 23rd August 1918 at Aitengraben

Father Richard Laycock

Dated Drewitz 14 July 1919.

Extract from German Death Certificate from Capt. Mills  
passed on to A.I.F. Hdqrs 1/9/19.

ANALYTICAL LIST

London  
30/9/19

CANCELS

OFF.H.

A.I.F. 48th Bn

LAYCOCK  
P.O. 3413

"M. 6-4-18"

Died 23-8-18 - at Altengrabow Altmark from wounds.  
Cert. by 6232 Pte. J.R. Bell 4th Bn A.I.F.  
Inf: from Rotterdam Bureau forwarded through Central P/W  
letter dated 18-2-19.

OFF.M.

London  
20-2-19

A.I.F. 48th Bn

LAYCOCK  
Frederick O. 3413

"Prisoner of War"

Interned Alten-Grabow

"Died midnight Friday 23-8-18 - operated for removal of a bullet  
from back".

Cert. by extract P.O. from Sgt. K.S. Ross, 6241, 11th Bn  
dated 24-8-18.

OFF.M.

London  
9-10-18

A.I.F. 48th Batty.

LAYCOCK  
F.O. 3413.

"WOUNDED & MISSING 6/4/18"

Prisoner of War. Interned Alten-Grabow.

"Wounded and doing well".

Cert. by Post Card received from man dated 26/4/18.

London  
30/5/18.

OFF.M.

48th Battn.  
A.I.F.

F.O. LAYCOCK.  
3413.

"Off.Missing. now P/W 6-4-18."

Re No 3413 Pte.F.O.Laycock A.Coy 48th Battalion W/M 6-4-18.  
Laycock did not belong to my platoon, so did not know him very well.

My platoon was the last to retire from a certain position  
Laycock got mixed up with my platoon. We were practically surrounded  
and had great difficulty in getting through. I saw Laycock struck  
in the small of the back by a bullet apparently going through the  
muscles of the back rendering his leg useless. Another man - 26-yds  
and I dragged him along about 20 yards and then I placed him in a  
deep shell-hole. He wanted to drag himself along but I pointed out  
to him how hopeless it would be for him to try. He then appeared  
satisfied and comfortable. I really do not think he was dangerously  
wounded and if he remained in the shell hole quite safe. Of course  
provided that the Germans treated him alright.

Before leaving him, I asked him his name and he said it  
was Laycock. I met his brother who belongs to the 10th Battn, a few  
days after and explained to him all I knew about the matter. And I  
do not see any reason why he should not be alive and well today.

Trusting that this will explain everything as I know what  
an anxious time it must be for his people as I have a brother W/M.  
Two years in July.

Letter from:- A.W.Lawrence. A.I.F.

London. 6-5-18.

FRANCE.

2  
O ff.M

A.I.F. 60th Regt

LAYCOCK  
P.O. 5415

Officially Missing and Prisoner  
of War - 8/4/18

Re. my brother P.O. Laycock 60th Regt. whom I believe to be a prisoner  
of war I had an interview with an officer who claimed to be one of the  
last men with him and gathered that he was wounded and left in the enemy's  
hands. My informant seemed very confident that with decent treatment from  
them he would soon recover, so I am justified in hoping that he is still  
alive. Have communicated all I know to my people and would esteem it a  
great favor if your society can find out definitely whether he is a  
prisoner of war.

Letter from: No. 35315 Pte L.S. Laycock,  
10th Inf. Transport,  
A.I.F.,  
France.  
22/8/18.

London  
10/8/18.

Written to L.S. Laycock &  
informed him that his brother is P/O 6619

OFF.M.

48th Battn.  
A.I.F.

LAYCOCK  
F.O. 3413

"Wounded & Missing 6-4-18"  
No. w P/W

Re 3413 Pte. F.O. Laycock, A.Coy. 48th Battn. All I can say is, an Officer, Laycock and myself was running out when he received a bullet in the back, so the Officer and I dragged him to a place of safety, and we had to leave him owing to circumstances, under the cover of the white flag. I may mention at the time mentioned the enemy had broken through on both flags. He was about 5'4", fair build, about 30 years of age.

Letter from:- Jenkins. Pte. Chas. H, 2433  
A.Coy. 48th Battn.,  
Harefield,  
MIDDLESEX.

London  
19-8-18  
H.T.

Off.M.

A.I.F. 48th Btn

LAYCOCK  
F.O. 3413

"Prisoner of War"

"In amplification of my postcard of August 24th I am very sorry to have to report the death at the hospital of this camp of - Frederick Osmond Laycock, 3413, 48th Btn, A.I.F.

On 20th August it was deemed necessary to perform an operation for the removal of a bullet which had lodged against the spinal column. The operation was successfully carried out and he rallied very well for a day or two, looking to be on the way to recovery. Unfortunately Meningitis supervened and despite all care, on Friday August 23rd at 6 p.m. he began to wander and at midnight of the same day, without regaining consciousness he quietly passed away. The body was interred in the Camp Cemetery on Monday afternoon Aug: 26th. Representatives of every branch of the service were at the graveside where a full burial service was recited by Captain Spring, B.M.O. 2/5 Batt, East Lancs. Two beautiful wreaths were laid on the grave, one sent by British Prisoners of War and the other from comrades of the A.I.F.

I have written to the parents who reside at Mt. Tawler, S.A., giving them full particulars. The cards and ribbons from the wreaths the photos' letters and the few personal items of Laycock are in my possession. It is not possible to send them to you direct, but I

A.I.F. 48th Btn

LAYCOCK  
F.O. 3413

( 2 )

will hold them in readiness for you. If you will ask the Embassy of Holland to take possession and forward them to you, it will be simply a matter of awaiting a favourable opportunity to pass them through to his people in Australia.

His kit etc., will be held for the benefit of any compatriot who may be in need of them."

Above letter read. from - K.S. Ross,  
11th Btn A.I.F.  
Alten-Grabow,  
Germany.

dated - August 28th 1918.

London  
16-10-18

off M.  
A. send on.

A.I.F. 48th Battn.

LAYCOCK  
F.O. 3413

"Died as Prisoner of War"

He died of wounds on the 21st August at Attengrabow in hospital. Was wounded in back by bullet at Dernancourt. I saw him in camp. Was operated on by Italian Specialist, assisted by English Doctor, Captain R.M.C. Spring. A serious operation. Was buried at Attengrabow and a good cross erected, a photo of which is to be sent to his people.

Informant:- Pte. J.R. Bell, 6232,  
4th Battn.B. Coy.  
P/W  
Red Cross.

A.D.G.  
London  
17.1.19.

Off.M.

48th Battn.  
A.I.F.

LAYCOCK.  
Frederick Osmond. 3413.

"Prisoner of War"

He was captured about March or April 1918 and was taken with me to Altengrabow Camp on April 24th. He was then suffering from a bullet wound near the spine but recovered sufficiently to walk about the camp with a stick. The wound, however, continued to give trouble and he was operated on about August 18th 1918 by an English Doctor, Capt Spring. R.A.M.C. I spoke to him in Hospital and he showed me the bits of brass equipment which had been removed from the wound, but he died about midnight on August 23rd (his spine having been affected) After 24 hours unconsciousness. I saw him the afternoon before he died and was present at his funeral, which was conducted by Capt Spring. There was a subscription among the Australians (about 8) in the camp and we erected a fine gravestone at the cost of 650 mks. It was the only stone erected for any individual man. A photo was taken of the grave with a group of us, copies of which were to have been sent to his people by Warrant Officer Ross. of 11th A.I.F. as well as parts of the wreath etc.

Laycock was a short dark man of about 28 and came from South Australia.

Informant:- Pte.L.B.Crisp. 5573.  
18th A.I.F. A.Co.  
RED CROSS.

A.G.Campbell.  
London.  
31-1-19.  
J.E.A.

Off.M.

A. I. P. 48.

LAYCOCK, F.O. 2413.

W/M. April 6th, 1918.

He was in A.Coy. A brother is in the 10 Bn. He was wounded at about 10 or 11 a.m. on April 5th when we were retiring near Albert between the railway and the Amiens road. He was hit in the small of the back with a M/G. bullet. Myself and Pte. Jenkins of A.Coy. went to his assistance and then 2/Lt. Lawrence came along and told us to leave him as the Gas was almost on top of us. We left him in a deep shell hole about 1/4 mile the other side of the Amiens road. He was conscious then but unable to walk.

NRH.

Reference:- Cpl. A.L. Trotter. 2867. A.Coy.  
28 Gen. Hp.

Etaples  
7.5.18.

After Mrs. Laycock + Jenkins + 2/Lt. Lawrence 23.5.18.

CM

Hayre.

14th. May. 1918.

48th. Australians.

Laycock, F. O. 3413.

W. A. M. April. 6/1918.

He was in A. Coy. 4th. Pltn. I saw him wounded at Albert; he was hit through the groin by a bullet. He was left in a shell hole. We were retreating.

Inf:- Sergeant. F. J. Kemprod. 1685.  
48th. Australians. A. 1.  
Australian Camp.  
Rouelles.

HJG.

5/11

(23-5-18)

2/11 Lawrence

C 48 <sup>5</sup> Batten A. 1.7.

Abroad

alt

3413 pt F. O. Laycock

A. Coy.

C 48 <sup>5</sup> Batten A. 1.7.

R

#/M. 6. 4. 18

23-5-18  
A. 1.7.

ackd  
4-6-18  
M.J.

3413

(Cd)

F. O. Laycock

48th Batta In the Field  
Pot off m. non P g W 64.1528/5/18

3

The Sec. A. B. C. S.

Received

Your kind enquiry in reference to  
my Brother F. O. Laycock 48th Batta.  
whom I believe to be a prisoner of war.  
I had an interview with an Officer who  
claimed to be one of the last men with  
him, & gathered that he was wounded  
& left in the enemy's hands. My in-  
formant seemed very confident that  
with decent treatment from them he  
would soon recover, so I feel justified  
in hoping that he is still alive.  
Have communicated all I know to  
my people, & would esteem it a  
great favour if your Society can  
find out definitely whether he is a  
prisoner of war.

Yours Faithfully.

No 35315. Pte L. O. Laycock

10th Inf. Transport

H. I. F.

3532B Pte. L. Laycock,  
10th Infantry Transport,  
Australian Imperial Force,  
B.E.F.

June 8th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter received this morning about  
your brother -

3413 Pte. F.O. LAYCOCK, 48th Battalion, A.I.F.

When we wrote to you on the 23-5-18 we did not know then that your  
brother was a prisoner of War, but we are very pleased to be able to  
give you this information now as his name has come in on the list  
of Prisoners of War.

On the 30-5-18, on a postcard received from your brother  
who is interned at Alten-Grabow, Germany, he said he was "wounded  
and doing well" He wrote this on 26-4-18.

We have this morning received a letter from 2/Lieut. A.H.  
Lawrence of the 48th Bttn, who describes how Pte. Laycock was  
wounded and taken prisoner.

If you wish to write to your brother address your letter  
as follows:-

KRIEGSGEFANGENENSENDUNG.

3413 Pte. F.O. Laycock,  
48th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.,

British Prisoner of War,  
GEFANGENENLAGER. Alten-Grabow,  
Germany.

when writing be careful that you write nothing that will not pass either the British or German censors, make your letter short and write only on one side of the paper. The Prisoners of war are allowed to write so few letters and postcards that he has probably let us know first about him being a prisoner, so that he would be sent his parcels of food and clothing, both of which have been sent, the full amount allowed by the regulations all going to him regularly, however we trust you have heard from him but you will understand why we heard from him so soon.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

Rec'd by  
Lester (Gard)  
5-6-18  
7.9

3413  
F.O. Laycock (C) Marine  
48<sup>th</sup> P. of W.  
off M. how P. of W. 6.4.18 29.5.18

Dear Miss Deakin. 3

Re 4.3413 F.O. Laycock 17 Coy 48<sup>th</sup> P.  
W/M 6.4.18

Laycock did not belong to any  
platoon so did not know him  
very well.

My platoon was the last to  
retire from a certain position.  
Laycock got mixed up with my  
platoon, we were practically  
surrounded and had great diffi-  
culty in getting through.

I saw Laycock struck in the  
small of the back by a bullet  
apparently going through the  
muscles of the back, render-  
ing his legs useless another  
man & I dragged him along  
about 20 yds, then I placed  
him in a deep shell hole.  
He wanted to drag himself  
along, but I pointed out

To him now hopes to would  
be for him to say, he then  
appeared satisfied & comfortable.  
I really do not think he was  
dangerously wounded and if  
he remained in the shell hole  
quite safe. of course provid-  
ing that Germans treated him  
alright.

Before leaving him I asked  
him his name, and he  
said it was Laycock.

I met his brother who  
belongs to the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. a few  
days after and explained  
to him all I knew about  
the matter. And I do  
not see any reason why  
he should not be alive &  
well to day.

Trusting that this will  
explain everything as I  
know what an anxious

3

time it must be for his  
people, as I have a brother  
w/om 2 years in July.

With many best wishes  
for future success in your  
noble work.

Remain

Yours faithfully

A. H. Lawrence

In The Field

11/6/18

The Sec.

Am. Red. Cross. Society

I thank you very  
much for information about  
my brother 3413 Pte E. O. Laycock  
48th Batta A. I. F. It is a great  
relief to know that he is a  
prisoner of war & doing well  
& also to know that your society  
are sending him parcels & comforts  
which will help to brighten his  
term of captivity. Thanking you  
once again

I remain

Yours. Faithfully.

E. O. Laycock

Airs

see letter 17.5.15  
12

3413  
48 Bn  
40 Laycock  
6-4-15  
W 111 now P 110  
1st Aust. Aux. Hosp.  
Harefield.  
Middleham.  
J M  
3 (ed)

Re your letter about 3413.

Re F. O. Laycock. A. Company 48th Bn.

All I can say is, an officer Laycock & myself was running out when he received a bullet in the back, the officer & I dragged him to a place of safety & we had to leave him owing to circumstances under the cover of the white flag. I may mention at the time mentioned the enemy had broken thro on both flanks, He was about 5 foot 4 inch fair build, about 30 years of age. I am sorry I can't give more.

Yours faithfully

H. I

3433. Re. Chas. Williams. A. Co.  
48th Bn.

Rec  
2.9.18

2 Command Depot  
Monte Video Camp  
Weymouth

To The Secretary

It is with pleasure I received  
your letter re Pte <sup>F.O.</sup> Laycock of 48th Batt  
as was very pleased to hear he was  
prisoner of war, even that is better  
than being a victim to the Germans  
I would be extremely obliged if  
you could let me know any  
information as to what hospital  
Pte V. B. Nelson, A. Company 48th Batt.  
is in I am informed he was  
wounded on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May the same  
day as I. If you could oblige I  
will be greatly thankful to you  
as his people are asking me of him  
Yours Faithfully  
2433. Chas. H. Jenkins,

Slip.