

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

**2973 Private
William Lewis Laing**

53rd Battalion



1540403H

January 5th. 1917. --

The Military Advisor to the Commonwealth
Australia House
Strand.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your enquiry re No. 2973. Pte. William Lewis Laing
53rd. Battn. A.I.F. we regret to say that so far we have no information
beyond the fact that he is officially reported missing 1917/16.

His name has not come through on the lists of Prisoners. Should
we be able to obtain any news, we shall forward it to you immediately

Yours faithfully,


Secretary

January 5th. 1917

MRS. J.B. LAING
Raituma
McLeod St.
Hoeman
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your enquiry re your son no. 2973 PTE.W.L.
LAING 53rd. Batt forwarded to us by Lt. Col. HAYWARD, we
regret to state that so far, we have no information as his name
has not come through as a prisoner, but we wish to assure you that
we are making every effort to obtain some news, which we shall
forward immediately it comes to hand to our Sydney Office,
Dalton Buildings, 115, Pitt Street, so will you make further
enquiries there and we trust that soon there may be something
definite to ease your terrible anxiety in which we deeply
sympathise.

Yours faithfully,

for S. J. W.
Secretary

o. 2973 Pte. W. L. LAING

COY. 53rd BN.

Officially reported MISSING July 19th. '16

Enquirer:

Mrs. J. B. Laing
Kaituna
McLeod St.
WOSMAN, SYDNEY

On Records in Wounded & Missing Dept.
Boulogne. No information yet received.
Wounded & Missing Dept. think Miss Deakin
is not got Parent's address, and would
like to have it.

NOTE TO BOULOGNE.

re 2973 Wm. L. Laing 53rd Battalion A.I.F.

We deeply regret we have been unable to obtain any news except that he is officially reported Missing 19.7.16 and his name unfortunately has had to be taken off the list.

London.
28.7.17.

60th Batta D Coy.
A.I.F.

HORSLEY.
1. Cpl. Roy. L. 1941

"Missing 19.7.17."

Killed in action 19.7.17 previously reported Missing.
Cert. by A.I.F. HQtrs. 25.8.17.

Off. H.

P.I.

Edison.
25.8.17.



Write up R Clark in hospital
for later letter
Ch. this letter



Handwritten notes on the right side of the page, including a vertical list of numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100) and other illegible handwriting.

10 9 17 L

about

2973 Cpl William Duke Laing
53rd Battalion A.F.F.

~~19. 4. 16~~
reported missing

To
Mr. J. H. Mason
Daily Morning Herald Office
58, Fleet Street
& Co.

(2) Mr. Sewell
6, Reachcroft Mansions
Hopton Road
Streatham S.W.

Missing since July 1916

1916

no 2973

Pte H. L. Laird

"D" company

53rd Battalion

A. S. H.

100/100/100
100/100/100
100/100/100
100/100/100

○ Musing since July 1916

1916

no 2973

Mr H. L. ~~Living~~

10th Company

520 Battalion

A. I. S. H.

100 of 190 Sept
Paid to order
Received
W. S.

Lug file

53rd Battn.,
D. Coy.,
14th Bgde. A.I.F.

LAING.
Pte. W.L. 2973

Missing July.

Inquirer:-

Miss Davis,
Bradfield,
Ormonde Parade,
MURSVILLE.
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

*Mrs Sewell
Beachcroft Mansions
Hopson Rd
Strathairn*

been spared, there are
so many Internment
Camps - & if sick,
wounded, so many
different hospitals.
When my son wrote
last on July 15th he
appeared to be well &
happy, as he wrote
in an optimistic
view. We had four
letters & P.C.'s in July.
He was a most kind
& Considerate son -
it always writes so that
we'd not worry -

No 2973 Private
W. A. Daring

b Company

53rd Battalion

14th Infantry Brigade

A. I. F.

France.

Missing since July 19th
(last year I presume they
do not state)

May be Prisoner of
War, wounded or sick
age 22. ^{2 quins} Mr. Sunderland.

Information obtained locally (if any) or from letters.

7
123

22 May 18.

Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable

No. of

Enquiry included in Referred Cable

No. of

Name and Address of Enquirer

Mrs W. Evelt
Holmesdale Rd
W. Midland

Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree.

(Mother)

State if Next-of-Kin.

Yes.

By cards
M.C.

Henry P. Secretary.
M.R.A.

Final draft.

24-9-19.

Mr. Mason.

Sydney Morning Herald Office
58 Fleet Street
S.C.

Mr. Sewell.

6 Beachcroft Mansions.
Kipling Road
Surrey Hill.

Re 2973. Louis W. P. 53rd Bu.

Valley House Post office
Combe Martin
N. Devon.

Sept. 26th 1919

Dear Miss Whybrow.

Many thanks for
yr letter re

which 2973 Rang. W.S. 53rd Bk.
has been forwarded to me
here.

Should any further
information come to hand
regarding the above,
would you kindly com-
municate with address

at foot direct instead of
wine?

Thanking you for
troubling so much in
the matter

Yrs faithfully

May Sewell.

Miss Davis

"Maybrook"

Port Hacking Road,

Caringbah

Sydney

N.S. Wales.

Private Inquiry

Sent card
✓

Mr. Mason
Sydney Morning Herald Office
58 Fleet St.
S. C.

(for mother)

Enquires for

2943 W. L. Laing D. Co

53 Batt^{le}

Missing 19.7.16

NOB 11/16 7 11

HOSPITAL *Northumberland War Hosp.*

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No. F
	<i>Smith</i>	<i>CS</i>	<i>676</i>
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No. F
	<i>Noeller</i>		<i>614</i>

STATEMENT
(to be taken)

In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE

Smith was slightly wounded & to the Bⁿ in August, & was seen December

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Informant Eye-Witness? | 2. If no of |
| 3. Was the ground held or lost? | 4. If In was the |
| 5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? | 6. Was nam |
| 7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. | |
| 8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence | <i>Reliable</i> |

Dear Soldier -
 I am in a state of great anxiety & suspense
 as my only son W. J. Laine is "Missing" since July 19th 1966. 1943
 D. Company 53rd Infantry. Could you give me
 any particulars of the Action with the 53rd D.C.
 from France? Just where it was? As
 I do not know what part of France my son was
 in: I heard 4 times from him before the
 date 15th July, he was well then; Do you
 know any way of learning who saw W. Laine
 last & under what conditions. If I could have
 a list of names of any members of the 53rd D.C.
 I could write some of them in hospital - I am sending
 you my best thinking it will help me to find

1/1 Kaituma
 C/O M. & L. O'Leary
 Sydney
 1966

my son - I have the "Foreign" papers
 you thought I'd not put them in a
 better use than to send them to some of our
 & wounded Australians. I trust you are
 doing well in Hospital; I do not know into
 whose hands this card will come -
 I feel that by writing here & there I
 might get some news. You might know
 of some mates who were in the Action
 with the 53rd D.C. We have cabled the
 Red Cross. Not heard yet, 12 weeks missing
 to date 16 weeks missing before we were notified
 6 weeks since we heard. I wish you good
 & happy Christmas & Prosperous New Year -
 Yours faithfully
 W. J. Laine

