

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

**3076 Private  
Frederick Hubert Aylett  
Larkman**

**58th Battalion**



1550909T

Havre

13th Dec. 1917.

58th AUSTRALIANS

LARENAN, F.H.A. 3076

H. 26.9.17.

*Bullock, &*

I knew him for 12 months. He joined us after ~~the Batten~~ had been in Egypt with the 6th BATTN. He was medium height, slim, dark, about 35. He was of Church of England religion, an Englishman, and was a warehouseman in civil life at Melbourne, Victoria. He was in the same company and platoon with me. On the 26th Sept. I was told of his death by Pte. S. Foreman of C Co., 12th Pltn. who is still with the BATTN. and who can give information.

Informant: Cpl. T.C. Gow, 2659  
58th AUSTRALIANS, C Co., 12th Pltn.,  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

*Written by Foreman 31.12.17*

*P.I.  
Official  
1*

PE

*our copy*

58th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Larkman.  
F.H.A. 3076a

"Missing 26.9.17"

Re 3076a Pte.F.H.A. Larkman Missing since 26.9.17. Pte.Larkman on the night of the 26.9.17 was detailed as a guide to guide the 60th Battn. in to relieve us, the other guide who went with him was blown up and has since died of wounds. I think that Pte.Larkman was also blown up he has not been seen since this occurred in Glencorse Wood Ypres. Description of Pte.Larkman is as follows:- Height about 5'10" Brownish hair and moustache. Rather slim build, brown eyes. I have asked all the other lads in his company if they could give any information, they all say that he was never seen after leaving Company H.Qrs to guide in 60th Battn.

Letter from:-  
Sgt.C.Hems  
C.Coy. 58th Battn.  
18.1.18.

London.  
31.1.18.

Note Sgt.C.Hems has reported on behalf of Pte. Foreman to whom we wrote.1.1.18.

Off.M.  
P.I.

58th Battn.  
A.I.F.

LARKMAN  
Pte.F.H.A. 3076

"Missing 26-9-17"

It was at Polygon Wood, near Ypres salient, the line was in a half circle. I remember it was Tuesday Sep.25th 1917, that Larkman went out behind, with another man to guide in the relieving Battn, about dusk, The other man, I do not know his name, was found in an unconscious state, and died at the dressing station, without regaining consciousness. It was supposed Larkman was blown to pieces. Artillery fire was very heavy. I had the information a week later from men of C.Coy, to which Larkman belonged, and of his Pltn. No.12. The fire was so heavy, it was a chance of one man in a hundred getting through. We were to be relieved at midnight, the advance was to take place 6 a.m. next morning. The relieving Battn. got cut up themselves coming up. I knew Larkman personally, he and I were in No.12 Pltn. for some months. C.Coy. Ground held.

Eye-witness; No.  
Description; Height 5'7", dark moustache, medium build.

Informant. Foreman S. 16096 (intelligent )  
Home address; 58th Battn. C.Coy. 12th Pltn.,  
424, Point Nepean Rd., 3rd Southern Gen.Hpl.  
Brighton, Victoria, Cowley Section,  
Australia. OXFORD.

E.P.M.Dunn  
12-4-18  
London  
29-4-18

P.I

Off.M.

58th Battn.  
A.I.F. C.VII

LARKMAN  
Pte. F.H.A. 3076

"Missing 26-9-17"

I know that this man was sent out to guide a Coy. of the 60th Battn. on or about the date named, who were relieving our Coy. This was near Black Watch Corner, Polygon Wood. He was accompanied by Pte. Yates. The next we heard was that Yates was in a Hpl., (in France I think), where he died of wounds. Nothing more has been heard concerning Larkman. The ground was held.

Eye-witness; No.  
Description;

Informant. Trengove Lt.R.H. (reliable)  
58th Battn. C.Coy. 9th Pltn.,  
3rd London Gen. Hpl.

C.G.Thomson  
20-4-18  
London  
29-4-18

Off.M.  
P.I.

3076 Ave J. H. A Larkman

58 Bth

TELEPHONE:  
CHISWICK 865.

NORFOLK LODGE,  
WALPOLE GARDENS,  
CHISWICK, W.

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Madam

My husband & I  
are extremely grateful to  
you for your kind &  
~~sympathetic~~ letter. &  
for the information you  
have been able to obtain  
through the Red Cross.  
We regard it our best

son. We are still hoping  
to hear better news.

Remainder yours.

P. H. Larkman

Inquiry for

3076 A F.H. LARKMAN.

C. Co

58 Batt<sup>5</sup> AIF

M. 26.9.17

Yellowcard

— Mother Mr. F. J. Larkman

Norfolk Lodge

Walpole Downs

Chiswick

W.

tel.:

Chiswick

863.

Bel'd. to be the only  
Larkman in the Batt<sup>5</sup>

FM.

26.10.17

(29.12.17)

Plt S. FOREMAN

12 Plat.

C. Co

58 Inf. Bde

A. I. F.

abroad

~~abt~~  
3076

F. H. A. LARKMAN

58 Bde AIF

M. 26.9.17

1-1-18  
DT.





1-1-18

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU)

54 VICTORIA STREET

Mrs. S. Foreman 38, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Telephones:

VICTORIA 8576, 8577, 8578

C.C. XII

58th Inf. Bn: 2.9.4. Abroad

Telegraphic Address: QUESTMAN, LONDON.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit 3046 F.H.A. Larkman 58th Bn: 2.9.4 M. 26-9-17 and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning 3046 F.H.A. Larkman and would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance, or any points that would help us to prove his identity.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

per W.F. Johnson SECRETARY

Note Sgt. C. Hewes replied in place of Mrs. Foreman - 18-1-18



3076<sup>0</sup> F. H. A. LARKMAN

35<sup>th</sup> Batt

In the Field, A 26-9-17

18-1-1918

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The Secretary of the  
Australian Red Cross  
Society

Sir

Re your enquiry  
No 3076 of the F. H. A. Larkman's  
"C" Coy 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Missing since 26-9-17.  
The Larkman on the night  
of the 26-9-17 was detailed  
as a guide to guide  
the 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion in to  
relieve us, the other  
guide, who went with



2  
In the Field,

191

him who blown up &  
has since died of wounds.

I think that Pte. Larkins

was also blown up.

He has <sup>not</sup> been seen

since this occurred in

Glencore Wood, 17/10/1915.

Description of Pte. Larkins

is as follows

Height about 5'10" in

Brownish Hair

" " " " " " " "

rather slim Build

Brown Eyes



Note Sgt. C. Hems his capture  
 in label of Pt. Lae  
 to whom he writes  
 In the Field, 1-1-18  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 191

I have asked all the  
 other lads in his  
 company if they  
 could give any  
 information. They  
 all say that he  
 was never seen after  
 leaving Company 11<sup>th</sup> Co  
 to guide in 60<sup>th</sup> Bn  
~~11<sup>th</sup> Co~~ Hoping his  
 information will guide  
 you a little

I am yours  
 faithfully,  
 Sgt. Hems

H. F. 12<sup>th</sup> Coy 55<sup>th</sup> Bn 11<sup>th</sup> Div

9C

Sgt. C. Hems,  
C. Coy, 58th Infantry Bttn,  
Australian Imperial Force,  
B. E. F.

January 23rd, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer  
to our enquiry addressed to Pte. Foreman, concerning :-

3076A Pte. F. H. A. LARKMAN, 58th Battalion. A. I. F.

The information you have given us will be of much assistance  
to us and of value to our enquirers.

Again thanking you for your help.

Yours faithfully.

SECRETARY.

03

2nd February 1918.

Mrs. K. J. Larkman,  
Norfolk Lodge,  
Walpole Gds,  
Chiswick, W.

Dear Madam,

We have received two unofficial reports about your son  
No. 3076a Pte. F.H.A. Larkman 58th Batt. A.I.F. which we are very  
much afraid give proof of his death, and though they are rather dis-  
tressing we feel we would like to have them.

Sgt. C. Hems 58th Batt. A.I.F. states that on the night  
of 26-9-17 Pte. Larkman was detailed to guide the 60th batt. in,  
to relieve them, with another man, who was hit by a shell and has  
since died of his wounds. Sgt. Hems adds that he thinks your son must  
have been killed instantaneously by the same shell, as he has not  
been seen or heard of since that took place in Glencourse Wood near  
Epres. He describes your son as being rather slim, about 5ft. 10in,  
brownish hair and moustache. He also says that he has questioned  
all the men in his Coy, and they all say that Pte. Larkman has never  
been seen since he left the Coy. Headquarters to guide in the 60th Batt

No. 2559 Cpl. T.C. Gou 58th Batt. states- "I knew him for  
two months, he was in my platoon and Coy. He joined us after Lille-  
court and had been in Egypt with the 6th Batt. He was medium height,  
slim, dark and about 55, religion C. of E. Was an Englishman, but  
had been a warehouseman in Melbourne. I was told of his death by  
Pte. S. Foreman".

We wrote to Pte. Foreman and received in reply the statement  
from Sgt. Hems which we have quoted above.

R M C

We are still making enquiries and hope to have some more definite information to give you later.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your great anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

R.M.C.P.

8th May, 1918.

Mrs. Larkman,  
Norfolk Lodge,  
Walpole Gardens,  
Chiswick, W.

Dear Madam,

With further reference to your enquiry for your son -

3076a Pte. F.H.A. LARKMAN, 58th Battalion, A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you that we have now received a reply from 16096 Pte. S. Foreman, whose statement unfortunately confirms the report previously sent you.

Pte. Foreman when interviewed recently in the 3rd Southern General Hospital, (Cowley Section) Oxford, stated that he knew your son personally and describes him as of medium build with a dark, mustache and 5'7" in height. Pte. Foreman further stated that on Tuesday Sept 25th 1917, at Polygon Wood near the Ypres Salient your son and another man went out behind <sup>the line</sup> to guide in the relieving Battalion. Later the other man was found unconscious and he died at a Dressing Station without regaining consciousness.

The artillery fire was very heavy at the time and there was very little chance of anyone getting through and the relieving Battalion suffered many casualties in coming up.



Pte. Foreman fears your son must have been killed instantaneously. This report has also been confirmed by Lieut. R.H. Trengrove of the same Battalion, who was in the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth recently and we fear that there can be little hope of his being alive.

Should we obtain further details we shall immediately advise you as we realise how very anxious you must be.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

*Miss Taylor Mrs. Stimpfield*  
SECRETARY.