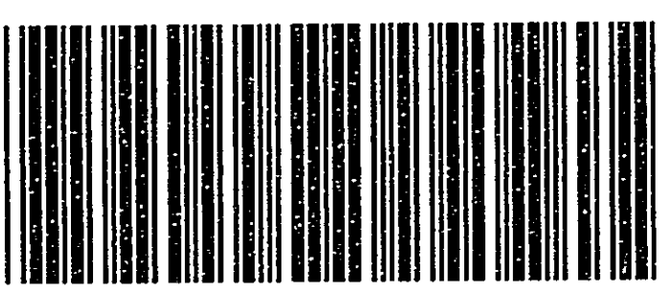
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6039 Private
Philip Lorne Boden
Leeming

4th Battalion



1580312K

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 8858.

Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau
AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John,
54, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

To The Officer Commanding,
1st Eastern General Hpl.
Cambridge

27th Jan, 1916.

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our Australian Bureau to obtain a bulletin and ascertain the nature of the sickness or wounds of 6039. P.L.B. Leeming? Leeming, 4th Batt. A.I.F., who was admitted to your hospital 2.1.17.

We should be most grateful for any particulars you can supply.

We regret having to trouble you in the matter, but are desirous of allaying the anxiety of the relatives so far distant in Australia.

Yours faithfully, Vera Deakin

The Secretary per P.M.

G S W
Back
668
/2
5

LEEMING
LEESING,

4th Battn.,
A.I.F.

P.L.B. 6039.

"W. 1st. East.Gen.Hosp.
2-7-16".

Admitted to 1st. Eastern General Hospital on 2-1-17 with shrapnel wound of back - severe.
Cert. by - Hospital Index.

He is suffering from gun shot wound of back and is progressing satisfactorily.
Cert. by - letter from O.C. on 29-1-17.

S.

London,
30-1-17.

4th Battn.
A.I.F.

"MISSING 16-4-18"
" " " "
" " " "

P.L.B
LEEMING ~~B.P.L.~~ 6039
Kearins L/Cpl. J.A.6283
Evershed A. 1943

These men were all in C.Coy. and 10th Pltn. I was in the advance at the time, and the objective was reached on the left by 10th Pltn., but ~~only~~ on the right by 12th Pltn., which I was in at the time. These men were all wounded and left in the trench when 10th Pltn. had to retire. Refer to Sgt.W.Back ar L/Cpl.J.Lean, of 10th Pltn. C.Coy. 4th Battn., who are in France, for they were with them at the time and couls supply further information. All these men are believed prisoners.

Informant. Dean. L/Cpl.G. 3074
C.Coy. 4th Battn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
18-6-18

P.I.
S.

Written Sgt. Back & L/C Lean about these 3 men 24.6.18.

Havre

A.I.F. 4.

21st June 1918.

✓ Leeming P.L.B. 6039.
✓ Kearins L/Cpl J.A. 6283.

M. 16th April 1918.

I know L/Cpl Kearins of C.Co. X Pltn, about 22, medium height and build, dark, clean shaven. I saw he and Leeming in the German first line between Strazeele and Merris on the afternoon of the 16th April 1918. They were then all right. We retired from the position about midnight, and left our dead and wounded behind, and the enemy occupied the position. They were missing when the roll was called.

Inf:- Pte M. Hall No. 6998.
A.I.F. 4. C. Xl.
Australian Camp.
Houellos.

N.W.

Icopy

RDM

Havre

A.I.F. 4.

29th June 1918.

Leeming P.L.B. 6039.

R. 16th April 1918. Leeming

5037 I know Pte Phil Leeming of C.Co. X Pltn. I was told by Pte Prod Bright of C.Co. X Pltn, who is now wounded and in Hospital in England that he saw Leeming badly wounded in front of Strazeele along with Corporal Evershed on ground thatwe had to retire from.

Inf:- L/Cpl W.D.Emerson No.2170.
A.I.F. 4. C. X.
Australian Camp.
Rocollos.

N.W.

Note.

a.

RIM.

No record of letter as P.W.

1 extra.

Written Pte. Bright 12.7.18.

A.I.F. 4th Battn.

Leeming
~~LEEMING~~
P.L.B. 6039.

"Missing 16/4/18"

Re Pte Leeming, L/Cpl. Kearins and L/Cpl. Evershed I cannot give you a great deal of information concerning them. Perhaps this little I do know may be of some use to you. I made urgent enquiries from boys who were actually with these boys at the time. Pte. Leeming was wounded and when the men had to withdraw from position he was left in enemy trenches. L/Cpl. Evershed had a similar fate. Probably they are Prisoners of War. As for L/Cpl. Kearins he was killed before reaching the enemies lines. Pte. Hafey S., (his bosom pal) supplied this information and says he saw him lying dead.

Letter from:- W. E. Back 2/Lt.
4th Battn.,
France.
30/6/18.

London
8/7/18.
A.H.H

S
P.I.

No trace at P/W to date 8.7.18

A.I.F. 4. LEEMING, P.L.B. 6039.

M. April 16th 1918.

I was told by the company clerk Cpl. Cortinan that he had been posted as P/W in Germany.

Inf: Sgt J. McLean. 3150. C.X.
No. 7 Stat Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 16 7.1918.

SAA

Written Cortinan
26.7.18

4th Battn.
A.I.F.

LEEMING
P.L.B. 6039

"Missing 16-4-18"

He was of C.Coy. 10th Pltn. On 16th April during our attack in front of Strazeele. I was in the attack but did not see him, he was away on my left. Before I left the Battn., official news came through to Battn. and Coy. Hqts. that he was P/W. Christian name Phil, came from N.S.W., about 5'11", dark, clean shaven, age about 24/25, no distinguishing marks.

Informant. Lean. Sgt.J. 3150
4th Battn. C.Coy. 10th Pltn.,
HAREFIELD.

Note:-
No record to date as P/W 14-8-18. Not sent on.
Written O.C. 14-8-18.

A.D.G.
London
15-8-18

P.I.
S.

A.I.F. 4. LEEMING P.L.B. 6039.

M. 16.4.18.

-6666

His name was Phil and he was in C.Co. a big, tall, fair fellow. Pte. Emmerson of C.Co. still up the line, told me (as also ddd others) that he had seen Leeming being marched off with a German on each side of him, on 16th.April, at Strazeele, as a P/W.

PHE.

Reference: Sgt.J.S. Jenkinson. 772. C.XII.
L.G. School.

Etaples.
5.9.18.

Witness P/W. (SA)

CS
P.1

4th Battn.
A.I.F.

LEEMING.
P.L.B. 6039.

"Missing 18-4-18"

No No 6039.Pte.P.L.Leeming. 4th Battn. The report that official information has been received of the above named "Missing" man being a prisoner in German hands is incorrect. He is still shown as "Missing" in the Battalion Records.

Letter from:- E.K.White.Capt and Adjt.
4th A.I.F.

London.
5-9-18.
M.T.

A.I.F. 4.

LEEMING P.L.B. ~~6093.~~ 6039 S.P.1
Hughes J.E.G. 3789. S.

M. April 16th 1918.

Hughes and Leeming of C. Co. X. Pltn were with me in a stunt about 7 30-8 p.m. at Strazeele(taking a hop field in front of Merris) Our Platoon had to retire after reaching the objective as our supports didn't reach it.
We had to leave Hughes and Leeming wounded in the trench as we couldn't get them away. I saw the Germans come into the trench as soon as it was dark.
Hughes was from Redbank Hillston. N.S.W. Leeming was a married man from Punchbowl N.S.W.

Inf. Sgt A.M.Hoare 3786. 4th Btn C.X.
No 3 Aus Gen Hosp.
ABBEVILLE, 10.10.18. HEH,

S
P.1

A.I.F.
4th Bttn.

LEMMING.
P.L.B. 6089

"Missing 16.4.18."

I was told by my mate Cpl. W.W. Walker (4.D.XVI.Missing since) that he saw Pte. Phil Leeming (4.C) wounded and taken prisoner on April 16th during an attack. I understood that he saw the Germans carrying him off. I was not there myself, as I was gassed. I believe they were near Straeele or Meres. The companies were all mixed up. Cpl. Walker tole me when I returned that he was going to write to Pte. Lemming's wife. I cannot say whether she receive the letter. I am afraid that Cpl. Walker may have been blown up by a shell since. If he is a prisoner he would give all information.

Eye-witness:- No.

Description:- Christian name Phil, married, tall and stout, from Sydney I believe.

Informant:- 6016 Pte. George M.Hogg.
4th Bttn. D.Coy. XVI Pltn,
3rd Sthn. Gen. Hpl.
Radcliffe Bldgs. Oxford.

Hilda M. Pickard Cambridge,
22.11.18.

S & P.I.

London.
10
H.G.1.19.

NOTE:- NO TRACE P/W

A.I.F. 4th Btn

LEEMING
Philip Lorna Boden 6039

"H. 16-4-18"

Killed in action previously reported missing 16-4-18
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 17-1-19.

S & P.I.

London
18-1-19

A.I.F.
4th Btn.

LEMMING
Philip Lorne Boden 6039

Killed in Action 16.6.18.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
18.10.19.

(A.W.F.).

4 A.I.F. Ritchie, Pte. W. 7391.
D Coy., XVI Plat.

K. Apr.17/17. Det D/B.

" I was on outpost in front of Harris about April 16/17. Ritchie was in my platoon. At about 9-10 A.M. he was hit in the head by a sniper's bullet & died almost at once. He was buried in a hole at the back of the outpost trench."

Eyewitness:- Yes.

Description:- Address, Kiora, Spronk St., Lakemba, Sydney, N.S.W., labourer.

Informant:- L/c J.H.S.Pratt, 5186.
4 A.I.F., D Coy., XVI Plat.
The Princess Christian Hosp., Englefield Green.
Home address:- 233, High St., North, East Ham, E.S.O.

7/7/18.
J.H.W.Pilcher.

Leeming C16377 6039

Philip Lorna Boden 4 Btn 19 Lifts

returns to 4th from 66th & 63 Btns.

"M"

Born Terara NSW

N/K at Punchbowl NSW

Pers description

Eyes blue, comp fresh

Hair brown

Height 5' 9"

Age 22 yrs 6 months 13-2-16

No other Leeming in unit.

HQ 14.8.18

12.7.18

5037
Pte. Fred Bright,
C Coy. X Pltn.
4th Bltn. a.1.7.
1st Training Battalion
1st Training Bgde.
S Plain

abt.
6039
Pte. P.L.B. Leeming
C Coy. X Pltn.
4th Bltn. a.1.7.
M. 16.4.18.

12.7.18
a.1.B.

Leeming
Phillip Lorne
M. 16.4.18.

6039
4 Btn

Inf: wanted by cousin who wants to cable to wife.
No 426. G. J. Watson Sgt.
late 13 M.G.C. H Records.
Att Quints

H.Q. 24.5.18

Missing Draft.

27. 5. 18

No. 426
Sgt. G. T. Watson
Late 18th M.G.C.
H. Records
A.H.Q.
130 Horse Ferry Rd

about

No. 6039.
Pte. Philip L. Leeming
4th Battalion
A.I.F

Missing 16. 4. 18.

24. 6. 18.

L/Cpl. J. Lean
C Coy - X Pltn.
4th Battn. A.I.F.
abroad

abt.
~~Lance~~
6039
Pte. B.P.L. Leeming
4th Battn. A.I.F.
M. 16. 4. 18.

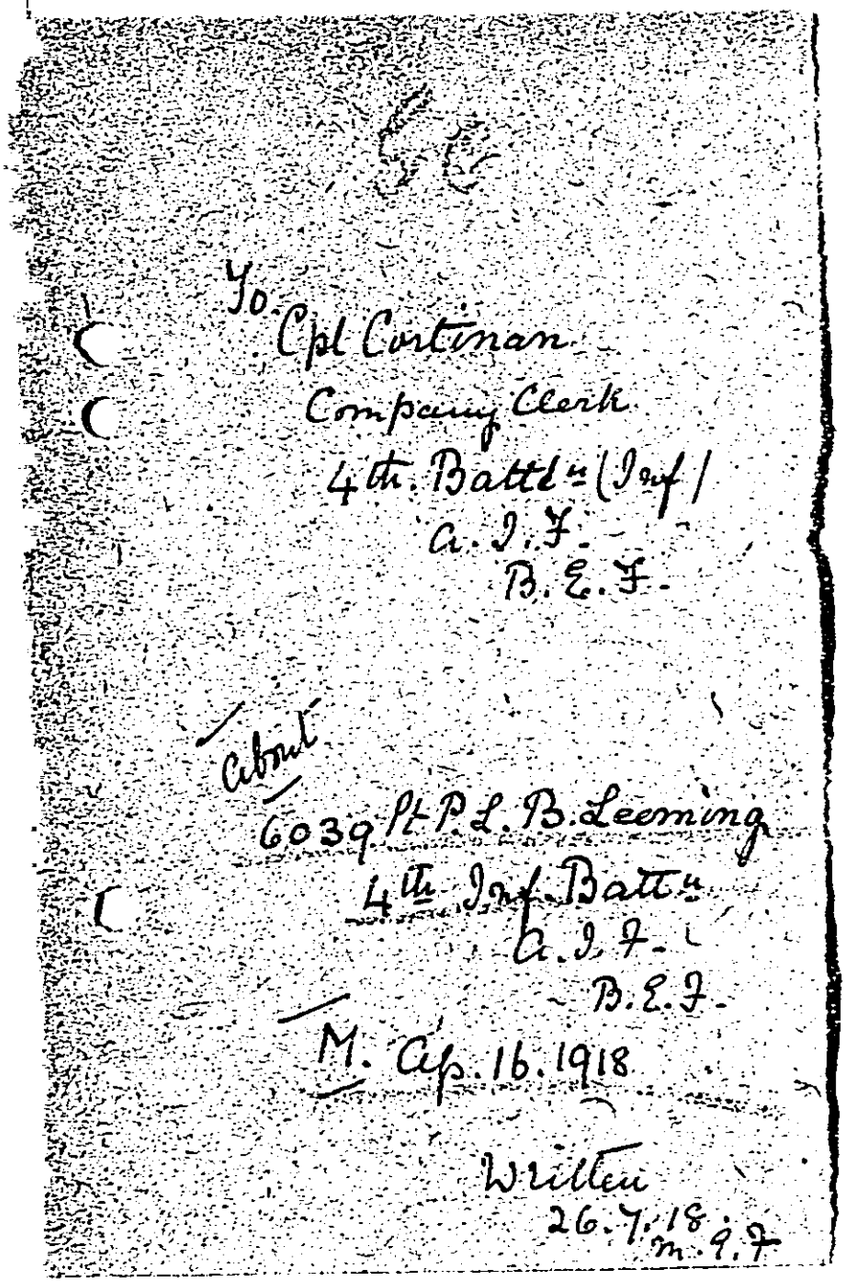
24. 6. 18.
A.I.B.

24. 6. 18

Sgt W. Back
x Pltn. C Coy.
4th Battn. A.I.F.
abroad

abt.
6039
Pte B. P. L. Leeming
4th Battn. A.I.F.
M. 16. 4. 18.

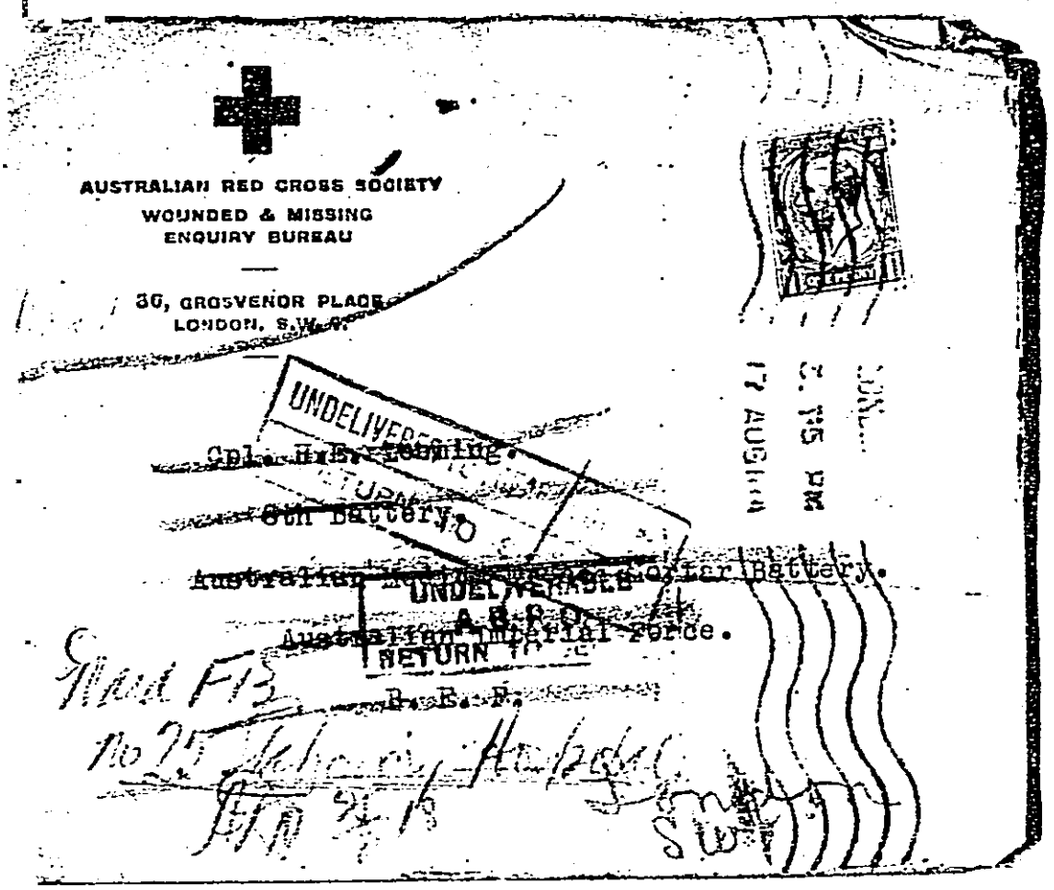
24. 6. 18.
A.I.F.



To
Cpl Cortinan
Company Clerk
4th. Battn (Inf)
A. I. F.
B. E. F.

About
6039 Pt P. L. B. Leeming
4th Inf. Battn
A. I. F.
B. E. F.
M. Ap. 16. 1918

Written
26. 7. 18
m. 9. 7



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU

36, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W.1.

UNDELIVERABLE
RETURN TO

Cpl. H.E. Leeming.

8th Battery.

Australian [illegible] Mortar Battery.

UNDELIVERABLE
A.B.P.O.
RETURN TO

Australian Imperial Force.

B.E.F.

Ward F13
No 25 [illegible]
[illegible]

17 AUG 1914
3.15 PM

4th. AUSTRALIAN INFA NTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
27/8/18.

The Secretary,
Aust. Red Cross Society,
36 Grosvenor Place,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

6039 Pte P L Leeming
4 Bn
M 15-4-18

No.6039 Pte. P.L.LEEMING, 4th. Bn.

The report that official information has been received of the above named "missing" man being a prisoner in German hands is incorrect. He is still shown as "missing" in the Battalion records.

A. McKenzie ...Capt. & Adjt
4th. Australian Infantry Battalion.

426 Sergt: G.Y. Watson
(Late 13th Machine Gun Cy.)
H. Records. 7.11-18.
Australian Head Quarters
130 Horseferry Road S.W.1. Files

Cpl: H. T. Leeming
Australian Trench Mortar Battery
No 4 Redlands Hospital
Reading

Dear Sir In further reference to your enquiry for 6039 Pte: T. L. B. ~~Leeming~~ (Leeming) 4th Batt: A.I.F. we beg to inform you that we have received an ~~a~~ unofficial report from 3786 Pte: A.M. House of the same unit interviewed at ~~No 4~~ No 3 Australian General Hospital - B.E.F.

He stated that Leeming
a married man from Tunchbowl
New South Wales was with him
during an ~~advance~~ attack at
Strazeele about 7.30 to 8 P.M.
on 16-4-18 - & when they
had to retire, ~~The Leeming~~
~~The Hughes both being wounded~~
~~were unable~~ they were unable
to get either The Leeming or
The Hughes away as they
were badly wounded, as soon
as it was dark the Germans
were seen to return to the
trench where they were —
As it is now so many
months since the casualty
occurred we fear there is
little hope of ~~the~~ his proving to
be a prisoner

We are now closing our
enquiries as we feel we
are unlikely to obtain any
further particulars, however, should
we ~~receive any~~ do so other detail
we will advise you —
with sincere sympathy

6039
P.L. Leeming
4 Bn

M. 16.4.16 Reading
S
P.1.4 9. 11 15

Australian Red Cross Society

"Your Memo of 7th inst. to hand in reference to enquiries for my brother 6039 Pte. P.L. Leeming 4 Bttn there does not appear to be much hope of him being alive and I wish to thank you for your kindness in making the enquiries on my behalf. While in Paris a few months ago a Corporal of the 4th Bn told me that another man of the 4th Bn saw my brother being taken prisoner by the Hun. That he was wounded but later on when I received a letter from him he did not confirm it.

statement. I think if he had been
alive I should have heard from him
also this.

Again thanking you for your very
great kindness

believe me

Yours Sincerely

A. E. Fleming

EASTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL
RECEIVED
30 JAN 1917

29. 1. 17

The Secretary
A. D. H.
54 Victoria St.
S. W.

Reference attached,
6039 Pte. Leeming is
suffering from G. S. W. Back
& is progressing satisfactorily

W. Bruce Steele
Capt. & Registrar

ack. 1. C. 6/7/18

6039 P.L.B. Leeming X L/cpl. 6283 J. Adolph Kearins (Land) Amtt Francs

4th Battn 4th Battn

M 16-4-18 S Pl 5 M 16-4-18 30. 6. 18

W M Pl 5

The Secretary

Enquiry Bureau

Aust. Red Cross.

X 1943 L/cpl A. Evershed

4th Battn

M 16-4-18

Madam!

W M Pl 5

In reply

to your enquiry of 24-6-18 - I regret to say that I cannot give you a great deal of information concerning (them) Re Pte. Leeming, + LCpl Kearins & LCpl Evershed. Perhaps this little I do know may be of some use to you. I made urgent enquiries from boys who were actually with these boys at the time. Pte Leeming was wounded and when the men had to withdraw from position he was left in Enemies trenches. LCpl Evershed had a similar fate. Probably they are prisoners of War. As for LCpl Kearins he was killed before reaching the enemies lines. Pte Hafey. J. (Jim Sam Pat) supplied this information & says he saw him lying dead. Trusting this little information may be of use to you

Yours Sincerely

W. E. Back. 2 Lieut

4th Battn

+ Slip

AMtt

426 Sgt. G.J. Watson,
late 14th Machine Gun Coy,
A.I.F., H. Records,
A.I.F. Headquarters,
130, Horseferry Road,
S.W. 1.

July 6th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting -

6039 Pte. P.L.B.LEEMING, 4th Battalion, A.I.F.

from 6998 Pte.H.Hall at a camp in France who states that he saw Pte. Leeming and Cpl.Kearins in the German first line, between Strazeele and Morris on the afternoon of(Oct.)16th, when they were all right. The Battalion retired from the position about midnight, and the enemy occupied it, the dead and wounds had to be left. When the roll was called Pte. Leeming and Cpl. Kearins were missing.

We are continuing our enquiry and will forward you any information we obtain.

Regretting that this report is so indefinite.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS)

SECRETARY.

F. Sr. G.

July 16th, 1918.

426 Sgt.C.J.Watson,
H.Records, A.I.F. H/Qs,
130, Horseferry Road, S.W. 1.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for -

6039 Pte.P.L.LEEMING, 4th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of unofficial evidence we have received about him.

2/Lieut. W.P. Peck of the same unit wrote from France and stated that he had made urgent enquiries as to the fate of Pte. Leeming from men who were with him at the time, but unfortunately the only information he could acquire was that Pte. Leeming was wounded and when the men had to withdraw from the position, he was left in the enemy trenches.

L/Cpl. T.J. Emerson confirms this report and states that Pte. Leeming was badly wounded. He received his information from Pte. Bright who is now in hospital in England and to whom we have written, as soon as we receive his reply we will advise you as we have not yet received any report of Pte. Leeming having been taken prisoner, we fear there is very little hope of this being the case, but we are continuing our enquiries and will communicate with you as soon as any further information reaches us.

With our sincere sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS)

SECRETARY.

per M.R.

August 15th, 1918.

The O.C.
4th Infantry Battalion.
Australian Imperial Force.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir.

We have recently received unofficial evidence to the effect that -

6039 Pte. P.L.[illegible] of your unit who has been missing since 16-4-18 has been officially reported in the Battalion as a Prisoner of War in Germany. There is no official confirmation of this at A.I.F. Headquarters and we should be glad if you would inform us as to its accuracy. If you have heard from him will you kindly send us his address in Germany so that we may immediately forward parcels of food and clothing.

With apologies for troubling you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

L.A.W.

August 17th, 1918.

Cpl. H.E. Leeming.
8th Battery.
Australian Medium Trench Mortar Battery.
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your enquiry for -

6039 Pte.P.L.LEEMING. 4th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of unofficial evidence which we have received about him from men in the same unit.

From them we learn that Pte. Leeming took place part in an attack on the German trenches between Straseele and Merris on 16-4-18 and that when they had to retire he was left behind - wounded. No 10 and 12 Platoons attacked, the former reaching its objective and the latter failing to do so - was accordingly forced to retire to straighten the line and he was unable to come back with them as he had been wounded. The Germans reoccupied the ground and there is a suggestion that he may be a prisoner of war. We feel that were this so Pte. Leeming would have advised some one of his capture for four months have passed since his casualty occurred.

We are continuing our enquiries however and as soon as further information is received we shall advise you as we fully realise how anxious you must be.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) [illegible].

Secretary.

Head

France

9. 8. 18

To

Australian Red Cross.

Ack. 16.8.18

I would esteem it a favor if you could give me any further tidings of No 6039 Private P. A. Leeming 6. Coy. 4th Bn N.S.W. He was reported missing on 16th April last.

Would you please reply to 1793 Cpl. A. E. Leeming 5th Bty Aust. Medium French Motors 4th Aust. Div France. By doing so you will oblige

Yours Sincerely
A. E. Leeming

Leeming
C. H. E

Whereabouts omitted
verify unit.

1793
8th Battery

Letter returned from
unit marked

now Aust. Med: Trench
Mortar Bty.
4th Div: Arty.

25th Staty. Hosp: 25.8.15.
Record in Hospital Index.

39th Gen Hosp Havre. 6.9.18.

Enquiries for. 6039 Pte P.L.B. Leeming 4th Bttn

File in Gen: Corresp: under

LAW.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE
(NEAR VICTORIA STATION).
LONDON, S.W. 1.

August 17th, 1918.

Cpl. H.E. Leeming.
~~8th Battery.~~
Australian Medium Trench Mortar Battery.
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Type again to 3 9th General Hospital B.E.F.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your enquiry for -

6039 Pte.P.L.LEEMING. 4th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of unofficial evidence which we have received about him from men in the same unit.

From them we learn that Pte. Leeming took ~~place~~ part in an attack on the German trenches between Strazeele and Merris on 16-4-18 and that when they had to retire he was left behind - wounded. No 10 and 12 Platoons attacked, the former reaching its objective and the latter failing to do so, - was accordingly forced to retire to straighten the line and he was unable to come back with them as he had been wounded. The Germans reoccupied the ground and there is a suggestion that he may be a prisoner of war. We feel that were this so Pte. Leeming would have advised some one of his capture, for four months have passed since his casualty occurred.

We are continuing our enquiries however and as soon as further information is received we shall advise you as we fully realise how anxious you msut be.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.
(AW)