

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

6802 Corporal
Eric Edmund
Cumming

1st Battalion



0850808T

6802

A.I.P. 1.

K. 2/5.10.17.

CUMMING E.B. 802.

He belonged to XIII Pl. D.Co. and was killed on 6th.Oct. at Broodseinde Ridge, by a sniper - killed outright. He was out over the top at the time. I saw him killed and saw his dead body. I know nothing as to burial. Full details have been sent to his people. He belonged to D.Co.

SA.

Reference: L/Opl.A. Helling. 597A. D.Co.
Verlinothun.

Staples.
6.12.17.

N.B. Name, number and date of casualty checked
from Bn. records.

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A.I.F. CUMMING

RECEIVED AT 10:00 AM
JAN 20 1945

10:00 AM
JAN 20 1945

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11th Dec. 1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS

CUMMING, E.E. 6802

K. 2-5.10.17. Det. D/B.

I knew L/Opl. Eric Cumming of D Co., 13th Pltn, a young short thickset boy, fair, cleanshaven. I was about 20 yards from him in "no mans land" at Broodseinde Ridge on the 4th Oct. 1917. - daylight, when I saw him killed instantly by a shell which exploded close to him. The body was recognizable. We went on and took our objective and held it. I do not know where he was buried.

Informant: Pte. W.J. Franklin, 1034
1st Australians, D Co., 13th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

FIN

S

A. I. F. 1.

CUMMING, E.E. 6802.

E. October 2/8, 1917.

He was in D.XIII and Cpl. Heatley of that platoon saw him killed on October 2nd at Clapham Junction District. Heatley wrote a letter to Cumming's Mother telling her all about it. He let me read the letter.

Written to Cpl. Heatley 4.1.18

PHE.

Reference:- Sgt. E.J.Jagelman. 4102. D.Coy.
Conv. Camp.

Etaples
19.12.17.

S

1st. Battn.
A.I.F.

CUMMING
E.E. 6802.

Killed Oct. 2-5/17.

Cumming was a Cpl. I saw him lying dead at Broodseinde Ridge on October 4/17 just before I was hit. 10 o'clock on 4th. Oct. He had a bullet wound through the head and must have been killed outright.

Inf: Sgt. W.J. King, 1026.
1st. D. Coy.
Hut. 11 Westham.

W.A. Rand.
London
5.1.18.

S.

1st Battrn.
A.I.F.

Cumming.
E.E. 6802

"Killed 2-5.10.17"

Mears.
W. 6534

We were in the same Coy. and same action on Oct. 4th at Broodseinde.
I saw Cumming and Mears lying dead a couple of three yards apart.
I was wounded and came out and can say nothing as to their burial.

Witness:- D. Doran 6494
1st Battrn. D. Coy.
Hut 17 Westham.

W.A. Rand

London.
15.1.18.

S.

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

CUMMING,
E.E. 6802

"Killed 2-5.10.17."

I saw the bodies of Major Price and Cumming, lying close together near Westhoek Ridge. I saw later that Major Price had been buried where I saw their bodies and across erected and I presume that Cumming was also buried there. I do not know for certain, I was in the transports.

Informant:- Pte.P.S.Beasley, 6711,
1st (Transport Coy)
Hut 10,
Westham.

W.A.Rand.

London.
25.2.18

S.

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

CUMMING,
E.E. 6802

"Killed 2-5.10.17."

Cumming, Mears and myself (all D.Coy) were together on Oct 4th 1917, and were knocked together by the same machinegun as we hopped over on that day and gone a few hundred yards, perhaps half way to our objective. This was in Ypres sector but I can't tell the place too well. Cumming and Mears were killed outright. I was wounded and assisted out.

Informant:- C.E. Leverett, 7003,
1st Battn, D.Coy,
Hut 19, Westham.

W.A.Rand.

London
25.2.18.

S.

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

Cumming.
E.E. 6802

"Killed in Action 2.10.17"

Cpl. Cumming was my pal and was with me when he was killed on the morning of the 4th Oct. 1917. I wrote to his mother and gave her all particulars, but if they are of any use to you I am only too glad to give them again. Cpl. Cumming was killed on the morning of the 4th October 1917 between Anzac and Broodseinde Ridges in front of Ypres Flanders. I cannot say for certain if he was buried but as he was lying in a conspicuous place our burial parties would be almost certain to bury him. In that case he would have been buried on the field. He was a short thick set lad 20 years age, but he would have had plenty on him for the burial parties to identify him.

Letter from:- Cadet H.A. Heatley
1st Battn. A.I.F.
Magdalen College.
Oxford. 19.2.18

London.
6.3.18.

S.

A.I.F.

CUMMING
E.E. 6802

"Killed 2/5-10-17"

Refer to L/Cpl. E.G. Heatley, (now at an O.T.C. in England) who was with him at Ypres when he was killed outright by an M.G. bullet in the abdomen. They were in the bombing section of Pltn., 13, D.Coy. I was a stretcher bearer of D.Coy.

Informant. Clifford M.J. 1017

L.P.J.
London
21-3-18

S.

Note:-

We regret the delay in typing the abovereport, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

1st A.I.F.

Cumming. Act.L/C. E.E.
6802. D Coy., 13 Pl.,

K.A. 9-10-17

Dets. D/B.

"I was alongside of A/L/Cpl. E.E. Cummings when he was killed by machine gun fire at the attack on Broodseinde Ridge on the morning of the 4th Oct./17."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Medium build, fairish and inclined to be stout, a good old sport.

Informant: Pte. A.E. Rostron, 3157
1st A.I.F. D Coy. 13 Pl.
Norfolk War Hospital,
Norwich.

Home address:
Lawson,
N.S.Wales.

20/3/18
E.Rice.

Sa
Ba
Luff

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R. 6. 21. 2. 18

6802

E. E. CUMMING

1 BATT

Magdalen Colleg.
Oxford.

19 Feb 18.

To The Secretary K/A 2-10-17 S 3.
H. M. Inquiry Bureau
Australian Branch
B R C S.

Re. Casualty.

6802 Cpl. E. E. Cumming. 1st BATT.
K/A 4. 10. 17.

Dear Miss Beakins,

I am sorry that I could not
give you these particulars before but I did
not receive your letter till today as I am at
present in England & the letter has been following
me about.

Cpl. Cumming was my pal & was
with me when he was killed on the morning
of the 4th Oct 1917. I wrote to his mother &
gave her all particulars, but if they are
of any use to you I am only too glad to
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but as he was lying in a conspicuous place
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bury him. In that case he would have been
buried in the field.

He was a short thick set lad
20 years of age; but he would have had
plenty on him for the burial parties to
identify him.

Hoping that this information
will be of some use to you

Yours
Gorman

Yours faithfully
H. A. Headley

Capt. H. H. H. 257
1st Bn. A.I.F.
C.E.B. College
Singapore
C. H. H.