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

2757 Private
Murt Capon

45th Battalion

0690106M

45th Battn.
A. I. F.

Capon. M
2757.

"Killed 23.2.17."

This man was killed instantly by a shell at the advance and attack of Bapaume near Gueudecourt on Feb. 23rd, 1917. I was not far from him when he was hit and saw him fall. I went up to him and spoke to him but he did not answer. The upper part of the body was terribly injured and he evidently died almost at once, after being struck. Ground was held. Next day I was wounded and came away so that I do not know where he was buried. He was about 5'4" well built, dark, 28 years. He came from New South Wales with 6th Rfts of 45th Battn.

Witness:-
R. Jordon.2200.
D. Coy. 45th Battn.
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.
27.6.17.

S.

45th A. I. F.,

Capon, Murtough 2757,
B. or D. Coy.,

K. February 23.2.17.

"On the Somme front near Geuedecourt on 23rd of February I was in the same part of the trench as Pte. Capon, about 6 or 7 yards from him. I saw a shell burst close to him and kill him outright. He was not buried at the time and I do not know if he was later. We were reldeved the following morning and left the trenches."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant:-- Pte. Hunt, 4806,
45th A.I.F., A.Coy. 4 Pltn.,
2nd Southern General Hosp:
Naunton, Cheltenham.

Home address:-- Hornsey, David Street,
Sydney.

8.6.17.
F.H.Hall, B.G.

A. I. F. 45. CAPON, 2767.

E. February 23rd, 1917.

I was told by Pte. T. Roach, I. A.Coy. 45 battn. (still there) that he saw Capon get killed at Gueudecourt about the date named. He gave me some details but I forget them. Capon's number is near mine. He came with me in the Ceramic, leaving Melbourne on October 7th.

FTP.

Reference:- N.A. Griffiths. 2642. 45.A.
No. 7 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Staples
9.6.17.

Written Pte Roach 27.6.17

Havre 10th June, 1917.

45th AUSTRALIANS CAPOE, 2757

K. 23.2.17. Det. D/B.

He was killed by the same shell as Whites, but I do not know where he was buried.

Informant: Pte A.J. McCanville, 5144
45th Australians, D Co.,
H. S. Grantully Castle.

RBS.

See report on W.H. Whites under same date.

FRANCE

45th BATT. A.I.F. CAPON. m 2757.

K. Feb 23rd.1917. Det D/B.

He came out with the 6th reinforcements, a young fellow of 25, short, rather fat with a ruddy complexion, dark hair and blue eyes. He was killed by a shell in the front line at Gueudecourt. It nearly cut him in half. I was in the trench at the time and close by and saw him. He lived only a short time after and we could do nothing for him.

WSI

Ref ---Pte W.Bottomley. 2618. L.Gunner.
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. June 15th.1917

45th A. I. F.

Capon, M. Pte 2757, (K. Feb 23/17)
Lussick, W.L. 1954 (K. Jan 19/17)

"We made a raid on the German lines and it was after the raid Capon got killed. I was not far off and saw him hit by a shell and killed instantaneously, this was at Gueudecourt Wood, he was buried behind the trenches by two of my mates in the same company named Teddy Roach and Dan O'Connell (he was short and stout)."
(Lussick). "I was in the same line when Lussick was wounded and stretcher bearers were carrying him off when he was hit again and killed instantly, he was buried in the 47th Batt. Cemetery. I saw his grave, he ~~was buried in the 47th Batt cemeter~~ had a cross with name etc., he was temporarily attached to the 47th in that action as I was, he was originally Sgt, but when with the 47th he was acting L/Cpl. He was tall and fair."

Eye-witness:
Description:

Informant: Pte E. Stickney, 2722,
45th A. I. F.,
Horton County of London War Hosp.,
Epsom.

Home address:

15.6.17. H.Q.
Brendwood.

45th Battn
A.I.F.

Capon M. 2757

"Killed in Action 23.2.17."

Re 2757 Pte. M. Capon. Well I knew Mac! that personally coming from Australia in the same Troopship and we were two ifrom the 45th detailed for one fatigue all the way over. So you can rest assured that the few facts I can let you have are "dinkum" He was blown up on his post on the 23.2.17. and killd instantly. His body was put over the parados and was subsequently buried there with two more of our boys. About the 30th of March I went up to have a look at the old trench in front of Guedecourt and saw the graves but as there are only a rifle and steel helmet at each grave, it is impossible to say which is his. In any case the locality could not be found. But there is not the slightest or rath er the least doubt but that he is buried in the field. I wrote to his people in March somettime but if it had no more luck than my private correspondence it did not reach its destination.

Letter from:-
Pte. T. Roche.
France. 25.7.17.

Longway.

S P.I.

45th Battn.
A.I.F.

Capon.
Pte.M. 2757

"KILLED IN ACTION 23.2.17"

I knew Pte.Capon personally. He was a very decent chap and came from Balmain. He suffered from very bad feet. He was at his post in the trench. They wanted him to go up to another post, but he said no, he would stay there as his feet were too bad. A shell came over and killed him instantly. It was on the Somme in front of Gueudecourt, some time in the afternoon.

Informant:- Pte.O'Connell 2776
45th Battn.
No.4 Aust.Gen.Hpl.
Randwick.

H.S.N.
21.9.17.
London.
2.1.18.

P.I.
S.

45th Battalion. CAPON, W. Pte

2757

Killed in Action 23/2/17.

Informant Hunt states he saw Capon killed at Guedecourt on February 23rd 1917. He was killed about 7 p.m. while in the front line by a High Explosive shell which exploded in the trench. Several other men were killed by the same shell.

Informant Connolly states he and Capon were together on the same post in the trench. Word was sent for a man to go to another post. Connolly then went and a few minutes afterwards Capon was killed, Capon was thickset fair medium height, clean shaven.

Informants: Hunt, J. Pte 4806
45th Battn. A.Co.
Connolly, P. Pte 1899
45th Battn. D.Co.

C.E.W.
7.1.18.

No.4 Australian General Hospital, RANDW.

45th Battalion A.I.F. CAPON Pte. H. No. 2757

Killed 23/2/17.

Informant described Capon as about 5 ft. 6 inches high, stout, ruddy complexion, aged about 28/30 years.

Informant states that on 23/2/17, the Battalion was holding the line at Fleurs. He and Capon were not in the same Company. There was a barrage on and while Informant and others were passing on their way to a sap, to relieve a gun crew, that had been knocked out, he saw a shell come over and instantly kill Capon, who was in supports. This occurred about one o'clock in the afternoon.

Informant:-- Private W.H.Bottenley, No. 2618,
45th Battalion, C. Company, Sec. No. II
No. 21 Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
George's Heights, SYDNEY.

Home address:-- Bega, N.S.W.

W.E.G.
13/2/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Active Copy

Aek
FM.6.8.17

In the field.
25-7-17.

To the Secretary,
A.I.F. Missing E.B.

Your enquiries re. No 2757 Pte M. Capon. Well I knew him very intimately coming from Australia in the same transport and we were two from the 45th detained on one fatigue all the way over. So you can rest assured that the few facts I can let you have are "dinkum". He was blown up on his post on the 23.2.17 and killed instantly. His body was left over the parados and was subsequently buried there with two more of our boys. About the 20th of March, I went up to have a look at the old trench in front of Bullecourt and save the graves but as there are only a rifle & steel helmet at each grave, it is impossible to say which is his. In any case, the bodies could not be found. But there is not the slightest doubt but that he is buried in the field. I wrote to his people in March some time but if had no more luck than my private correspondence, it did not reach its destination, meaning that this meagre information will see the case I remain,

Yours etc.
R. T. Roche

2757. M. CAPON
45 Batt.

August 7th. 1917.

Pte. T. Roche,
45th. Battn. A.I F.
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Roche,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

2757 Pte. H.Capon, 45th. Battn. A I.F.

The clear and detailed information you have given will be of great assistance to us and of value to our enquirers who will be comforted to learn through you that death was instantaneous.

We were very pleased to hear that you had written to his people and trust that they received your letter. In any case we shall forward by two successive mails the information extracted from your letter to our Sydney Bureau who will distribute it to the relatives, so that should your letter by chance not have reached them, they will receive the information through our slips.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary