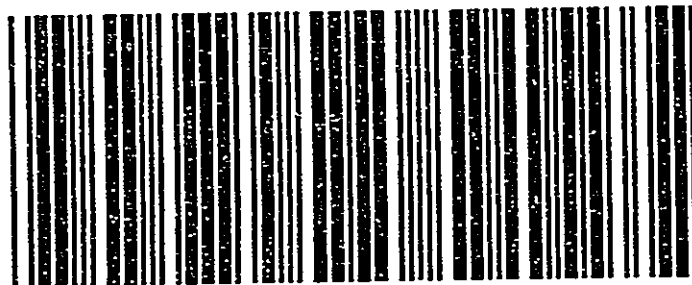


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

71 Company Sergeant
Major
Francis Fabian Coman

25th Battalion



07803060

25th Batta.
A.I.F.

Goman.
P.F. 71

(Francis Talbot?)
Jones.
2/Lieut. F.

"Killed 9.10.17"

Capt. Bond 25th C. Coy. and S/M Goman were killed outright and Lieut. Jones wounded by the same shell up about Zonnebake way while sitting together in the reserved to the 5th Bde. I heard this and that there was not enough of Capt. Bond to be buried, but I did not hear whether Lieut. Jones or Goman were buried or not.

Informant:—

A.F. Call 4993

25th Batta. Hqs. Runner.

Hut 21 Westham.

W.A. Rand

London.

19.2.18.

M.

25th Battn.
A.I.F.

COMAN,
F.N. 71

"Killed 9.10.17."

(*James Talbot*)

He was C Coy, Sgt Maj. Refer to Sgt. McGregor, C. Coy, who was close to him at the time in supports at Daisy Wood at 1 a.m. 10th Oct. and who saw his remains. I was about 50 yards away. I knew him well. The same shell killed Cpt. Bond and Lt. Jones C. Coy.

Informant:- Sgt. E.W. Horn, 5682,
25th Battn,
Dartford.

L.P.J.

London.

26.2.18.

NOTE Written Sgt. McGregor 25.2.18.

M.

25th Battn.
A.I.F.

COMAN
F.F. 71

(Francis Fabian)

"Killed 9.10.17."

If this is Sgt Mr. Conan C. Coy, he was killed outright by a shell about midday just over Zonnebeke Ridge in supports in a trench. I saw him hit but can't say as to burial. I left a couple of hours after.

Informant:- W.J. Walter, 6450,
25th Battn, C. Coy,
Hut 9,
Westham.

W.A. Rand.

London.
1.3.18.

NOTE 71. D/S/M. F.F. Coman, H.Q. 15.1.18. M.

25th Batta.
A.I.F.

Comdn.
C/S/M. F.F. 71

"Killed in Action 9.10.18"

(Francis Fabian)

re 71 Pte. F.F. Ceman. I may say that we had an H.C.O. in this Batta.
Sgt. Major Coman F.F. was killed on the 9.10.17. He was a tall, very
fair man who walked with a springy walk. He was in England at the
7th Training Batta. for some months last year and rejoined the 25th
Batta. about Sept. 1917. I was in his Coy. when he was killed. Soon
after he was killed we had to move out and unfortunately we did not
have time to bury him as we would have liked to, and I cannot say
when or where he was buried.

Letter from:- Sgt W.H. McGregor
C. Coy.

25th Batta.

France 2.3.18.

London.

22.3.18.

M.

A.I.F. 25.

E. 9.10.17.

COMAN F. P. 72.

(Francis Fabian)

S. Copies

Coman was CSM. in my Co. (C). On 8th Oct. the En. were up in supports at Broodseinde Ridge, Passchendaele. At about 8.30 p.m. I was about 10 yards from Coman, who was with Capt. Bond and Lt. Jones, when a shell fell near them. I went to the spot and found parts of Capt. Bond's body and Lt. Jones badly wounded and Coman dead. I cannot say what became of his body as we came out of that position about half an hour afterwards.

Reference: Sgt. W. Peters. 2190.
L.G. School.

~~49.~~
49.
Estayles.
22.3.18.
M.

Harve.

25th. March. 1918. ✓ C

25th. Australians.

(Francis Fabian)
Cowan, F. F. No. 71. K. Oct. 9/17.
Jones, 2/Lieut. F. D/W. Oct. 10/17.
Dets. D/S.

I knew Cowan slightly. I had seen him at the Somme and again just before the hop-over at Bordsseinde. He was medium height, slight, and about 30. I knew 2/Lieut. Jones since December 1916; he was short, stumpy, reddish face, ginger hair, about 20, was in a Machinery Firm in Brisbane, Queensland, played good football, and was in the Battalion team. On the 9th. October the Battalion was at Bordsseinde Ridge and holding the line. Lieut. Jones, Captain Bond, F. F. Cowan, were at Company H. Q. when a shell fell and knocked out the three. I saw it happen. Captain Bond and Cowan were killed instantly. Lieut. Jones died the following day. His right leg was very badly smashed.

Inf:- Sergeant. G. Thompson. No. 2A.
25th. Australians.
B. Company. 9th. Platoon.
Australian Camp.
Eouelles. M

PH.

A I P. 25.

Coman. G S M F F. 71.

8 Oct. 9/17. Det. D/B.

(Francis Fabian)

I knew Seggt. Maj. Coman; he was a mate of mine and came from Melbourne. He was fairly tall, fair with blue eyes. Probably worked at Mackay North Queensland. GSN Parry of B Co 25th Batt would give all particulars of how he died and where he is buried.

Inf:- Gordon, J B. Serg. 373.

A T 'V de Liege'

Calais. 3 5 18 SAA.

M Ca
20/11

25th Bn.

COMAN. P. P.
C.S.M. 71. (Haines alias)

K. in cot. 9/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man, well built, about 5 ft. 11 ins. fair complexion, about 27 years of age, known as "Frank". He left Australia with the 25th Bn. on the troopship "Aeneas". Casualty was in the advance at Passchendaele when an H.E. shell landed alongside killing him instantly and two others. He was last seen on the field as we advanced. I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Lieut. A. L. Lilburne,
25th Bn.

Private address:-
Ebanet Street,
Malvern.

111 cd staff

H.A.T.
14/3/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

A.I.P. 25th Stn.

COMAN(HQ)
COMP

C/S/M.

Francis Babian 71

"K/A. 9-10-17"

NO trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

London
17-10-19

M

11.3.18

71 C/S/M/ F. F. COMAN

25th Batt

K/A 9-10-17

France

2/3/18

To

The Secretary.

Australian Red Cross Society.

(Wounded & Missing Inquiry Bureau)

In reply to your inquiry concerning
71. PTE F. F. COMAN. 25th Batt. killed in
action on 9-10-17, I may say that we
had an S.B.C. in this Batt. 70. Company
Sgt Major Coman. He was killed
on the 9-10-17. He was a tall, very fair
man who walked with a springy walk.
He was in England at the 7th Training Batt.
for some months last year, & rejoined the
25th Batt. about Sept 1917.

I was in his Coy when he was killed,
Soon after he was killed we had to move
out & unfortunately we did not have
time to bury him as we would have liked
to, & I cannot say when or where he was
buried.

Hoping this information will be of use,

I remain

Yours faithfully

W. A. McGregor, Sgt

C. Coy.

25th Batt.