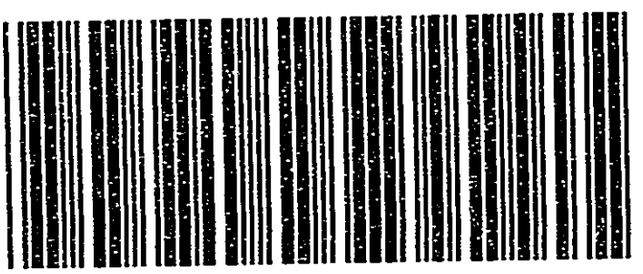
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2902 Private Clarence George Coggan

30th Battalion



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2902
Clarence George Coggan
30 Batt
France
2nd Aug. 1918 KMA 10-10-17

To Secretary, Enquiry
Bureau, Australian Red Cross
Grosvenor Place, London.

Your letter re. Pte. Coggan
No. 2902 reached me yesterday.

I can inform you in reply he was killed in action on 10th Oct. 1917 at Zonnebeke, Belgium. I myself helped to bury him. He was laid to rest in the field as circumstances rendered it impossible to get his body to a Soldiers' Cemetery, as was also two of his comrades. He was a short, sturdy built chap, his initial was C. but I'm not sure of his other initial. A very substantial Cross - suitably inscribed was erected to his memory, and mark his last resting place.

Faithfully yours
E. Daly Lcpl. 3794
A. Coy. 30th Batt. A.I.F.
France.

N.W.

30th Battalion.
6 Reinfts.

COGGAN, C.G. Pte. 2902.

"Killed in Action, 10/10/17."

I knew Coggan, he was a 6th Reinforcement. He was fair, short, and muggetty; he was nicknamed "Snowy", and was with me in "A" Co. He was on the post with about 12 others, the next post to ours, in October 1917, up at Passchendaele, when a shell lobbed in the post, and wounded or killed the whole of them. I and others were detailed to carry them out, and I took Coggan out to the Dressing Station, he had died in the trench before he was taken back. He was buried at the Dressing Station I was in the Post when Coggan died, he was wounded internally, but seemed quite cheerful, and spoke to us, but when we returned he was dead.

Informant - Private J.Hough, No.2657, M.M.
30th Battalion, "A" Co., 2nd pltn

Private Address - 6 Campbell St.,
Balmain.

H.S.O.
Victoria Barracks,
Sydney.
25/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.
30th Battalion
6th Rfts.

COGGAN, Private
C.C. No. 2902

"Killed 10/10/1917".

Coggan and I met first at Liverpool Camp. Coggan left in the 6th Reinforcements on the "Nestor". I went away on the "Hororata". I met him again in England and later on in France. He was short and nuggety, fair and was married. I think he came from Muswellbrook or from that district, or somewhere nearby. I knew him very well. The Battalion was holding a line of trenches on Broadsainde Ridge on or about the 10th October 1917. I was about 10 yards from him, when I saw a shell burst. He was badly wounded. He died about four hours after he was wounded. I saw him after he died and helped to bury him near the trench. I saw a cross sent out for his grave, but I did not see it put up.

Informant;- No. 3315, Shepherd, H.M. (Stretcher-bearer)
30th Battalion "A" Company.
Private address;- Araluen Road,
BRAIDWOOD. N.S.W.

W.C.W.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.
6/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.
30th BATTALION.
6th Bde.

COGGAN - Pte. C.C.
No. 2902.

"Killed 10.10.17."

Coggan was originally a handyman in England. I first met him in France about March 1917. He was in No. 4 Platoon, A. Company, with me. I knew him well. He was short, thick set, about 5 ft 6 inches in height, neither dark nor fair. On the 10th October 1917 we were holding a line of trenches on Bradseinde Ridge. I was about 15 yards from Coggan. A shell burst in the trench. I saw Coggan hit and saw him fall. I helped to bury him where he fell. The shell killed him outright.

Informant: Private L.J. Wake, No. 3655.
A. Company, 30th Battalion.

V.C.W.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
17.3.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

30th. Battn. A. I. F.

Coggan, C. G. Pte. No. 2902.

No. 4. Platoon. A. Company.

Killed. Oct. 10th. 1917. Det. D/B.

I saw him killed by a shell whilst we were in the front line at Zonnebeke. I helped to bury him near where he fell. A temporary cross was erected bearing all particulars. I knew him well, came over from Australia in the same reinforcements , the 5th. of the 30th. Battn. I could not say where he came from.

Description. Age. 23. Height. 5-4. Nuggety Build. Complexion. Dark.

Witness. Pte. O'Brien, H. No. 2713. A. Company. 30th. Battalion.

Taken at.
No. 3. C. D. Hurdcott.
24. 7. 18.
S. W.

S. Whitmee,
No. 4. Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

30th Battn.
A.I.F.

COGGAN.
Clarence George. 2902.

"Killed in Action 10-10-17"

Re Pte Coggan. No 2902. I can inform you in reply he was killed in action on 10th Oct 1917 at Zonnebeke, Belgium. I myself helped to bury him. He was laid to rest in the field as circumstances rendered it impossible to get his body to a soldiers' cemetery as he was also two of his comrades. He was a short, sturdy built chap, his initial was C. but I'm not sure of his other initial. A very substantial cross suitably inscribed was erected to his memory and marked his last resting place.

Letter from:- E.Daly.L/Cpl.2784.
A.Co. 30th Battn. A.I.E.
FRANCE.

London.
12-8-18.
H.W.

S.

30th Battn.
A.I.F.

G. COGGAN.
C.Z. 2902.

"Killed 10-10-17"

At Passchendaele I saw him wounded just outside the trenches in No Man's Land - he had his legs blown off. I was told he died, I ~~am~~ no did not see his grave but was told he was buried where he fell.

Informant:- Mike. 2186.
D.P.Dickson. W.33.HAREFIELD.
London.
~~10-7~~-18.
N.J.

S.

30th Battn. A.I.F.

COGGAN.
C.E. 2902 Pte.

"Killed 10.10.17"

"Saw a Cross, made by the Battn. Pioneers, for Coggan's grave. The Sgt. Major who shewed me the Cross is now dead. I do not know where the grave is except that it is somewhere on the Anzac Ridge, Ypres Sector. Capt. J.C.Richard in command of A.Coy. would tell the exact location.

Capt. Richard is now on leave in England, he comes from Sydney.

Coggan was buried in a trench by a shell with seven others, only these were got out alive, but the bodies of the rest were recovered. Pte. Daley was one of the three dug out alive he told me about it. The date given is correct.

Eye-Witness:- No. told by Pte Daley A Coy. H2 30/9.1.5
Description;- Short stout, married man, medium colouring, came from Invesall, N.S.W. Was for a long time in the Band of a training Battn. at Hurdcott, Camp. known as "Bobby"
Home Addres. Sydney, N.S.W.

NOTE. Inf. Alfred B. Crew. 4014. Pte. S.
Written Daley. 26.7.18. 30th Battn. A.I.F.
Fulham Mil. War J.2.
Intelligent.

M.L.Macmorran,
London, 26.7.18.
J.S.C.

30th Battalion.
6th Refcts.

COGGAN, C.G. Pte. No.2902.

Killed, 10-10-17.

A few days after we had advanced at the battle of Passchendaele, Coggan and I were in an advanced post. A German shell fell right into the ~~pank~~ trench, and killed Coggan and wounded myself. I do not know where he is buried.

Informant - R.Sneddon, No.3025.

Home address - Edward Street,
Kogarah.

J.V.M.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.

11/6/18.

30th Battalion A.I.F.

COGGAN C. G. Pte.
No. 2902.

6th R.

"Killed 10/10/17"

I went away with Coggan in the s.s. Nestor on 9th April, 1916 He stood about 5ft 5in, was stout, weighing 10 or 11 stone. He was a bandsman in England before he went over to France. He joined us in France in February, 1917. On the 10th October 1917 we were holding the line at Celtic Wood, Zonnebeke. Coggan was near me, only one man between us. I saw him wounded. A shell hit him and wounded him badly. I heard afterwards on the same day that he had died. Sgt Elms told me this, and I heard Sgt. Elms report his death to Lieut. Brewster. He was a good chap.

Informant:- R. H. Smith, 3014 Lance/Cpl. 30th Batt. A.I.F.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

Home address:
Sunny Corner,
Brook Street,
COOGEE.

27/6/18.
P.B.W.

SYDNEY BUREAU.