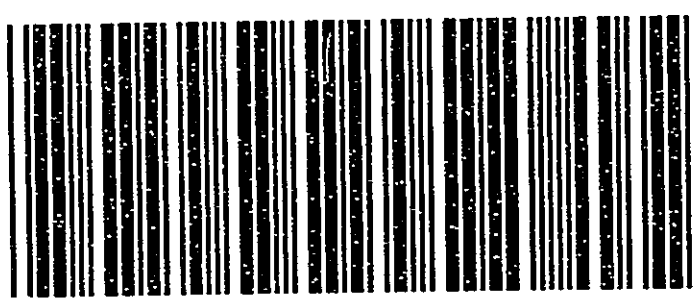
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

47 Corporal
James Copland

36th Heavy Artillery Group



0800803J

A.I.F. A.F.A.
Siege Bgde. 36 Etty.

COPLAND,J. 47.

K. November 10th, 1916.

He was a bombdr.and belonged to the 54th Siege Battery. He was very badly wounded by a premature burst at Centalmaison on November 10th. I was away at the time at H.Q. but heard all about it 2 hours later. I heard subsequently he dies of his wounds. Q.M.Williams,54 Battery, 36 Bgde, Anst.Art.,was present at the time of the casualty and could supply all details.

References- Gnr. W.Mason, 149,
H.Q. 54th Battery,
36th Bgde, A.F.A.
No.51 Gen.Hosp.

Etaples.
29.3.17.
SA.

wrote Q.M. Williams
4.4.17

A.I.F. Siege Bgde. 36. Batty. 55.

COPLAND
Gnr. ~~Sgt~~.J. No. 47.

KILLED Nov.10.16.

This man was killed by a wound from a high explosive shell fired which burst prematurely about 2 ft. from the muzzle of a gun which was being ~~fitted~~ at the enemy from one of our Batteries. Copland and I were working together at No. 55 Battery. I was near him when he fell and helped to bring him in. He was killed outright. He was buried near where he fell at the Military Cemetery, Contlemaison. I was not at his burial as it was not possible for me to get away, but I saw the funeral pass by with the band at its head. I was told by the burial party where they laid him. We were in full action at the time of accident.

Ref. R.Hutchinson, 515.
55 Bty. A.Siege Bgde.
Perham Downs Camp.
23.3.17.

A.R.Mc.Phee
LONDON.
2.4.17.

S.

36th Seige Brigade A. I. F.,

Copland, Gnr. J., 47,

K. Nov. 10th, 1916. Det: D & B.

"At Contalmaison on Nov. 10th, 1916 J. Copland was in charge of No. 2 gun when a shell prematurely exploded and killed him. He was buried at Contalmaison Cemetery and a Presbyterian Padre officiating. I saw a cross put up on his grave."

Eye Witness: Yes.
Description: Medium height and stoutly built, known as Jack.

Informant:-- Cpl. E. McFee, 58,
36th Seige Bgde: A. I. F.,
Kitchener Hosp:
Brighton.
Sussex.

Home address:-- Reubrew, Blanfield,
Victoria, Australia.

4.4.17.
Hargreaves.

FRANCE

A.F.A. 36 Siege Bde. COPLAND. Gunner J.47

K. Nov 10th.1916. Det D/B.

He was killed by a premature shell and died going down to the dressing-station at Pozieres Chalk Pits.

He was buried in the British Cemetery at Contalmaison.

WSI

Ref ---Pte R.Knight. 231.
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. April 12th.1917.

Sent 6d
S
1 copy for Sydney

Siege Brigade 36
A.Fld Arty.

COPLAND
Bombr J 47

"Killed Nov.10/16"

I saw this man killed by the premature explosion of one of our own shells. The fatality occurred on Nov.10th 16. at Contalmaison on the Somme near Pozieres. He was killed instantly on the gun platform. He was buried with full Military honours several officers being present, at the Military cemetery, right in the Village. I was present with the band at his burial. We played a sacred selection at the Service We were preparing for an attack and were cutting barbed wire in No Man's Land. Ground was held. Copland was known as "Jock" he was of heavy build, fair about 35 years, 5.9 a Scot. enlisted in Sydney.

Reference:- E.H. Nickson 119
36 Sge Bade A.F.A.
Perham Downs Camp,
14.4.17.

London
19.4.17.
A.R.McPhee

S.

Siege Brigade A. I. F. COPLAND Gunr J. 47.

" K. Nov.10/16 Det. D & B ".

Witness says soldier was killed by a premature burst from his own gun, at Contalmaison. He was buried in the cemetery at Contalmaison, and a cross erected over the grave, bearing soldier's name, number, and attachment. It is a regular cemetery, and easily found. Knew soldier quite well, and was in the same Brigade.

Description. Hgt 5ftIO. Stout Build. Called "Jock".

Witness. Walton G. 421.
Siege Battery.

April 19th., '17.
S. W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

5

36th Siege Brig.
A.I.F.,

COPLAND
Cpl J 47

"K. in A 10.11.16"

Deceased was a native of Glasgow, Scotland. He served during the South African War as an Orderly in the Scottish Horse, and came to Australia after the War, working amongst sugar cane, North Queensland. He afterwards joined the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery. He left Australia as a Bdr in the Austr. Siege Brigade and arrived in France March 1916. He was killed in action 10.11.16 and buried ~~in the~~ in the Chateau Cemetery at Contalmaison near Albert. His wife, residing at Wetherall Park Syaney. N.S.W. Australia has been informed. Aslo his sister Mary who resides at Fairpast Street, Glasgow. Cpl Copland was a stout man, about 5.9 with square set cheeks, blue eyes and fresh complexion. For Reg. No of Grave please apply to - Officer Commanding, Grave Registration 2nd Echelon, B.E.F.France.

Cert. by letter from C.Williams B.S.M.
France.
26.4.17.

Note: We are applying for grave location.

S.

London
5.5.17.

Siege Artillery Brigade COPLAND Cpl. J. 47
A.I.F.

Killed 10.11.16.

I knew Copland. He was on No. 1 Gun. He took my place for the day on 10th November.

I believe he was married and had one child. I was not present at the time but was informed. He was very well liked, and was called "Old Jock".

Informant:- Sgt. Garland, 54,
Siege Battery, A.I.F.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

H.S.N.
31.5.17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

FM 1357 HY Cpl J. COPLAND France,

KA 10.11.16 36 Siege Bde A.F.A 28-4-17.

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To The Secretary,

In answer to your enquiry re Cpl. J. Copland, I herewith forward the following information:—

" Deceased was a native of Glasgow, Scotland. He served during the S. African war as an Orderly in the Scottish Horse, and came to Australia after the war, working amongst sugar cane, north Queensland. He afterwards joined the Royal Aust. Garrison Artillery. He left Aust. as a Bdr. in the Aust. Siege Brigade and arrived in France, march 1916.

He was killed in Action, 10-11-16, and burried in the Chateau Cemetary at Contalmaison, near Albert.

His wife, residing at Wetherall Park, Sydney N.S.W. Aust., has been informed. Also his sister Mary, who resides at Fairpast Street, Glasgow. Cpl. Copland was a stout man, about 5'9" with square set cheeks, blue eyes and fresh complexion. For Reg. No. of Grave, please apply to — Officer Commanding Grave Registration, 2nd Echelon B.E.F. France."

Trusting that this information will assist you in proving his identity,

Yours Faithfully

C. Williams. B.S.M.

Note - We are applying for grave location -

4th May 1917.

B/S/M C Williams,
54th Battery,
Aust: Fld; Art:
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your letter of April 28th in answer to our enquiry for - 47 Cpl J. Copland, 36th Siege Bgde, A.F.A

The clear and detailed information you have sent will be of great assistance.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary J.W.