Newspaper Clippings regarding Family Members

"Big John" Bell

Obituary Paragraph from the "Geelong Advertiser" for Major John Bell of "Bell Park", Geelong.

"A finer specimen of an English Cavalry Officer was never seen, being of Herculean strength and manly form; indeed the late Dalmahoy Campbell and himself were looked upon as the two most powerful men in the colonies. Many are the stories told of their prowess. It is said of Major Bell that, when in his prime, he could clear a 4 rail fence with a full grown sheep under each arm. The writer of this article has seen him clear 2 bullocks opposite "Mack's Hotel" and can remember seeing a "Striking Machine" in the Great Exhibition of 1851 smashed. This he was told was the work of a gigantic Australian. This Australian he learnt years afterwards was Major John Bell – see Hobart Town "Mercury" of 4.2.1876."

Lewis Bell

Obituary from an unknown newspaper

Death of Mr. Lewis Bell

Another unknown newspaper article included:

"......I first had the pleasure of meeting him on the Burnside estate, near Leigh Road, in 1873, when he was assisting at a meeting at which his uncle, Mr. James Bell of "Woolbrook", ran a red and white dog named Lord Raglan......"

George Bell

Obituary Excerpts from "Lang Syne", Scots College Old Boys' Union December 1970

The Late Dr. George Bell, CBE, MB, ChM, FRACS.

Letters from Click to Anne – from Gallipoli and France

(Letter)

Somewhere in Turkey 15 – 10 – 1915

Dear Ann,

I received your last two letters safely. Aunt Peg's letter was enclosed in one, thanks for the other enclosed ones also. Your parcel with sox, mortein and also the one with chocolate have arrived safely. I saw a fellow who came over with us from Melbourne the other day. He is going to look you up and give you the news: Pte Ashton is his name. I will let you know if I want anything and get him to bring it over. I have enough clothes at present. Will enclose letters from Chris & Jen received since writing you last time.

According to herself, Chris's son must be a chef d'oeuvre. Not much news.

Yr affect brother,

Click Bell

You can send me over that leather wallet I left, by post. It will be handy for keeping letter paper etc. in. You will note that this is a bit of Geo's paper.

27.10.15 Rec. this letter last night, so am sending it on. AB.

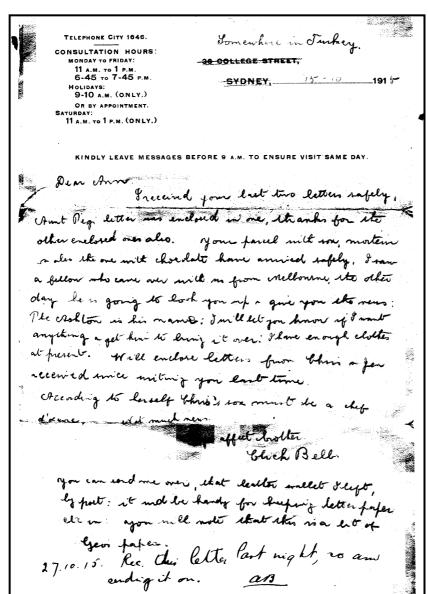


Figure 45: Copy of Click's letter to Anne on George's appointment notepaper

Private Ashton did contact Anne, who wrote on the 21.10.15:

"Pte. Ashton – he had seen Click three days ago, said he was well & putting on weight. Said that a p.c. or letter was much appreciated. Lollies they want. Half bottle of water daily & most of this is needed to keep their eating utensils clean. All very cheerful & they share their gifts. Very glad to get the news."

(Postcard at right)

France

(Note: Could be end of October 1915)

Dear Ann,

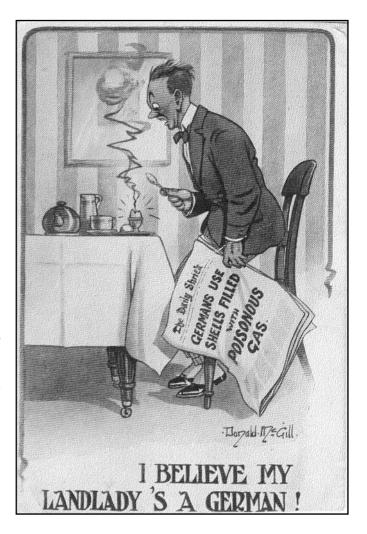
Received your letters and the two parcels two days ago. The last letter I sent you was addressed to the 1 AGH. This card I will addresss to Ismailia.

Glad to hear you were very well; thanks for the sox etc, they were très bonnes.

Most of the letters I haven't had came this mail so should get them regularly now. Haven't seen Leigh. Received the two lots of snaps alright: you can send one set to Grannie and one home excluding the one with the two in front of a tent as they don't know them.

Hope to see you over one of these days.

AAB.



(Letter) *Somewhere in France*

Dear Ann.

I received your letter of 11/5/16 some days ago, and was glad to hear you were well: you must have had a good trip to Cairo. Thanks for the letters. There have been a few Australian letters to 17/5/16, but I haven't received any yet. Saw a fellow who knows where Leigh is camped. This morning he was going to let him know where I was to tell him to come up and see me. They are not very far from here, the drivers ought to be having a pretty good time as I suppose they will only be having their horses to look after at present.

Have had a shift since the last letter I wrote. We have a good room to sleep in on a ground floor. They house has evidently been rather up to date as the old electric light fittings are in it, and the room we occupy has two glass doors with some rather nice embossing on them. Two cupboards and a fireplace on one side, a door in the opposite side, while the other sides each have glass doors. They French seem great on doors into their rooms. It rained a bit last night and is still showery.

W. Stewart ought to be in Egypt by now if he got away alright. What do you think of the Naval engagement in the North Sea?

Am enclosing a photo of the section. It was taken shortly after we arrived in France. Had a letter from Aunt Nell. Alex had left but his destination was unknown.

W. Robertson must have been putting on condition since leaving Australia. There are three or four French kids knocking about here, they are hard cases.

This is about all the news.

Your affect brother AATB

(Letter) France

(Note: Could be May/June/July 1916)

Dear Ann,

I received some letters you had sent me on last night: the postmark was 26/4/16. One of them was from Mother in a later date than I have received from her. There was none from you so I suppose it will be a long today: the maps came: you can send me ½ dozen of the group at the tent with me in it, and also send Grannie one each of any that would interest her. Glad to hear you are well and hope you will be getting a trip to France or England. The country is looking beautiful at present. Everything looks so fresh and green: it rained fairly heavily yesterday. The skylark sings very easily in the morning, also the blackbird. It gets light about 4 a.m. We have been having an easy time the last few days. One of the section has a sister, a nurse, she is in France: her name is Regan. Geo Stewart had been doing well at cricket, last report. They had been drafting at "Alma" – Jen's last letter. Father must have been in a hurry as he passed Jen a fork instead of a plate in a turnover. Haven't heard of Leigh yet.

I think I mentioned cameras are tabooed here. Marseilles is a prettily situated place: there is a beautiful view from the Notre Dame there, the Mediterranean looked so blue the day we saw it.

Helen was to go to "Alma" with Mother. I saw Betty Margaret in a marriage group in a Punch we happened to come across.

Mother is coming on in the motor driving business, next thing she will be driving an ambulance behind the firing line.

Eggs are plentiful here at present, we had poached eggs for dinner today. The estaminet?? had a good supply, owing probably to yesterday being pay day. Coffee seems the main beverage, they grind the beans as they want it, so it is always fresh: last time we were going to trenches we went to purchase some coffee but on asking at the shop, they only had the beans so we borrowed their coffee mill and ground up a lb-, it was très-bon. Wine and beer seem to be drunk a good deal by the French.

This is about all the news Your affect brother Click Bell

(Letter) France

(Note: Must be 30 June, 1916)

Dear Ann,

Thanks for the birthday wishes, they came in as tomorrow is my birthday. I received the book you sent on to me alright, thanks. The sox you mentioned some time ago haven't turned up yet, but I am alright in that line.

Haven't seen Leigh yet, he arrived to see me the day on which we went into the trenches last time, but of course missed me. Since then, I hear he went into hospital but came out the same day as one of our fellows as he told him to tell me where he was billeted. I believe nothing much was wrong with him, as the fellow who saw him said he was alright.

We are having peculiar weather for summer, showers nearly every day. I suppose Geo will get over in time, hope he gets surgical work to do.

Had a p.c. from Will Stewart, he seemed to think he might be over this way some of these days. There must be a small party at "Burnswark" now. James was getting interested in the boat race, according to the last letters. The crops are beginning to ripen now, there doesn't seem a great many men about to harvest them.

I wonder if Alex Thompson has arrived in Egypt yet. Mother ought to be right now that she has got to "Alma". I have just been told there is a big Australian mail in: we got two together when we came out again the other day.

There is not much news so will conclude this epistle.

AATB

Letters of Gratitude to Anne

Canadian Contingent BEF France 26/11/17

Dear Sister,

Just a few lines to thank you for your kind letters also to thank you for your kindness to my boy. I was worried very much when I heard that he was wounded. I hope to be able to come and see him in a day or two. I would have been down before but we have been on the march for a week, I am sure that the boy will appreciate what you have done for him. I don't know what us fellows would do if it were not for such ladies as you leaving your homes to come to this country to take care of us. Again thanking you.

I remain yours sincerely, Peter F. Sargant (??)

From Thomas Gordon
C/O Navy & Army Board Institute
Corriton Camp
Bridge of Allan
Stirling
28/11/17

Dear Sister Bell,

My sister at Gordon House Braemar has written how kind you were to write about my son Pte Geo. Gordon of the 8^{th} Argyle's who was wounded 20^{th} . Accept my grateful thanks for relieving our mind. You are doing a noble work. May God almighty reward you. Two other boys of mine are in France, one 4^{th} Gordons, one 1^{st} Gordons – were both wounded. One back in the ranks again. Another boy John has been over a year at Salonica in ASC, was in hospital 6 weeks with diphtheria. Is better and getting out again. Accept my thanks and the family at home's thanks also.

Ever yours sincerely Thomas Gordon

Notes on Ships and Hospitals Mentioned

HMAT Kyarra

6,953 tons. 14 knots. AUSN Co Ltd London

Requisitioned 6 November 1914 and converted into a hospital ship for the purpose of transporting the 1st and 2nd General Hospitals, 1st and 2nd Stationary Hospitals and 1st Casualty Clearing Station to Egypt. (Something of an abuse of the Geneva Convention.) Departed Fremantle 4 December 1914. Arrived Egypt 13 January 1915. Converted into a transport March 1915. Commonwealth control ended 4 January 1918. Torpedoed and sunk by Oberleutnant Johann Lohs in a UB-57 submarine in the English Channel 26 May 1918 by. Sank within 19 minutes of attack.

HMAT Berrima

11,137 tons. 14 knots. P & O SN Co London Commonwealth control ended 10 October1917

1st Convalescent Depot (1)

Opened 1915 at Mena, Cairo, Egypt. Closed 11 April 1916. Egypt

1st General Hospital (Queensland)

Formed Queensland August 1914. Departed Brisbane Kyarra 21 November 1914. Egypt, Western Front2nd Infectious Diseases Hospital Opened Abassia, Cairo.

Egypt

2nd General Hospital (New South Wales)

Formed New South Wales August 1914. Departed Sydney Kyarra 28 November 1914. Egypt, Western Front

Casualty Clearing Stations

These were small hospitals generally located at a railhead or similar transportation hub in forward areas. Their job was to provide emergency treatment and to move casualties back to the stationary and general hospitals

1st Auxiliary Hospital

Opened 19 January 1915 at Luna Park, Cairo, Egypt. Closed 10 July 1916. Egypt

2nd Auxiliary Hospital

Opened May 1915 at Atelier Building, Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt. Closed 31 March 1916. Egypt

3rd Auxiliary Hospital

Opened 10 June 1915 at the Sporting Club, Cairo, Egypt. Closed 1 July 1916. Egypt

3rd Auxiliary Hospital

Opened 9 October 1916 at Dartford, England by 2nd Stationary Hospital. England

4th Field Ambulance [Fourth Division]

Formed Victoria September 1914. Departed Melbourne Berrima 22 December 1914. Attached to New Zealand and Australian Division January 1915. Attached to New Zealand and Australian Division January 1915 to February 1916. Assigned to Fourth Division February 1916. Egypt, Gallipoli, Western Front

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Official Documents from Australian War Memorial

Roll of Honour

Sgt. Norman McClure

Cpl. Alexander Armstrong Thompson Bell (Click)

Sgt. Alan Bishop

Pte. Arthur Nicholson

Maj. Norman Bullen

Handwritten Particulars for Roll of Honour

Alexander Armstrong Thompson Bell Alan Stephen Bishop Arthur John Fredrick Nicholson Norman John McClure

Honours and Awards

Captain George Bell Sister Annie Bell Head Sister Ida O'Dwyer Matron in Charge Evelyn Conyers Matron Margaret Graham Matron Edith Cornwell

Letters to Annie Bell

Re Mentioned in Despatches Re Termination from A.I.F.



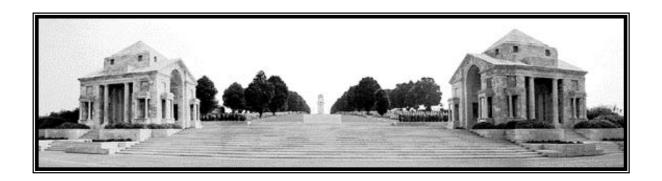


Figure 46: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, where Click's name is engraved.