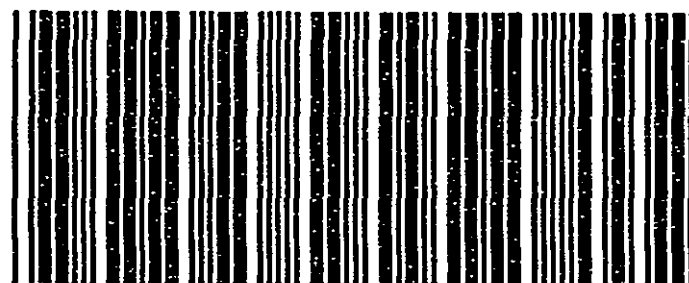


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**3306 Private
Sydney Arnold Bell**

2nd Pioneer Battalion



0330403D

26.7.17
Rear H. FLEER / B. Co

2 Pioneer Batts
AIF
DEF.

For -

3306 S. BELL
Kincraig
2 Batts AIF

M. 5. 5. 17

FM

28.7.17

Hayre

19th July, 1917.

● PIONEER BATTALIONS, AUSTRALIANS.

BELL, S. 3306, 2nd Batt.

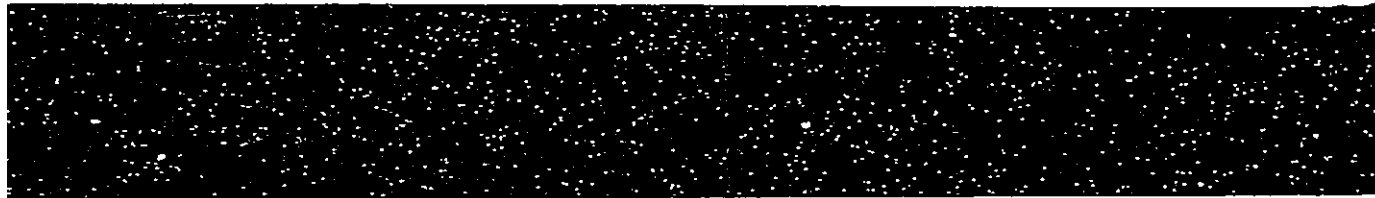
M.5.5.17.

He was in B Co., 6th platoon. Pte. H. Flear of the 2nd Pioneers, B Co., 6th platoon, a runner, told me that as he was coming out from the trenches between Noreuil and Bullecourt on the night of the 5th May, 1917, he was a few yards from Bell when a shell exploded over him, and that they could not find any trace of him after. He said that a Corporal and a Private went out next day, but could not find any trace of him. We were behind our own support lines.

Informant: Pte. J.D. Cavanagh, 2091
2nd Pioneers, B Co., 6th Pltn.,
AUSTRALIANS,
Australian Camp, Ronellas.

Written by Flear 30.7.17

P-1
RDM 8/11-6611



2nd PIONEERS A.I.F.

S. BELL, 3306

Missing 5.5.17.

Bell was in my Plat. (No. 15) D. Coy. and I knew him well, he was a very fine fellow. On the 3rd May we had been carrying bombs over to the front line and he was just in front of me. This was about 10.0 a.m. We returned safely and on our return journey he was again ahead of me going back to the dump. We got so far on our way and rested for a bit in the sunk road at Noreuil. When we were there, he went off in the direction of some cook houses a few yards down the road and when he was there, these cook houses were blown to bits by 3 or 4 shells which dropped on them. He never came back and we all concluded that he had been blown to bits by the same shells that had smashed up the cook houses.

Reference: Pte. H. Morrow, 2403, 15 Pl. D. Coy.

No. 9 General, Rouen, 11.7.17.

~~REF.~~

aff-m
11.7.17

2nd Pioneers.
A.I.F.

BELL.
S. 3306

"Missing 515117."

I regret to say that Pte. S. Bell 2nd Pioneer Battn A.I.F. was killed by a shell on the 5th May at Bullecourt. Pte. S. Bell left Australia on the same boat as myself the s.s. Commonwealth leaving Victoria Docks on or about Nov. 25th 1915 arriving on Egypt Dec. 30th. Later we were transferred from the 7th Reinf. 23rd Battn to the 2nd Pioneer Batt prior to sailing across here to France. At the time of his death he was a machine Gunner letter from:-

Pte. H. Steel. 3112
B. Coy. 2nd Pioneer Battn
France.

Off. M.

Havre

20th Aug. 1917.

AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS
2nd Batt.

BELL, S. 3306

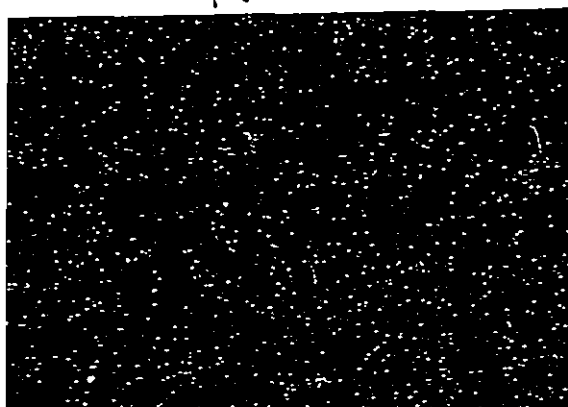
M. 5.5.17.

Corpl. J. Brooks of the 2nd Pioneers in the Lewis Gun Section told me that Bell was in the party in a trench coming out of the Bullecourt stunt in May, 1917 when a shell caught Bell and blew him to pieces. They could find nothing to identify him after the explosion. Brooks is still with his unit.

Informant: Pte. W.E. Smith, 1573
2nd Australian Pioneers,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM

Pil UH/cbb
6. Smith 12/17



2nd Pioneer Bn
I.E.

BELL
Sydney 3306

"Missing"

Killed in Action 6.5.17. prev. Reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hdqtrs 6.12.17.

Off. M. & P.I.

London.
18.12.17.

A.I.F. 2nd Pioneers.

BELL
Sydney 3306

Killed in action 6.5.17

Court of Enquiry 25008. Enlisted 16.7.15 - Age 18 years 10 months.
Born Catford Eng. Next of kin - Father - H. Bell,
12, Torrente Rd,
Hillford,
Essex.

Court of Enquiry List 25.4.19

London
25.4.19

OFF. M.
P.I.

A.I.F.
2nd Pion. Bttn.

BELL.
S. 3306.

"Killed in Action."

K/A 6.5.17.

C of P 25008. Held A.Coy Hqrs. 2nd Pion.Btn.26.11.17.
Statement by 2370 Sgt. Hastings W. 2nd Pioneers. On the night of
5 May 1917 as I was returning from work in the forward area near
Bullecourt I over took Pte.Bell who was carrying machine gun
panniers - Owing to congested state of trench it was necessary for
us to get on to the parapet to make headway - Just after I passed
Pte.Bell I got down again into the sap, but he remained on the parapet
The shell burst just after this. I asked if anyone was hurt, but
was told "NO" but to move on. Next morning in camp I was told Pte.
Bell was missing and I proceeded to the place where shell burst and
found the lower half of a man's body only, and machine gun panniers
lying near. I am of opinion that the remains I found were those of
Pte. Bell. To the best of my belief the panniers were the same as
those I saw in Pte.Bell's possession.

Sgt. W. Hastings.

Finding. The Court after duly considering the evidence finds that
3306 Pte. Bell.S. was K/A on the morning of 6th May 1917 by shell
fire in the execution of his duty.

G.B. Patterson. Capt.
President.

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs. 27.4.19.

not sent P.?

Off.H. & P.I.

London.
2.5.19.

2nd Pioneers
A.I.F.

B. Coy

BELL
Sydney 3306.

"Killed in Action 6.5.17"

No trace Germany

cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
22.10.19.

Off.H. & P.I.

Reel

S.

Kin

4/a 6. 5. 17.

C. of E. 25000 E. Lead of C. of E. 25000 E.

26. 11. 17.

Remains by 2370. C. of E. 25000 E.

On the night of 6 May 1917, the remains

from work in the forward area were

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

Reel / Remains - 2 -

The remains, found, were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

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company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

removed to the rear area by the

company. The remains were then

ack'd by 8.14.
P.C. 20.8.17.

France

14 8.17.

To the Secretary.

Dear Mr. Secretary

"I regret to say that Plt S Bell
2 Pioneer Batt. A.I.F. was killed by a
shell on the 1st May 1917 at Bullecourt.
Plt S Bell was transferred
on the same boat as myself. The S.S.
Commonwealth leaving Antwerp France
on about 25 Dec 1915 arriving in
Egypt Dec 30th. Later we were transferred
from the 1st Regt 2nd Batt to the 2 Pioneer
Batt prior to sailing again here to France.
At the time of his death he was a
machine gunner.

3112 Plt H. E. Lee

3386

S. BELL

B. Coy

2nd Pioneer Batt A.I.F.

2 Pioneer Batt A.I.F.

France

M 5.5.17

AM 4

Alfred Exp
18 Toronto Road
July 6th 1917

RECEIVED
7 - JUL 1917
1170 HOUSE TERRACE

Ken / 2

ack Can you give me
any information of

Irish Sydney Bell
No 3306 13 Dupont

220 Power Bell 3
Australian Defense Force
reported missing in
France 5th May 1917

an anxious father
would be glad of news
however meagre.

Yours faithfully
Harry Bell

Mr. Harry Bell
18 Toronto Rd
Hford Essex.

ref 3306 Pl S. Bell & Pioneer Blue

Draft £

26.7.17

To - BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

A.I.F. No. 1 Bty H.Z.Fld.Art:

Charles Keith SUTTON
2/244

"Off. reported as havinf died at No.1 Australian
Hospital Ardes of Diphtheria on 9th October 1915, confirmation
and details asked for"

From - AUSTRALIAN BRANCH B.R.C.S.
54 Victoria St.
London, S.W.1.
25-7-17.

Enquirer
W.&M.I. Bureau
SYDNEY
by letter 25-5-17.

12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

July 31st. 1917

H. Bell, Esq.,
18, Toronto Road,
Ilford,
Essex

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to inform you of an unofficial report given by a man of the Unit when in Camp in France about your son :-

No 3306 Pte. S. Bell, 2nd. Pionrs. Battn. A.I.F.
from whom we are lead to conclude that he was killed in action on 5.5.17. Informant No. 2091 Pte. J.D. Cavanagh reported that he was told by Pte Flier, a runner attached to B. Coy, 2nd. Pionrs ~~1st~~ Bn. that he was a few yards distant from your son coming out of the trenches between Moreuil and Bullecourt on the night of May 5th. when a shell exploded close to where he was standing and he believes that he was killed instantaneously. Search parties went out next day but they did not succeed in finding him. This occurred behind our own support lines.

We are continuing the enquiry and hope soon to obtain less distressing news as we know how very anxious you must be about him

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your distress and that
we shall send you any news as soon as we receive it.

Yours faithfully,

10
Secretary.

Law

6.8.17.

HARRY BELL, Esq.,
18 Toronto Road,
Ilford. Essex

Dear Sir,

We are very sorry to tell you of another unofficial report which has been received about your Son No. 3306 Pte Sydney BELL
2nd Pioneers Bn. A.I.F.

from which we are led to fear that he was killed in action.

No. 243 Pte. H. MORROW who was in No. 9 General Hospital B.E.F. said that he knew your Son very well ~~that~~ that he was a very fine fellow. On the 3rd. of May they were engaged in carrying bombs to the front line trench which they reached safely about 10 a.m. On the return journey Pte BELL was just in front of him and they rested for while in the sunken road at ^{U11} ~~Norclay~~. While there your Son went off in the direction of some cookhouses a few yards off the road and just then some shells exploded on top of them entirely demolishing the houses and it is feared that he must have been killed instantaneously by ^{the} some shells. We deeply regret the distressing nature of

-2-

these reports and are continuing the enquiry in the hope of obtaining a more definite report. We realise how very anxious you must be about him.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

VP
Secretary
LA

p.c. 16.8.17
of [unclear]
p.c. 18.8.17

18 Totter Road
Ufford
13/8/17

Madam Mrs Dowling

Dear Madam

Nº 2306 Privet & Bell
2nd Avenue, Bath, A.S.7

I have just returned from
a journey that you helped of
July 31. + Aug 6. For which I
thank you very much - I am afraid
it is rather hopeless about my poor
Boy, but shall ask him a free
favor if you will continue your
enquiries about him. Again
thanking you for your kindness

Yours faithfully
Harry Bell

Will you be good enough to
have the enclosed forwarded

Harry Bell, Esq.,
18, Toronto Rd.,
Ilford, Essex.

December 20th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to inform you that your son
No 3306 Pte.S. BELL, 2nd Pioneers Bttn, A.I.F.
is now reported officially as Killed in Action on
6.5.17, this sad conclusion having already been forced
upon us by the unofficial evidence we have sent you
from time to time.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your
great loss.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Wm for L.A.W.