

Ernest Bartrop Bell

Private (Pte) 2121 James Bartrop Bell enlisted in the 22nd Infantry Battalion in the 6th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Australian Division in Melbourne on 26 January 1915.

He embarked overseas on 27 September and disembarked in Egypt in late October, where he taken on strength of the 8th Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 8 January 1916.

The battalion departed Egypt on 19 March and disembarked in Marseilles on 30 March. They entrained for the north and spent the next few months rotating in and out of the front line around Fleurbaix, Bois Grenier and Armentieres. Because of the low lying nature of the area, combined with a high water table, the “trenches” in this region usually consisted of breastworks constructed above the ground.

During one such period in the front line near Armentieres, Pte Bell was killed in action by German artillery fire on 30 June 1916.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EZ0009

Australian soldiers de-lousing their uniforms in the “trenches” near Armentieres, 1916

Private 2121 Ernest Bartrop Bell was buried in the Ration Farm Military Cemetery at La Chapelle d’Armentieres, France later the same day.

Name: Bell, Ernest Bartrop	
Service Number	2121
Date enlisted	26 January 1915
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	22 nd Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	27 September 1915 HMAS A20 <i>Hororata</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	22 years 6 months
Place of birth	Sheffield, England
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Farm labourer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Bell, Mr William, father, 35 Cobden View Road, Crookes, Sheffield, England
Permanent address	Leopold, Victoria
Appearance	Ruddy complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 7 ¼ inches, weight – 11 stone, 2 lbs, chest measurement – 35/38 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	22 nd Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place died	30 June 1916 Armentieres, France
Cemetery details	Ration Farm Military Cemetery, La Chapelle d'Armentieres, France. Plot I, Row I, Grave 11
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also remembered on the Leopold War Memorial