

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3808 LANCE CPL.

G. L. GELL

55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH DECEMBER, 1918 Age 21

George Lenton GELL

George Lenton Gell was born at Balmain, Sydney, New South Wales on 21st July, 1896 to parents George Thompson Gell & Sarah Jane Gell (nee Lenton).

George Lenton Gell attended Gladstone Park, Balmain Public School, NSW.

George Thomson Gell, father of George Lenton Gell, died on 30th December, 1906 at Balmain, Sydney, NSW.

Sarah Jane Gell, widowed mother of George Lenton Gell, remarried in 1914. She married Peter T. Schultz.

George Lenton Gell was a 19 year old, single, Clerk from Galathea, Vivian Street, Bexley, NSW when he enlisted at Holsworthy, Sydney, on 7th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3808 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs S. J. Schultz, Galathea, Vivian Street, Bexley, NSW. George Lenton Gell stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets & Citizen Forces.

Private George Lenton Gell was posted to 9th Reinforcements of 19th Battalion on 18th December, 1915 as Acting Corporal.

Acting Corporal George Linton Gell ("Linton" spelling as per Embarkation Roll) embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 20th January, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

Acting Corporal George Lenton Gell was transferred to 55th Battalion on 3rd April, 1916 while posted at Moascar from 19th Battalion Details & Reinforcements. He was taken on strength of 55th Battalion on 3rd April, 1916 at Ferry Post.

Acting Corporal George Lenton Gell embarked from Alexandria on 19th June, 1916 on H.T. *Caledonian* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Acting Corporal George Lenton Gell was wounded in France on 20th July, 1916. He was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance on 20th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Leg & Head then transferred & admitted to Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Acting Corporal Gell was admitted to 30th General Hospital at Calais, France on 21st July, 1916. He was marked for transfer to England on 1st August, 1916 & embarked from Calais on 2nd August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* with G.S.W. to Left Arm.

55th Battalion

The 55th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 12 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 3rd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 3rd, the 55th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 30 June 1916, the battalion entered the frontline trenches for the first time on 12 July and fought its first major battle at Fromelles a week later. The battle was a disaster, resulting in heavy casualties across the division. Although in reserve, the 55th was quickly committed to the attack and eventually played a critical role, forming the rearguard for the 14th Brigade's withdrawal. Despite its grievous losses the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 55th Battalion

Bac St Maur, France:

19th July, 1916: 4.30 pm – Received final orders for the attack on German lines this afternoon.

Marched out of billets to join in attack which was launched about 6 pm.

The attack was successful and the German trenches were carried. The trenches were held during the night and communication established with our own lines.

Owing to strong counter attack by the enemy, and to being exposed on both flanks a retirement was necessary and this was effected.

20th July, 1916: 7 am – The losses were heavy, but the battalion, four-fifths, or more, of whom were strangers to battle, acquitted itself honorably in its first engagement, and returned with 40 German prisoners. (The report of the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. D. M. McCouaghy, C.M.G. is attached. See Appendix "A")

Casualties:

<i>Killed</i>	<i>2 Officers</i>	<i>35 other Ranks</i>		
<i>Died of Wounds</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>"</i>

This is a statement of Casualties as known on 31st July 1916. Many of the missing will undoubtedly be proved to have been killed – and others wounded in Hun trenches are doubtless prisoners of war.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Acting Corporal George Lenton Gell was admitted to Northern General Hospital at Sheffield, England on 2nd August, 1916 with G.S.W. to Left Arm.

Base Records advised Mrs S. J. Shultz, Galathea, Vivian Street, Bexley, NSW, on 19th August, 1916 that her son Private George L. Gell had been admitted to 30th General Hospital on 21st July, with gunshot wound to arm – mild.

Acting Corporal George Lenton Gell was marched in to 14th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 5th October, 1916 from Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Acting Corporal George Lenton Gell proceeded overseas to France on 14th October, 1916 from 14th Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 5th A.B.D.B. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 16th October, 1916. Acting Corporal Gell was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D. on 30th October, 1916 & rejoined 55th Battalion in the Field on 1st November, 1916.

Acting Corporal George Lenton Gell was appointed Lance Corporal from 14th September, 1917.

Miss M. Berryman, "Illilliwa", Belmore Street, Goulburn, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 8th November, 1917 with the following letter: *"I wonder could you give me the correct address of Signaller George Gell. He wrote to us about my brother Signaller Gilbert Berryman & also sent us some of his personal belongings. He did not give us his regimental number – nor the company – though we suppose it is the same as my brother (B Company) 55th Battalion. He has relatives in England – but I think he enlisted in Australia or may he joined the 55th when over to France. At any rate if you could give me the boys correct address I would be very thankful – for I would like to write to him. Hoping I am not asking too much – I again thank you for your past assistance."*

Base Records replied to Miss M. Berryman on 14th November, 1917 advising Private Gell's address as – No. 3808 Private G. L. Gell, 55th (late 9th) Battalion, Australian Imperial Force ABROAD.

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell was sent to Bombing School on 5th December, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 22nd December, 1917.

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell was on Leave from 31st January, 1918 & rejoined 55th Battalion on 22nd February, 1918.

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell was sent to 2nd Army Musketry School on 1st March, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 11th March, 1918.

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell was sent to 14th Brigade School on 9th July, 1918. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 12th July, 1918 with Bronchitis from Brigade School. Lance Corporal Gell was discharged to duty on 18th July, 1918 & rejoined 55th Battalion in the Field on 3rd August, 1918.

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 2nd September, 1918. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd September, 1918 with Shrapnel wounds to Buttocks & R Hand. Lance Corporal Gell was transferred & admitted to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 2nd September, 1918 then transferred to Ambulance Train 36. He was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 3rd September, 1918. Lance Corporal Gell embarked for England on 7th September, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

55th Battalion

After a freezing winter manning trenches in the Somme Valley, in early 1917 the 55th Battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. It was spared the assault but did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 55th's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. The 14th Brigade took up positions to the north of Villers-Bretonneux and held these even when the village fell, threatening their flanks.

Once the German offensive had been defeated, the Allies launched their own offensive in August 1918. The 14th Brigade did not play a major role in these operations until late in the month, but its actions were critical to the capture of Peronne, which fell on 2 September. The 54th fought its last major battle of the war, St Quentin Canal, between 29 September and 2 October 1918.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 55th Battalion

Near Peronne – 2nd September, 1918:

Operations near PERONNE as shown in App. 1 & 2. Orders for operation are contained in Battalion Operation Order No 139. (Appendix 3 attached).

At 10 pm orders were received from Brigade to the effect that the Battalion would be relieved by 59th Battalion on the night 2/3rd. Relief was carried out at 11.30pm and the Battalion dropped back to trenches in I.7 (Sheet 62C). Orders were issued for the move back across the SOMME to bivouacs in H. 23 and H.24 on the morning of 3rd., vide Operation Order 140 (Appendix 4 attached).

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Appendix 11:

Summary of Strength Returns etc for Month of September, 1918

<i>Sept 1 }</i>	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Wounded</i>
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<i>Sept 2 }</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>119</i>
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(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital – Monyhull Section, Birmingham, England on 8th September, 1918 with G.S.W. to Buttock & right Hand.

Base Records advised Mrs S. J. Shultz on 18th September, 1918 that Lance Corporal G. L. Gell had been admitted to Hospital in France on 2nd September, 1918 wounded – actual condition not stated.

Mrs S. J. Schultz, "Galathea" Vivian St, Bexley, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 23rd September, 1918 stating : *"I received notice last Saturday from your Department that my son Lance Corporal G. L. Gell No 3808 55th Battalion (late 19th Battalion) was wounded on September 2nd, could you kindly tell me the nature of his wounds & oblige his mother."*

Base Records advised Mrs S. J. Shultz on 25th September, 1918 that Lance Corporal G. L. Gell had been transferred to 1st Southern General Hospital, Monyhull Section, Birmingham, England, suffering from gunshot wound right Buttock, severe.

Mrs S. J. Schultz, "Galathea" Vivian St, Bexley, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 4th November, 1918 stating: *"I received a notice from you dated September 26th stating that my son Lance Corporal George L. Gell, was wounded severely & in hospital in Birmingham. I have not had any further news of him, could you give me any information as to how he is progressing as I cannot help feeling anxious about him."*

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell died on 19th December, 1918 at St. Cross Hospital, Rugby, England from Peritonitis. A Telegram was sent on 19th December, 1918 from Selly Oak, Birmingham to *"AdminAust London"* – *"Regret No 3808 L/C Gell George Fiftyfifth A I F Died at this Hospital 19/12/18. Next of Kin advised AAA Address Pichard 49 Carless Avenue, Harbone, Birmingham."*

A death for George Gell, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Rugby, Warwickshire, England.

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell was buried on 23rd December, 1918 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – Grave number 356, Section B10.

Lance Corporal Gell's name is now remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 356 as he does not have a headstone.

From the burial report of Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell - *Coffin was good. Brass Mounts. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent by: - Mother & Family, Aunt & Cousin Marie, Mr & Mrs Packard, Hospital Patients Maids Hospital, and many others. The "Last Post" was sounded, and the Rev: J. Jones officiated. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral – Brother Pte J. T. Gell, Aunt Miss G. Gell, Mr & Mrs Ernest Naylor, Mr & Mrs Walter Pickard, Mr Stephen G. Naylor, Miss F. Sutton.

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell requested in his Will dated 28th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs S. J. Schultz, of "Galathea" Vivian St, Bexley, NSW. He appointed Hugh J. Marshall of Vivian St, Bexley & C. J. Marshall of 105 Crystal St, Petersham, NSW as Executors & Trustees of his Will.

Base Records contacted Mrs S. J. Schultz, of "Galathea" Vivian St, Bexley, NSW on 27th October, 1921 stating she was registered on the records of the late No. 3808 Lance Corporal G. L. Gell as the next of kin, requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs S. J. Schultz replied on 3rd November, 1921 advising *"...I, his mother, am his nearest blood relation, as his father died on Dec 30th, 1906, at Balmain, NSW and he was unmarried, he has two sisters living and one brother, Private J. T. Gell, No 3541, 59th Battalion, returned. Hoping this is all necessary information needed."*

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Gell's remarried mother – Mrs S. J. Schultz, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell – service number 3808, aged 22, of 55th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George Thompson Gell & Sarah Jane Gell, of “Galathea,” Vivian Street, Bexley, New South Wales.

G. L. Gell is remembered on the Municipality of Bexley Honor Roll, located at Bexley RSL Club, 24 Stoney Creek Road, Bexley, NSW.



Municipality of Bexley Honor Roll (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)



Lance Corporal G. L. Gell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 160.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(61 pages of Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



[Connected to Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell:](#)

Younger brother James Thomson Gell – Enlisted on 1st October, 1915 stating he was an 18 year old Clerk. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on 17th December, 1915 on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) with 20th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements as Private No. 3541

Private James Thomson Gell was marched back from the Front on 12th November, 1917 to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) as he was underage. He was transferred to 1st Australian General Hospital at Havre, France on 24th November, 1917.

Returned to Australia – 9th February, 1919. Discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 22nd May, 1919. – termination of period of Enlistment.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.





Brothers – James Thomson Gell (left) & George Lenton Gell (right)

(Photo kindly supplied by Maree Da Costa – James & George were Maree's grandmother's first cousins)



George Lenton Gell (cropped from photo below)



George Lenton Gell *(left) (middle & right unknown)*

(Photo kindly supplied by Maree Da Costa – James & George were Maree's grandmother's first cousins)



Letters from George Lenton Gell – kindly supplied by Maree Da Costa:

3rd October, 1916 to Beryl Lenton:

England, Oct. 3rd '16
Dear Cousin Beryl,
I am sorry not to have written before, but you know what boys are, I expect. Well, I have been having the time of my life since I left Sydney. I landed in Egypt in February, left there in June went to France, was wounded on the 19th July, went into Calais Hospital on my 20th. My birthday came over to England early in August, went into hospital at Sheffield, was there about six weeks, came down to Salisbury Plains, got fourteen days leave.

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and returned to camp last Thursday. I had a lovely time on my furlough, and saw quite a lot of England. Young Jim went through the same charge as I did, but came out without a scratch. He was very lucky, as there were over 2000 casualties out of 12000 in three days, so you can imagine how warm it was. My brother-in-law, Loyal, is returning to Australia very shortly suffering with a weak heart caused by shell-shock (lucky beggar). When I left there was some talk about you coming for a visit to Sydney. Well, I hope you will put it off till Jim & I return. The weather here is very cold

-3
and damp, and we are nearly flooded out here, and above our ankles in mud. Well, Beryl, I think this is all the news now. I only wish I could get a letter from home. The last letter I received was dated early in May, but I expect I shall get a batch soon. My address will be Pt G.L. Gell, No. 3803, Machine Gun Section, 55th Battalion, A.I.F. France, as I expect to rejoin my battalion in a week or two. This is about all the news now. Give my love to Auntie, Uncle, Rosa & Baby, and accept the same yourself.
I remain
Your loving cousin,
George.
P.S. - Excuse the scribble on writing under difficulties.

England, Oct 3rd '16

Dear Cousin Beryl,

I am sorry not to have written before, but you know what boys are, I expect well, I have been having the time of my life since I left Sydney. I landed in Egypt in February, left there in June & went to France, was wounded on the 19th July, went into Calais Hospital on my 20th birthday, came over to England early in August, went into hospital at Sheffield, was there about six weeks, came down to Salisbury Plains, got fourteen days leave,

and returned to camp last Thursday. I had a lovely time on my furlough, and saw quite a lot of England. Young Jim went through the same charge as I did, but came out without a scratch. He was very lucky, as there were over 8 000 casualties out of 12 000 in three days, so you can imagine how warm it was. My brother-in-law, Cyril, is returning to Australia very shortly suffering with a weak heart caused by shell-chock (lucky beggar). When I left there was some talk about you coming for a visit to Sydney. Well, I hope you will put it off till Jim & I return.

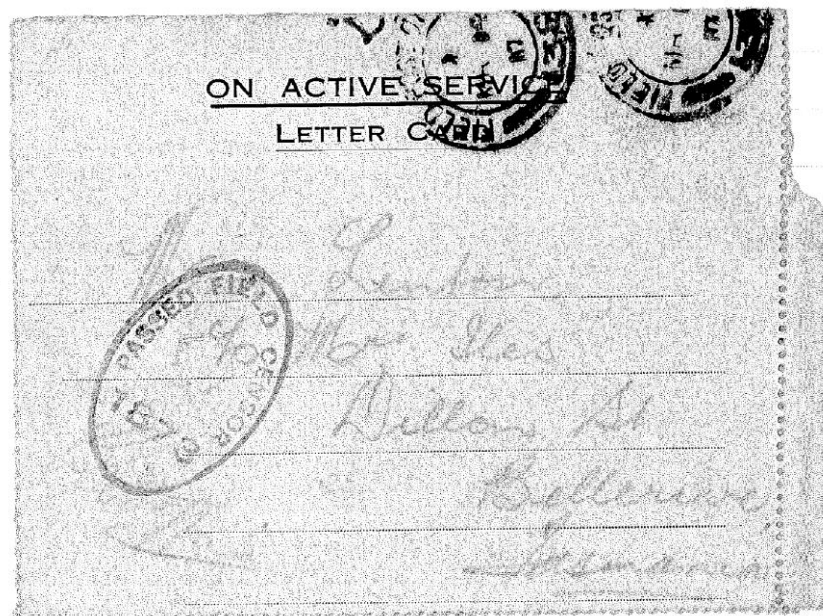
The weather here is very cold

and damp, and we are nearly flooded out here, and above our ankles in mud. Well, Beryl, I think this is all the news now. I only wish I could get a letter from home. The last letter I received was dated early in May, but I expect I shall get a batch soon. My address will be Pte G. L. Gell, No. 3808, Machine Gun Section, 55th Battalion, A.I.F. France, as I expect to rejoin my Battalion in a week or two. This is about all the news now. Give my love to Auntie, Uncle, Rosa & Baby, and accept the same yourself.

I remain
Your loving cousin
George

P.S. Excuse the scribble am writing under difficulties.

10th March, 1917 to Beryl Lenton:



France
March 10th '17

Dear Beryl,

I got your letter card alright, and am glad to hear that you are all well. I suppose you are having a touch of cold weather now. Here we are just getting it a little warmer. There is still plenty of ice and snow, although we see a little sun now and then. The mud here is pretty bad, especially when it thaws.

Cyril Marshall, my brother-in-law, has arrived back in Sydney early in January, suffering from a weak heart, the result of shell-shock. Jim is at present down at the Base, and I have not seen him for months now. If you want Mother's address, it is "Galathea," Vivian Street, Bexley, N.S.W. This is all the news now. Am keeping in good health. Give my love to Auntie Amy, Uncle, Rosa, and "BABY". With fond love,

I remain
Your loving cousin
George

France

March 10th '17

Dear Beryl,

I got your letter card alright, and am glad to hear that you are all well. I suppose you are having a touch of cold weather now. Here we are just getting it a little warmer. There is still plenty of ice and snow, although we see a little sun now and then. The mud here is pretty bad, especially when it thaws.

Cyril Marshall, my brother-in-law, arrived back in Sydney early in January, suffering from a weak heart, the result of shell-shock. Jim is at present down at the Base, and I have not seen him for months now. If you want Mother's address, it is "Galathea," Vivian Street, Bexley, N.S.W. This is all the news now. Am keeping in good health. Give my love to Auntie Amy, Uncle, Rosa, and "BABY". With fond love

I remain
Your loving cousin
George

Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Mrs Schultz, of Vivian-street, Bexley, has been advised that her son, Gunner George L. Gell, has been wounded in the arm in France, and is in No. 30 General Hospital. He was 20 years of age on the day he was wounded, July 21. She has also received a private cable from her youngest son, Private James T. Gell, who is also in France, saying his brother had been slightly wounded. Both soldiers are well-known in Balmain.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 24 August, 1916)

WAR CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

GUNNER GEORGE L. GELL

Gunner George L. Gell, son of Mrs Schultz, of Vivian-street, Bexley, has been wounded in France. He was 20 years of age on the day he was wounded.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 August, 1916)

MEN WHO FELL

WOUNDED

Gunner L. Gel, son of Mrs Schultz, of Vivian Street, Bexley, has been wounded in the arm in France, and is in No. 30 General Hospital; and his brother, Private James L. Gell, who is also in France, is reported as slightly wounded.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 28 August, 1916)

202nd CASUALTY LIST

Wounded

Pte G. L. Gell, Bexley

(The St George Call, Kogarah, NSW – 2 September, 1916)

438th LIST

Wounded

L.Cpl. Geo. Lenton Gell, Bexley

(The St George Call, Kogarah, NSW – 2 November, 1918)

SOLDIERS SUDDEN DEATH

Mrs Schultz, of Vivian-street, Bexley, has been advised of the sudden death of her eldest son, Lance-Corporal George L. Gell, in hospital, in Birmingham, England. He had been on active service for three years, and was wounded a second time on September 1. His brother, Private James Gell, is now in England preparing for the Flying Corps after three year's active service with the A.I.F.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 2 January, 1919) & (The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 January, 1919)

On Active Service

GELL – In sad but loving memory of our dear brother, George, who departed this life December 19, 1918, aged 22 years, God loved him best, and took him home. Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Louie and Cyril (returned), and niece, Gracie.

GELL – In loving memory of our dear brother, George, who passed away at B'ham, England, after being severely wounded in France. Our hero.

To live in the hearts of loved ones
Left behind is not to die.

Inserted by his sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, Grace and Hugh Marshall, little Jean and Georgie.

GELL – In loving memory of my dear son, Lance-corporal George L. Gell, 55th Batt. (late 19th), who died suddenly in hospital, Birmingham, December 19, 1918, after three years' active service, aged 22 years.

A noble life, a noble death.

Inserted by his loving mother and only brother, Jim (O.A.S.).

GELL – A loving tribute to the memory of my dear George, who gave his life for King and country, December 19, 1918.

How little we thought when you left me, dear,
 'Twound be our last farewell;
the dreams of the home we planned to share
 Chill death would so rudely dispel.
But our dear God loved and called you,
 For ever to rest above;
I know you have done your duty,
 And are waiting for those you love.

Inserted by his loving friend, Birdie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 January, 1919)

N.S.W. CASUALTIES

List No. 456

Died, Other Causes

L-Cpl. GELL, G. L. (Bexley), 19/12/18; illness; p.r.w.

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 5 February, 1919)

On Active Service

GELL – In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-corporal George L. Gell, who died at Rugby, England, December 19, 1918, from wounds received in France, September 2, 1918.

A brave young life, that promised well,
At the will of God a hero fell.

Inserted by his loving mother and brother, Jim (returned).

GELL – In loving memory of our dear brother, L.cpl. George Gell, who died at Rugby, B'ham, December 19, 1918 of wounds received in France, September 2, 1918. "With Christ, which is far better." Never forgotten by his sister and brother, Grave and Hugh Marshall, and little Jean and George, of West Kogarah.

GELL – In loving memory of my dear George, who gave his life for King and country, December 19, 1918, at Birmingham, England. Inserted by his loving friend, Birdie Begbie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 December, 1919)

On Active Service

GELL – In fond remembrance of L.-cpl. G. L. Gell, died of wounds Birmingham, England, December 19, 1918. Never forgotten by his loving mother, sisters, and brothers, Galathea, Vivian-street, Bexley.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 December, 1922)

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell is remembered on a headstone with his parents in Waverley Cemetery, Sydney, New South Wales.



Aerial view of Waverley Cemetery, Sydney, NSW. *(Photo from Westend 61)*



Sacred to the Memory of
GEORGE THOMPSON GELL
Died 30th DEC. 1906, Aged 64 Years
Also His Loving Wife
SARAH JANE
Who Passed Away 9th July 1943.
Also Their Eldest Son
L/CPL. GEORGE LENTON GELL
Who Gave His Life In The Great War 1914 – 1918.
Re-United Sweet Rest At Last

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Lance Corporal George Lenton Gell does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



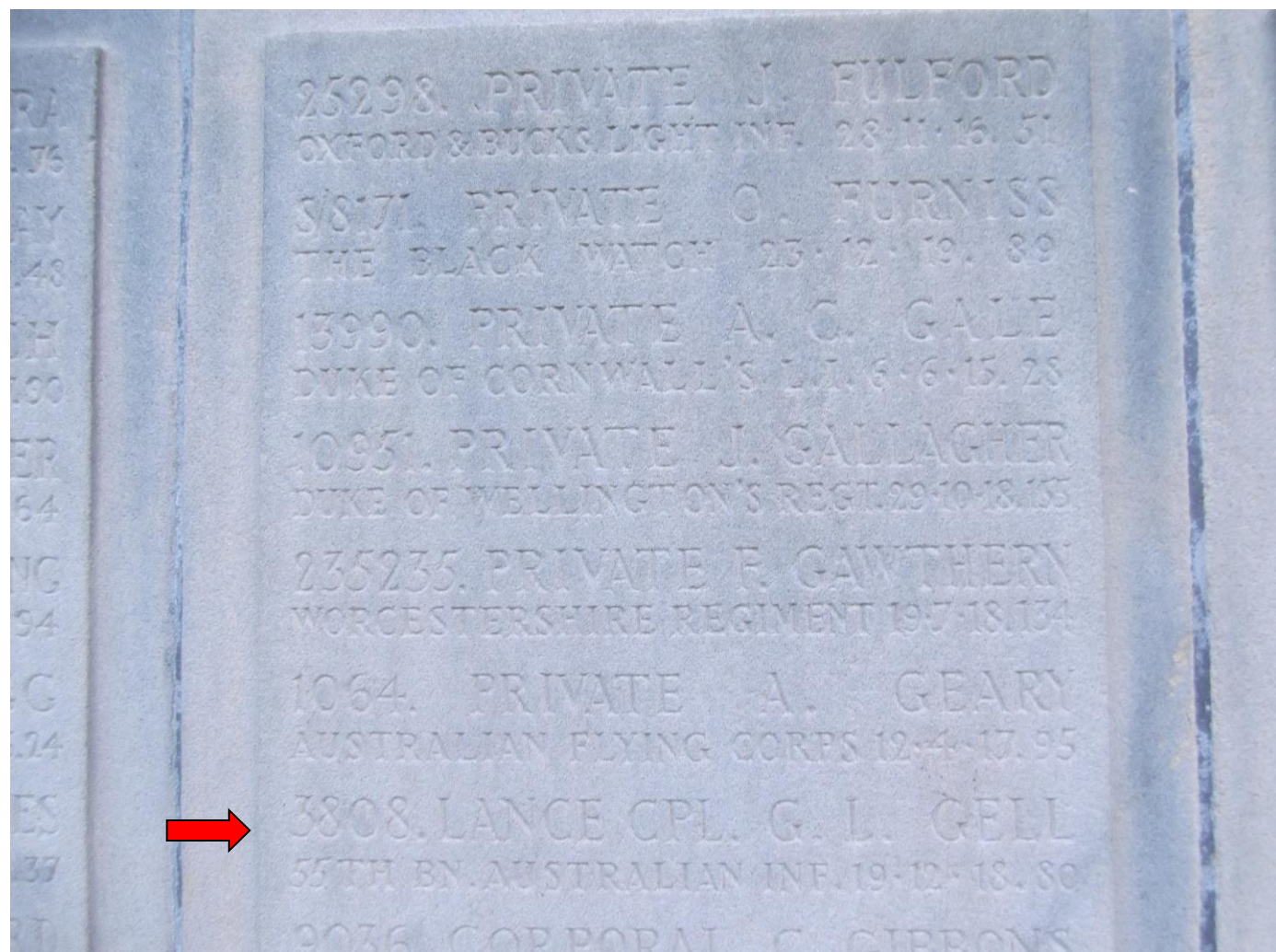
(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham (*Photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Lance Corporal G. L. Gell's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)





WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

Lodge Hill Cemetery

