

## McKell, Victor Cleveland.

A.S.C. (Britten)

**Rank:** Lieutenant

**Unit:** 1st Battalion

**Date of death:** 4 October 1917

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

**Date of embarkation:** 18 October 1914, Sydney

Joined up 17/8/14, Newcastle. Single 26, Bank Clerk. C of E Next of Kin father T.C.K. McKell Stipendiary Magistrate, Newcastle. Was in Headquarters of battalion and had previous military experience in 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.M.F.

Description of	<i>Victor C. C.</i>		
Age	<i>26</i> years	<i>9</i> months	
Height	<i>5</i> feet	<i>10 1/2</i> inches	
Weight	<i>11</i>	lbs.	
Chest Measurement	<i>32-36</i>	inches	
Complexion	<i>Fair</i>		
Eyes	<i>Fair</i>		
Hair	<i>Fair</i>		
Religious Denomination	<i>C. E.</i>		

2. ~~79~~

Name Victor Cleveland McKell  
Unit 1<sup>st</sup> Batt. 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Brigade 23<sup>rd</sup> Rly  
Joined on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1914

**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

What is your Name? ... 1. Victor Cleveland McKell

In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... { 2. In the Parish of \_\_\_\_\_ in or near the Town of Cobar in the County of N.S.W.

Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... 3. Yes

What is your age? ... 4. 26 years

What is your trade or calling? ... 5. Bank clerk

Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... 6. No.

Are you married? ... 7. No.

Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... { 8. father T.C.K. McKell  
Magistrate  
Newcastle

Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... 9. No.

Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... 10. No.

Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial ... 11. to School Cadets. 2 years

“Many men carried their civilian connections into their military lives In the 1st Battalion under Colonel Dobbin were: Sergeant Ernest Clarence Harris, a 20-year-old law clerk of Paddington; Frederick Warren Muir, a 21-year-old law student from Unanderra and Lieutenant Geoffrey Austin Street, a 20-year-old law student from Elizabeth Bay. Street was one of those unusually young commanders noted by Charles Bean, but he was to perform his duties with great courage and skill and survived the war. One of the men in Dobbin’s headquarters group was **Victor Cleveland McKell**, the 26 year old son of Thomas Charles Kerr McKell, a stipendiary magistrate from Newcastle.”

Another Front a Working Paper describing the actions of Members of The New South Wales Legal Profession on Gallipoli Tony Cunneen BA MA Dip Ed

(19).Some shelling was experienced during the approach of several units. Lieuts. V. C McKell (1st Bn.) and J. T Maguire (8th) were thus killed and Lieut. A. E. Ballard (42nd.) mortally wounded. (McKell belonged to Waverley, N.S.W----.)

Bean." The A.I.F. in France." p.841.Footnote:

**Extract 1<sup>st</sup> Bn War Diary:**“4-10-17 Bn. took part in attack on Passchendaele Ridge. Consolidated on 2<sup>nd</sup> Objective from D29 a 45 to JJ b 57. Following officers killed- Lt. V.C. McKell & Lt J.N. Bennett.”

Bean has the Battle as:

**THIRD STEP-BROODSEINDE**

The importance of the Battle of Broodseinde, the third consecutive step in this series, has never been fully recognised except by the commanders and forces that took part. For the general public, accustomed to over- or under-emphasis in the press, there was little in the published news to indicate that this blow counted for more than others. But on the actual field both British and Germans were aware that the events of the 4th of October, 1917, were big with possibilities of decision.

(p.833)

Note letter below. I year late! 11/12/18/

Dear Madam,

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late Lieutenant V. C. McKell, 1st Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he was Killed on 4th October, 1917, whilst leading his platoon into Anzac Ridge, by a shell which landed a few yards away and pieces of shrapnel struck him in the head and parts of the body, killing him instantly. He was buried in the vicinity of Anzac Ridge.

The utmost care and attention is being devoted where possible to the graves of our soldiers. It is understood that photographs are being taken as soon as is possible and these will be transmitted to next-of-kin when available.

These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connection with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. I. McKell,  
16 Killarney Street,  
MOSMAN.

Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.

MAILED  
11/12/18

I A I F.

McKell, Lt. V2C. (initial)

He was killed at Anzac Ridge two days after we came back into the line - it would be Oct. 4. We were in support and the 1st Batt. were going up on our left to relieve another Batt. There was a block as they were going up the 'Jabber' track and a single shell wounded six and killed seven together in a shell-hole on the track. I bandaged the six as well as I could and buried all the seven together in the one shell-hole. I did not know Mr. McKell but I took off his disc and gave it to a S/B of the 1st Batt. that they called Monty who was helping with the wounded. Lt. McKell was just a young man and clean-shaved.

It was the first shell-hole immediately to the left of where the Jabber track crossed the first support trench on 28 9 17; and the reference on the Message-map would be J 45- 4, 2. between Polygon Wood and Zonnabeke.

I told another man of the 1st Batt about it a fortnight later.

Inf:- Gaskell, L/C W S. 694 S/B IO. A I F.  
A F 'Stad Antwerpen'  
Calais. 21 II 17. CR

Lieut. McKell was killed on 3.10.17. whilst leading his platoon into Anzac Ridge a shell landed a few yards away and pieces of shrapnel struck him in the head and parts of the body, killing him instantly.

He was buried by the 1st Pioneer Battalion in the vicinity of Anzac Ridge. Map reference - sheet 28 D.27

## Casualty Form—Active Service.

Transport.

Regiment or Corps 1st. Battalion A.I.F.

Regimental No. 49 Rank Lance Corpl. Name McKell V.C.

Enlisted (a) 17-8-14. Terms of Service (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Service reckon

Date of promotion } \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment } \_\_\_\_\_ Number  
to present rank } to lance rank } roll

Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date
Date	From whom received			
30-8-15	Divl. Orders.	To be 2nd. Lieutenant.	Gallipoli Peninsula.	6-8-15
28-8-15	C.O. Mex.	Struck off Strength.	Mex.	27-8-15
4-9-15.	C.O. 1st. Battn.	Joined Battalion.	Mudros West.	3-9-15
3-10-15	Divl. Orders. 96-360.	Reported for duty & taken on strength of Div.	Gallipoli Peninsula.	3-9-15
4-12-15	C.O. 1st. Batt.	To be Lieutenant.	"	1-12-15
14-12-15	1st. Aust. Div.	To Hospital (Sick)	"	13-12-15
18-12-15	C.O. 1st. Batt.	To Hospital (Eye trouble)	"	"
"	" "Caledonia"	Disembarked.	Mudros.	18-12-15

28-12-15	15th. AUS. Stat. Hos.	Discharged.	Mudros
3-1-16	"Tunisan"	Disembarked.	Alexandria.
8-1-16.	D.A.A.G. 1st. Div.	Rejoined Unit.	Tel-el-Kebir
"	C.O. 1st. Batt.	Rejoined Unit.	"
29-1-16.	"	To Hospital (Defect. Vision)	"
"	2nd. Fld. Ambusc.	Admitted (Febrile) Trans. to Cas. Crg. Stat.	" "
24-1-16	No. 2 Aust. Gen. Hosp.	Admitted (Debility)	Ghezreh
19-2-16	C.O. 1st. Batt.	Transferred to 53rd. Battalion at	Tel-el-Kebir
25-3-16	C.O. 53rd. Batt.	Taken on strength of 53rd. Bn. (Not reported)	"
18-2-16	No. 2 Aust. Gen. Hosp.	Trans. to Convalescent Depot. at	Helouan.
"	A. & N.Z. Con. Dep.	Admitted (Debility)	"
30-3-16	"	Trans to No. 3 Aux. Hos. (Debility)	"

Note short period of service 53<sup>rd</sup> Bn.

Note form below. "Got knocked over by shell; no loss of consciousness no injury; no enteric or dysentery. Developed headaches in July; 1915.  
Astigmatism aggravated by Shell Shock.

# DETAILED MEDICAL HISTORY OF AN INVALID.

1. Name McKELL, V.C. (Surname to be in Block Letters.)  
 2. Regimental No. and Rank } Lieut.  
 3. Age last Birthday 29  
 4. Enlisted on 17.8.14  
 at Victoria Barracks.  
 6. Former Trade or Occupation Bank Clerk.  
 (b) If returned from service abroad, date of re-  
 turn to Australia 14.5.16.

Before making out this Report read the following note carefully:—

NOTE.—The answers to the following questions are to be filled in by the Medical Officer by whom the soldier is brought forward. As the object of these questions is, in the event of the man being invalided, to put the authorities of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth in possession of the most reliable information grounded upon the opinion of those best capable of judging, so as to guide them in deciding upon the man's claim to compensation, clear and decisive answers must in all cases be given. **ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED.**

Disease or Disability astigmatism & S.S.

In answering the following questions the Medical Officer will carefully discriminate between the man's unsupported statements on his case, and recorded evidence furnished by his documents, military and medical. He will also carefully discriminate cases entirely due to general disease.

Date of Origin of Disability Nov 1915.

Place of Origin of Disability Gallipoli.

Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability, noting entries on the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case

Got knocked over by shell; no loss of consciousness  
 No injury; no laceration or fracture. Suffered  
 Developed headaches in July, 1915. Astigmatism  
 aggravated by shell shock.

(a) Give your opinion as to the causation of the Disability  
astigmatism

(b) If you consider it to have been caused by active service, climate, or ordinary military service, explain specific conditions to which you attribute it. (See notes on page 3.)  
aggravated by active service

What is his present condition?  
Urine: no casts; no albumen; normal.  
 Eye sight - treated  
 headaches now disappearing

Arrived back in Sydney Apr. '16. To No. 4 Aust. Gen. Hosp. Randwick.

About 2 months later he had recovered from "SS" (shell shock) with "headaches disappearing."

(At Station or Hospital where finally disposed of.)

Station and Hospital } No. 4 Aust. Gen. Hosp. Sydney NSW Arrived } 4.8.16  
 Hospital } 'Karoala'  
 Date } 14.5.16

If Admitted.		If under Treatment.		Disease.	How finally Disposed of.	Date of Discharge, &
Index No		From—	To—			
Date:	/	14/5/16	30/7/16	Relief medicine & SS.		

Summary of causes of invaliding, or remarks as to remand to Regiment or Station

Recovered from SS  
 Headaches disappearing  
~~Return to duty~~

*W. Hamilton*  
*A. J. Smith*

CONFIRMED  
 RETURN TO DUTY.

Date of final Medical Board, or decision }  
13.8.16

SYDNEY. *E. S. John*  
 COLONEL.  
 DATE 15.8.16 P. M. O. 276 M. D.

Principal Medical Officer.

O.C. Troops "Berkley" A 24. Embarked ... Sydney  
 Disembarked ... Devonport

14.1.17.	O.C. 1st Tng. Battrn. 7 & 8 Comp.	Marched in from Overseas	Durrington
19.2.17.	O.C. I.F. Detach in United Kingdom	Proceeded overseas France	England
15.3.17.	O.C. Reinfts.	Joined lat A.D.K.B. from England.	Etales
12.3.17.		Proceeding to join Unit (conducting)	co.

17.3.17.	O.C. Reinfts.	Rejoined from conducting	Staples
24.3.17.	do.	Proceeding to Unit	do.
23.3.17.	C.O. 1st Bn.	Rejoined 1st Battalion.	France
	RE13.		
6.4.17.	A.I.F. List.	Restored to Establishment	do.
	162.	from "Struck Off"	
30.3.17.	C.O. 1st Bn.	To Hospital Emphyema	France
31.3.17.	O.C. 1st Aust Field Amb.	Admitted and transferred to Divl. Rest Station.	do.
30.3.17.	O.C. 1st Divl Rest Station.	Admitted Pleurisy and transferred to Casualty Clearing Station.	do.
30.3.17.	Officers Hosp. 47th C.O. Bn.	Admitted Pleurisy	do.
14.4.17.	do. A36.	Discharged to duty	do.
20.4.17.	C.O. 1st Bn.	Rejoined ex Hospital	do.
22.5.17.	do.	On Command Divl. Wing Corps School	do.
21.7.17.	do.	Rejoined from On Command	do.
8.10.17.	D.A.A.G. (2) List 1137. 6-10-17 C.O. 1st Bn.	KILLED IN ACTION	BELGIUM
16.10.17.	A.I.F. List.	Reported Killed in Action and is Struck Off Strength	do.
	ANZAC SECTION, 3RD BRIGADE, G.I.I. British Expeditionary Force.		

#### WAR CASUALTIES: KILLED.

Information has been received that Lieutenant Victor Cleveland McKell, A.I.F., was killed in action on October 4. Lieut. McKell who is the youngest son of the late T.C. Kerr McKell, formerly Stipendiary Magistrate, Newcastle, and Mrs. Isabel McKell, 16 Killarney Street, Mosman. Left at the outbreak of war with the first contingent as a driver in the Tramway Section 1st Battalion. He gained his two stars at Gallipoli. After being invalided from Egypt to Australia for six months, he went across to France in February last. Lieut. McKell,

before the war, was accountant at the Randwick branch of the Australian Bank of Commerce.

SMH 24/10/17 P.12

Information has been received by Dr. Hollywood that Lieutenant Victor Cleveland McKell was killed in action on October 4, 1917. Lieutenant McKell was the youngest son of the late Mr. T. C. Kerr McKell, formerly police magistrate at Maitland and late stipendiary magistrate at Newcastle, and Mrs. Isabel McKell, 16 Killarney-street, Mosman. He left at the outbreak of war with the first contingent as a driver and gained his two stars at Gallipoli. After being invalided from Egypt to Australia for six months suffering from head trouble he went across to France in February last. Lieutenant McKell prior to the war was accountant in the Randwick branch of the Australian Bank of Commerce. For some time prior to that he had been ledger-keeper in the Maitland branch of the bank. He was a fine type of young man, and was esteemed by all with whom he came in contact. Maitland

Weekly 27/10/17

P.5

AM172

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**KIT STORE.**



110, GREYHOUND ROAD,  
HAMMERSMITH, LONDON,  
W. 6.

TELEPHONES: HAMMERSMITH 1900, 1  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "AIFKITS."

Inventory of Effects of- the late Lieut. V.C. McKell, 1st Batt'n.

Forwarded to- Next-of-Kin.  
(Mother).  
Mrs. I. McKell,  
"Mena",  
16, Killarney Street,  
Mosman,  
Sydney, N.S.W.

Ex. K.S. 31/10/17.

ONE TIN TRUNK (Sealed) Containing:-

Correspondence, Suit Case, Pr Slacks, 2 Prs Brown Boots, presentation pencil, Hair brush & Comb, 2 Prs Socks, 2 Handkerchiefs, 7 Collars, 3 ties, Cap, Shirt, Singlet, Pr Underpants, 2 Suits, Pyjamas, S.D. Tunic, Wallet, Post Cards, snaps, 2 Fountain Pens, Pr Socks, Mirror, Shirt, Pr Underpants, Ash Tray, Serviette Ring, Compass, tobacco Pouch, 2 cigarette Case, Prismatic Compass in Case, Electric Torch, Badges, Star Wrist Watch (Damaged) Pr Gloves, Clothes Brush, Cigarette Lighter, Pr small scissors, 2 Coat Hangers, Pr Braces, H'chiefs, testament, King's regulations, 2 Prs Pince-nez in Case, Pr Spectacles in Case, 2 Pen-holders, Pipe, Cigarette holder, Pr Nail Clippers, Ornament, 7 Towels.

WABOONAHIK



A.W.M.