

Temuka Leader. 12 January 1911 (Papers Past) [15 June 2019]

Word has been received that Dr J. M. Bell, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.G.S., director of the New Zealand Geological Survey, has resigned his position, and will shortly leave for Canada and England. He will be accompanied by Mr Colin Fraser, who co-operated with Dr Bell in the preparation of a valuable series of geological bulletins, based on original surveys. Mr Peter Clarke, son of Mrs Clarke, of Temuka, will accompany the geologists in the capacity of private secretary, and will take with him the good wishes of all who knew them. Mr Clarke intends later to commence a university career at Queens, Ontario. The party leave New Zealand on the 12th March.

Temuka Leader. 9 March 1911 (Papers Past) [15 June 2019]

Dr Bell, late Director of Geological Survey in New Zealand, leaves New Zealand on Friday next. He proceeds to Sydney, and visits New Caledonia, en route to England. From England he goes to Canada. Mr Peter Clarke, of the Geological Survey office, accompanies Dr Bell.

Temuka Leader. 11 April 1911 (Papers Past) [15 June 2019]

A farewell entertainment took place recently, when Mr Peter Clarke, a prominent member of the Catholic Club, who is leaving Wellington to join Dr Bell in the capacity of private secretary, was the guest of honour. There were several competitions, and a very enjoyable time was spent with songs, recitations, etc.

Temuka Leader. 21 May 1914 (Papers Past) [15 June 2019]

Mr Peter Clarke, formerly of the New Zealand Geological Survey, has returned to Canada after spending a few weeks' furlough in England and Ireland. Mr Clarke is assistant manager of a mine on the Cobalt silverfield in Ontario. - (English correspondent of Christchurch "Press.")

Otago Daily Times. 29 February 1916 (page 6) [17 June 2015]

ON SERVICE

(From Our Own Correspondent.) LONDON, January 18

Mr F. W. Clarke (Temuka), of the Royal Flying Corps, who has been at the front for some months, is now a sergeant, and is on short leave in Ireland. His brother (Lieutenant Peter Clarke), who has been in the trenches with a mortar battery, has also been on a week's leave from the front.

Otago Daily Times. 17 June 1916 (page 7) [17 June 2015]

ON SERVICE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, May 4.

Second-lieutenant Peter Clarke, Wiltshire Regiment, who is with a trench mortar battery, has been transferred from a reserve to a regular battalion.

Press. 4 August 1916 (page 10) [17 October 2015]

THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED. PERSONAL NOTES.

Mrs Clarke, of Fraser street. Temuka, received a telegram recently stating that her son. Captain Peter Clarke, had been dangerously wounded in the arm and neck while fighting in France. She received another message on Tuesday stating that he had died as the result of these wounds. Captain Clarke was educated at St. Joseph's School. Temuka, and after leaving school he was employed in the Temuka Post Office. He was afterwards transferred to the Geological Survey Department, and acted as secretary to Professor Jas. M. Bell. He was a good sportsman, and took a keen interest in all pastimes. He had two other brothers at the front, and another brother was killed in the South African War. He was in Canada when war broke out, and he immediately joined an officers' training corps, and later on was granted a commission with an English regiment.

Evening Post. 12 August 1916 (page 12) [19 February 2016]

LAWN TENNIS

(By "Huka.")

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION

CAPTAIN PETER CLARKE.

Tennis players will hear with regret that Captain Peter Clarke died from wounds received whilst in the front line trenches in France. Peter was very well known in tennis circles in Wellington, and played for the Brougham Hill and Wellington Clubs. He was the stamp of player that attracted one at once by his play, and had he been able to give more time to it would have gone far, as he had all the makings of a champion in him. He was one of those quiet lads, that could always be given advice, and eagerly sought it; in fact he was a general favourite. He was a clean-living, manly youth in every walk of life. "Huka" remembers well a line in one of his letters written shortly after he became a soldier, and it speaks for itself. Peter spoke of the cancellation of some three years business engagements so that he could enlist, and added: "But so many are making sacrifices, and after all the limit of one's gift to one's country is a single life. A career doesn't count for much anyhow, when it is a question of Imperial good." In his last letter, received a few weeks back, were the following telling words: — "It is a great feeling to be fighting certainly towards victory. If one is part of the number that must go under to ensure the right issue, well that's part of the game." Every sympathy is felt for his father and mother, who are resident in Invercargill. Their son has paid the full price; his old club mates and friends will always honour his memory.

Free Lance. 18 August 1916 (page 10) [28 October 2013]

Lieut. PETER CLARKE, of Wellington, who died of wounds.

News has just been received of the death, from wounds in France of Lieutenant Peter Clark. Lieutenant Clarke was born in Temuka in 1887, and after a brilliant career at the local Catholic school and the Timaru Marist Brothers' school, entered the Temuka Post Office as a cadet. Here he more than realised the promise of the school course, and was soon transferred to Wellington, and was a member of the first staff at the newly erected Te Aro Post Office. He joined the local Catholic Club and became an active member of its literary and sports branches. He was a keen tennis player, and with Mr. Frank Eller represented the club in the Wellington Provincial tourney of 1910, and carried off the junior championship. A little before this he had transferred to the Lands and Survey Department, and was engaged with Dr. Bell as his private secretary in the Parapara, Franz Josef, and other geological surveys.

When Dr. Bell left New Zealand for Canada the late Lieutenant Clarke severed his connection with the Government and entered the office of Messrs. Petherick and Anderson, accountants. Here he remained but a short time for a call from his old chief, Dr. Bell, to join him in Canada, found the young New Zealander only too eager to see the world. After some time in Canada he went with Dr. Bell to London, and later had just returned to Canada when the war broke out. As soon as he could free himself of his business engagements he left for England, where he soon obtained a commission in the Wiltshires. For over a year past he was at the front. Two of his brothers are still at the front: Private John Clarke, the well-known Alpine climber, who, is with the New Zealand Forces, and Lieutenant William Clarke, of the Royal Aviation Corps.

A dramatic meeting between the brothers, Peter and William, is recorded. One day a British aeroplane suddenly descended into the midst of the Wiltshires "somewhere in France," when to the astonishment of Lieut. Peter out stepped his brother William. They had not met since Peter had left New Zealand some years before for Canada. Whilst in Great Britain Lieut. Clarke spent all of his holidays and since the war his leave in Ireland in the midst of his parents' relatives. His mother, till recently one of the best-known residents of Temuka, is now residing in Invercargill. She had the honour of giving her eldest son to his country during the South African War, and now mourns the loss of a second son. Lieut. Clarke was well-liked, his bright disposition, his sterling qualities, and his whole-hearted co-operation in any work he assisted in made him many warm friends. May his gallant memory ever be cherished.

North Otago Times. 9 September 1916 (page 6) [17 June 2015]

PERSONAL NOTES.

Captain P. Clarke.

Captain Peter Clarke was educated at St. Joseph's School, Temuka, On leaving school he was employed at the Temuka Post Office and at the G.P.O., Wellington, two years later being transferred to the Geological Survey Department, and left New Zealand with Dr J. M. Bell as private secretary to a gold-mining company in Canada, In 1915 he was appointed assistant manager, which position he resigned to enlist with a British regiment. Captain Clarke, has two brothers at the front— Flight-Sergeant W. P. Clarke, of the Royal Flying Corps, and Private J. M. Clarke, with the New Zealand Forces – and Trooper J. Clarke training at Featherston Camp.

Evening Post. 25 October 1916 (page 7) [14 October 2013]

Otago Daily Times. 6 November 1916 (page 3) [15 October 2013]

CAPTAIN PETER CLARKE

DIED OF WOUNDS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, 12th September.

A particularly fine type of the many fine young men whom New Zealand has given to the British Army gave up his life in the first few weeks of the push. Captain P. Clarke, of the Trench Mortars; appeared in the casualty lists some weeks ago as having died from wounds. One London paper published a short obituary of a Capt. Patrick Clarke, but this did not allay my own anxiety, and it is now established that the officer who died of wounds at the end of July was in reality the young geologist from Temuka, brother of the well-known Alpine guide.

Peter Clarke was a young man of many parts and great enthusiasms. For some years he was engaged in the New Zealand Geological Survey, under Dr. J. M. Bell, and when the latter left the Dominion Mr. Clarke went to Canada as assistant manager of some silver mines at Cobalt, Ontario. While there he paid several visits to England, and he also studied at M'Gill University. When the war broke out he joined the O.T.C. at the latter institution, and in April last year he came to England and applied for a commission. This he obtained in the Wiltshire Regiment, with a battalion of which he continued his training for the remainder of 1915. He had been at the front since December, and had been most of the time associated with trench mortar batteries, the new role of danger and excitement which is rushed by so many adventurous spirits.

In trench mortars Peter Clarke took a tremendous interest. In Christmas week he wrote "Our own tiny unit did the best week's work it has yet done." "Go for trench mortars," his advice to everyone who proposed getting a commission. "It is the one satisfactory thing in trench life. You can smite Fritz four to one. We have some great concentrations these days. It means a lot of time in the fire trenches, but life isn't at all bad. Mortars are an increasingly effective force now, and they begin to belch H.E'" In May he was appointed to the staff of the 13th Brigade for trench mortars, and the following month was promoted captain. He was then looking forward keenly to the "much more dashing work to come," and on the 17th July I had a final note written "before the show which we enter shortly. Everybody is very fit and cheery."

Within a few days of that he was wounded, and he died shortly afterwards in a hospital in France. He was what one likes to regard as a colonial type—physically athletic, intellectually keen and clean-minded, with a tremendous enthusiasm in everything he touched. His interest in Ireland was the interest of an observant and not a bigoted Roman Catholic. He saw it after the rebellion,

and deplored its “tragically unsettled state, which fears nothing and cares not what happens,” and he was under no delusions as to the difficulty of a settlement. He saw, what other men are beginning to see to-day, that Sinn Fein was spreading as the result of the rebellion, and that the Nationalist Party consequently falls somewhat from its position as the representative of Home Rule Ireland. The “Round Table” movement was another of his interests, and its leader used to chaff good-humouredly the New Zealander living in Canada, who came to France to fight the Germans, and yet seemed to have a principal place in his heart for the wrongs of Ireland.

Mr. Clarke’s brother is a sergeant in the Royal Flying Corps in France, and another is with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Temuka Leader. 30 April 1921 (Papers Past) [13 June 2019]

FOR FREEDOM & HONOUR.

Mrs Clarke, Fraser Street, Temuka, has just received from the British Government a beautiful bronze plaque, in memory of her son, Peter, who was one of the gallant young men from the district who lost their lives in the Great War. The plaque is about 5 inches in diameter, on the face being a representation, in relief, of Britannia, with trident, and holding a laurel wreath over the name, **Peter Clarke**. Circling the memorial is the inscription, “He died for Freedom and Honour .” Accompanying it was the following autograph letter from the King: -

“Buckingham Palace.

“I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War.

“GEORGE, R. I.”

[The memorial will be on view in Messrs Hales and Co.’s shop window for a few days.]