

Letter from
Doug's Uncle AUSTRALIA
now deceased

Private Bag 13.
Gardenvic
Australia
March 3/60

Dear George & May

What a surprise to receive a letter from you,
and with regret to notice that George is
incapacitated, you did not say by accident or
otherwise. How I will try and answer your questions
How is the world using you! To that I can say
very good. Val Bill & family and myself have
carried on the partnership which was formed
some years ago. We were at a place called
Yarrambat near Melbourne a property we purchased
in 1915 until 1957, we sold that property and
came to this one, we purchased this property in
1951 we have been here just over 2 years, we are
grazing and dairying here on a very large
property. This district is recognised as one of
the richest and most fertile parts of Australia.
Some of the farms are beautiful you would not
see any better in the world. To see the wealth
you only have to go to any of the towns in this
district on market days. It is a very interesting
place with some very beautiful lakes and as we
are not far from the coast it is very rugged

and on the Southern Ocean but is very good fishing, a friend of ours has a property with a 3 mile beach frontage, and we can go down there swimming and fishing whenever we choose. I will get a map and send you and pinpoint our property and then when I write you will know exactly which district I am describing. Richard Gordon (Bill) 5ft 10" 14 stone very good looking black wavy hair bronzed by the Australian sun, the finest fellow I have ever met very clever and carries diplomas, undated. - retiring for lunch will commence again after. I have found a few snaps of Bill and Val I will enclose them they were taken at Jarrambat. I will take a few snaps of this district and Bill and Val, Val is a very charming girl we brought her with us we did not sell her with the Jarrambat property, she had a very safe spot for that property it was the centre of picturesque scenery a very lovely spot. You ask about Billy Hart he is doing pretty well for himself, he and another chap were crossing a track which had been used

by bullock waggons horses and drays for years
 and tripped over a nugget of gold valued at
 £15,000, and the last time I heard of him
 he had just been rescued from a mine he
 was working the sides had caved in on him,
 but he was not hurt much. You ask what
 work and class of work I was doing I went
 through the engineering and then the building
 industry, I have not worked for wages since
 1920 I was always determined to launch out
 for myself. This country gave me the opportunity
 and I held it in both hands. When I started this
 letter I said to Val I just don't know what to
 write about! She said I could find plenty I tried
 to persuade her to take over, no she said it is
 your letter, when your letter arrived they both
 read it. Bill's remark you will have to answer
 that right away, I said to Bill this morning
 I will answer that letter O.K. he said I will
 be able to manage. I wanted to write it today
 as we will be going to Campersdown tomorrow
 as Val would like to have a look at the
 Leifer sale Val is a very good judge of stock
 we may purchase some we have plenty of feed

and it will give me a better chance to get this away more quickly. Bill is going to Warrnambool tonight about 30 miles from here a D.C. meeting he is on quite a few committees and also Secretary of two or three he is very popular. I am on committees and Val does quite a lot of social work. What do your boys do for a living? Sancy having a girl 28 and a little son how interesting, and naming one James thanks for the honour, Douglas with 2 sons you must have quite a gathering when you all get together it must be very nice. The weather is a little cooler today the last 12 days have been very warm around about 96 to 100 dry lat. It's a very good climate here as a rule not too hot not too cold. This country is far different now to what it was when I came here, it has advanced leaps and bounds, it was a wild and woolly place in the old days I lift my hat to the ones that pioneered this country and we have done our share. If and I know you are not very familiar with this country it is so different from England in every way and if you want to know anything at all about it I will

be any to pleased to answer any questions.
 From 1913-1960 you ask what work have I
 done mostly 16 hrs a day 7 days a week and
 so has Bill and Val it's a free and easy
 life and the work grows on you, and what
 has all this done, it has given me pleasure
 and security.

We had the misfortune to lose George Cole in
 1945 and hell in 1948 may be you have
 known this before.

Personally I don't feel much different to when
 I left England the same urge to keep going
 and I keep going pretty well no complaints.

Val has just ask me if you'll send a few snaps
 of your family.

Now you have found the lost dog
 and know he is happy:-

Val and Bill send best wishes,

Sincere regards
 Lander.