

MS 12

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Letters of Martin Bell

Forty eight wartime letters from Martin Bell: (1) to 'Horatio' Durham, announcing that he has joined the army as a clerk in the Royal Engineers, Oct 1939; (2)-(48) to Joan Broomfield (later Russell), one of his circle from University College, Southampton, Nov 1939 - 30 Jun 1945. These letters contain scathing comments upon his life in the army but also reflect his literary progress as he discusses books he has read and includes poems he has written: (15) 'Afterthoughts on a university education'; (24) 'Where is the life I used to lead?'; (26) 'On these autumn mornings'; (32) 'A Christmas tree for Mr Eliot: 2 poems'; (34) 'When shall I meet again'; (36) 'The show places are duly registered'; (37) mainly Bell's own verse¹

Photocopies of 'Encountering you again'; extracts of wartime letters of Bell; correspondence relating to the Bell letters, 1987-8; biographical notes on Bell; notes relating to the Bell letters

¹ The poems included in these letters are discussed in *Martin Bell: complete poems* (ed.) Peter Porter (Newcastle, 1988)