

**Colchester Cemetery,
Colchester, Essex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1906 PRIVATE

S. E. BARCLAY

45TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH APRIL, 1918 Age 24

Sidney Edward BARCLAY

Sidney Edward Barclay was born at Geelong, Victoria in 1893 to parents William Edward and Harriet Barclay (nee Sutherland).

William Edward Barclay, father of Sidney Edward Barclay, died on 19th March, 1913 at Geelong, Victoria.

Sidney Edward Barclay was a 21 year old, single, Labourer (Railway Employee) from Geelong, Victoria when he enlisted on 12th January, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1906 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his widowed mother – Mrs H. Barclay, 38 Kilgour Street, Geelong, Victoria. Sidney Barclay stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 years with Senior Cadets.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was posted to Depot Battalion on 12th January, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 14th Battalion on 2nd March, 1915.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 17th April, 1915 with the 14th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez (no date).

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was admitted to No.2 Field Ambulance at Beach Dressing Station, Gallipoli on 10th August, 1915 with a Septic Hand. He was transferred to Hospital Ship S.S. *Georgian* at Lemnos on 11th August, 1915. Private Barclay was invalided to England from Mudros on 14th August, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Aquitania*.

14th Battalion

The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC Cove on the afternoon of 25 April 1915. On 19 May the Turks launched a massive counter-attack. During this fighting Lance Corporal Albert Jacka of the 14th was awarded the AIF's first Victoria Cross. Jacka's leadership and courage became legendary within the AIF and he was eventually commissioned in the 14th Battalion, which came to be widely known as "Jacka's Mob". From May to August 1915 the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the ANZAC front line. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. At the end of the month, the 14th Battalion suffered further heavy casualties when it was committed to the unsuccessful attack on Hill 60. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF expanded and was reorganised. The 14th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 46th Battalion.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

(NOTE – One form & a letter to Private Barclay's mother enquiring into her son's condition in the Service record file state the Private Barclay was attached to 13th Battalion.)

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital at Wandsworth on 23rd August, 1915 with a wound of arm.

Mrs H. Barclay, of 50 Maud Street, Geelong, Victoria, mother of Private Sidney Edward Barclay, was advised on 23rd November, 1915 that Private S. Barclay had been admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England with a wound of arm.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay returned to A. & N.Z Base Depot at Weymouth, England on 26th December, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) forming No. 15 Draft.

Mrs H. Barclay, of 50 Maud Street, Geelong, Victoria, mother of Private Sidney Edward Barclay, was advised on 14th January, 1916 that Private S. Barclay had returned to duty in Egypt.

A District Court Martial was held on 18th February, 1916 – 1. While on active Service Drunkenness 2. Impeding the Town Piquet. Private Sidney Edward Barclay was awarded 42 days Detention.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was transferred to 25 Draft of M.E.F. on 24th March, 1916.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was transferred to 45th Battalion on 20th May, 1916 at Serapeum. He was re-allotted to 12th Training Battalion as Reinforcements to 45th Battalion on 20th May, 1916.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was written up for an Offence while posted with 12th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire – A.W.L. (absent without leave) from 2 pm on 17th August, 1916 to 10 pm on 21st August, 1916. He was awarded 120 hours detention on 28th August, 1916 & forfeited 5 days' pay for absence & deprived 5 days' pay while under detention.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was A.W.L. (absent without leave) from 1st September, 1916 to 3rd September, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Detention & forfeited 6 days' pay.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay embarked for France from England on 10th September, 1916 & joined B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) in France on 11th September, 1916. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 11th September, 1916 from 12th Training Battalion.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was written up on 20th September, 1916 at Etaples, France for "falling out of line of march without permission." He forfeited 14 days' pay.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was taken on strength of 45th Battalion on 29th September, 1916 in the Field from 4th A.D.B.D.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was wounded in action on 15th October, 1916. He was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 15th October, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to back & left arm. Private Barclay was transferred to 17th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. He was transferred to No. 23 Ambulance Train on 18th October, 1916 & admitted to 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outreau, France the same day with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to left arm & back. Private Barclay embarked from Boulogne, France on 19th October, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was admitted to Northamptonshire War Hospital, England on 20th October, 1916 with G.S.W to arm, back & buttock. (The handwritten Casualty Form – Active Service records that Pte Barclay was admitted to "Northampstead War Hospital". The typed version & a letter to his mother record "Northamptonshire War Hospital".)

Mrs H. Barclay, of 50 Maud Street, Geelong, Victoria, mother of Private Sidney Edward Barclay, was advised on 2nd November, 1916 that Private S. Barclay had been admitted to Northamptonshire War Hospital on 20th October, 1916 with gunshot wounds to arm, back & buttock, mild.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training & convalescing was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire & also in the county of Dorset.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England on 6th November, 1916 with GSW to left shoulder. He was discharged on 8th November, 1916 with the wound healed & he was classified "A" – fit for active service.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay reported to Administrative Headquarters from Hospital & was granted furlough from 8th November, 1916 till 23rd November, 1916.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England from furlough on 25th November, 1916 & medically classified "A" – ready for active service.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was written up for an Offence while posted at No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England - 1. Breaking Camp 2. A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from 4 pm on 25th November, 1916

until admitted to Hospital on 14th December, 1916. He was awarded 12 days F.P. No. 2 (Field Punishment) & was in custody for 13 days awaiting trial. He was given a total forfeiture of 45 days' pay.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was sent sick to Brimstone Bottom Hospital at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 14th December, 1916 with Mumps. He was discharged on 27th December, 1916.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was reported absent on 20th January, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was declared an illegal absentee by a Board of Inquiry at No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 24th February, 1917.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was awaiting confirmation of sentence at No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 12th May, 1917. A District Court Martial was held at Perham Downs on 16th May, 1917 – Private Sidney Edward Barclay charged with being A.W.L. from 19th January, 1917 until arrested at No. 3 Camp Canteen at about 12.30 pm on 4th May, 1917. Private Sidney Edward Barclay was found guilty & sentenced to Detention for 180 days. He was in custody awaiting trial for 11 days & forfeited a total of 297 days' pay.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was marched out to Chelmsford Detention Barracks under escort on 29th May, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 4th September, 1917 from Chelmsford Detention Barracks. He was reclassified as C3 on 7th September, 1917. Private Barclay was marched out to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 15th September, 1917 & was taken on strength of No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 16th September, 1917.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 17th October, 1917 & was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire the same day. He was medically classified on 18th, 22nd & 29th October, 1917 as B1 A2 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in three to four weeks).

Remission of Sentence was recorded on 10th September, 1917 *"AIF Depts in UK... of 4/7/17 which reads D.C.M. held P. Downs. Sentence to undergo detention for 180 days –t he unexpired portion of the above sentence (52 days) is remitted as from 20/9/17 by G.O.C. in C. Southern Command."*

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 28th November, 1917 from No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 27th December, 1917 from Overseas Training Brigade. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 28th December, 1917. Private Barclay was A.W.L. from Draft on 29th December, 1917 after being duly warned. He forfeited 2 days' pay by Colonel McKenzie on 31st December, 1917. Private Barclay was marched out to his Unit from A.I.B.D. on 31st December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit (45th Battalion) in the Field on 2nd January, 1918.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 28th March, 1918. He was admitted to 105th Field Ambulance on 28th March, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to neck. Private Barclay was transferred & admitted to 56th Casualty Clearing Station on 29th March, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 18th U.S.A. Hospital at Camiers, France on 29th March, 1918. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth* on 5th April, 1918.

45th Battalion *(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

The 45th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 2 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 13th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 13th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men from New South Wales.

As part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division, the 45th Battalion arrived in France on 8 June 1916, destined for the Western Front. It fought in its first major battle at Pozieres in August, defending ground previously

captured by the 2nd Australian Division. After Pozieres the battalion spent the period until March 1917 alternating between duty in the trenches and training and rest behind the lines, first around Ypres in Belgium, and then in the Somme Valley in France.

Like most AIF battalions, the 45th rotated in and out of the front line throughout the winter of 1917-18.

War Diary – 45th Battalion

28th March, 1918

... remaining as such [Reserve Troops] till 12.30 am on the 28.3.18 when it was moved forward to form a defensive flank n D.18 central – to engage an expected attack arriving in position at 1.45 am and dug a line of trenches which were complete by 5 am. Battalion "H.Q.". E.18 central. "B" Coy moved up to reinforce the 47th Battalion (which had lost heavily in the attack in the morning) and occupied portion of the Front Line near DERNANCOURT.

Casualties:- 1 Officer Lt J.S. Terras and 40 O.Rs. 1 Officer and 30 O.Rs supplied to 47t Battalion as carrying party. All preparations for attack on DERNANCOURT. This did not eventuate.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was admitted to General Military Hospital, Colchester, Essex, England on 6th April, 1918 with G.S.W to neck & was reported as seriously ill.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay died at 9.20 pm on 11th April, 1918 at General Military Hospital, Colchester, Essex, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. left neck.

A death for Sidney E. Barclay, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Colchester, Essex, England.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was buried at 3 pm on 16th April, 1918 in Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England – No. 46 Section S. From the burial report of Private Sidney Edward Barclay - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag and surmounted by a beautiful wreath. Gun Carriage was supplied by R.F.A. Colchester and Firing Party, Buglers and Pallbearers by the 52nd Gordon Highlanders stationed at Colchester. Prior to the interment a service was held by Chaplain Middleton in the Cemetery Chapel. The grave will be turfed immediately and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

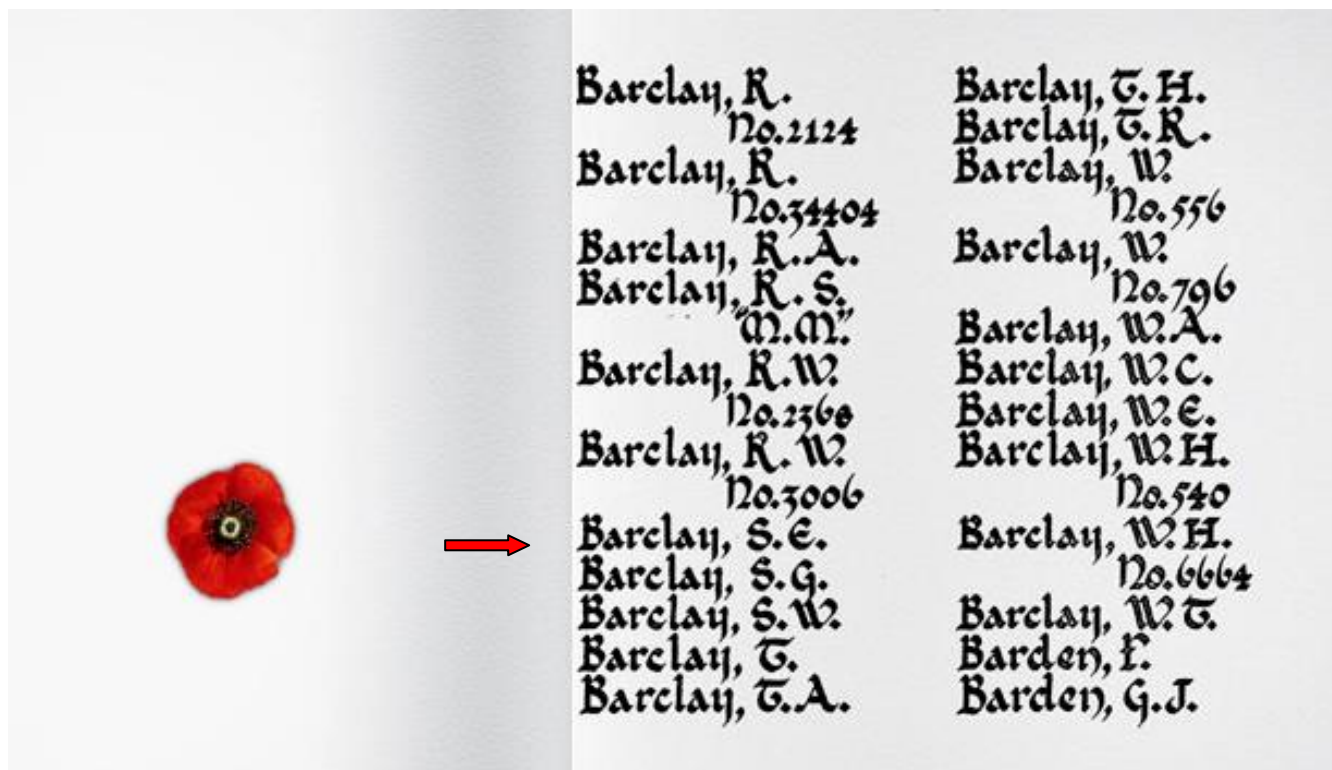
Base Records contacted Mrs H. Barclay, 50 Maud Street, Geelong, mother of the late Private Sidney Edward Barclay in April, 1920 to advise that information had been received that the remains of her son had *"been exhumed from the former site & re-interred in Grave No. 85 Section T. 5 in Colchester Cemetery. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Private Sidney Edward Barclay has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Sidney Edward Barclay was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Barclay's widowed mother – Mrs H. Barclay, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sidney Edward Barclay – service number 1906, aged 24, of 45th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Edward and Harriet Barclay, of 85 Maude Street, Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

S. E. Barclay is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

S. E. Barclay is named on the Geelong & District Peace Memorial, located in Johnstone Park, Gheringhap Street, Geelong, Victoria.

Newspaper Item – Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 29 September, 1925:

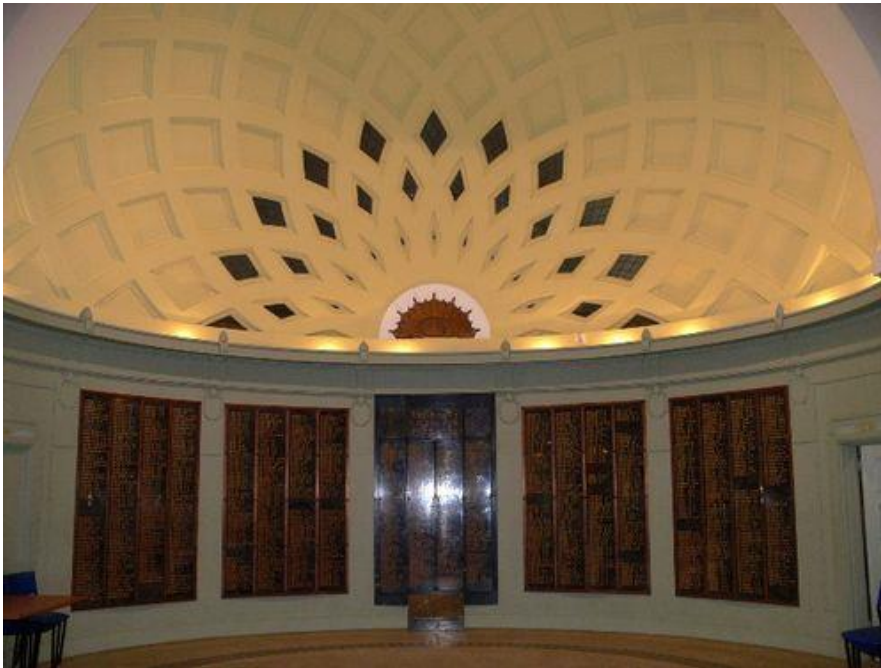
NAMES ON FOYER
Last Days For Declarations

Today and to-morrow are the last days for returning the declarations to the Hon. Secretary, Mr D. F. Neilson....

.....

Senator Guthrie has written to the Editor as follows:- "Sir, As a Senator for Australia and as a Geelong Citizen, I appeal to all the Diggers who are entitled to leave their names inscribed in the Foyer, to send in their names without further delay (whether one approves of the War Memorial is beside the question)...."

Additional names handed in yesterday were as follows:- Leslie Arnott, John Godfrey Baensch, William Ernest Barber, Sidney Edward Barclay.....



Geelong & District Peace Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

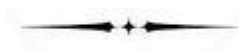
Private S. E. Barclay is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 139.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(83 pages of Private Sidney Edward Barclay'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



Private Sidney Edward Barclay



Newspaper Notices

THE _____ CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Private S. Barclay, Geelong

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 15 November, 1916)

NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

Pte S. E. Barclay, aged 23 years, youngest son of the late W. E, Barclay, late H.M. Customs, and Mrs H, Barclay, 50 Maud-street, Geelong, has died,

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 19 April, 1918)

DEATHS

KILED IN ACTION

BARCLAY – Officially reported killed 11/4/18, Pte Sydney Barclay, youngest son of Mrs H. Barclay and the late W. Barclay, of H. M. Customs; aged 23 years. After 3 years' service.

His Duty Nobly Done.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 20 April, 1918)

THE 394th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private S. E. Barclay, Geelong

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 1 May, 1918)

THE LATE PTE S. E. BARCLAY

Mrs H. Barclay, of 50 Maud-street, has received information that her son, Pte S. E. Barclay, 45th Battalion, died in the Military Hospital, Colchester, England on April 11th, from gunshot wounds in the neck. He was accorded a military funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted with a beautiful wreath. A gun carriage was supplied by R.F.A. Colchester and a firing party, buglers and pall-bearers by the 52nd Gordon Highlanders. Prior to the interment a service was conducted by Chaplain Middleton in the Colchester Chapel. This information , which was forwarded from the officer in charge of base records, adds that the grave will be turfed immediately and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 3 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

BARCLAY – In sad and loving remembrance of Pte Syd. Barclay, who died of wounds, 11th April, 1918.

Could I his mother, have clasped his hand

The son I loved so well;

To kiss his brow when death was near,

And whisper my son farewell.

Also my dear husband and loving father, W. E. Barclay, who died on March 17th, 1913.

“Sadly missed.”

-Inserted by mother and family.

BARCLAY – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private Sid. E. Barclay, 45th Battalion, died in the Military Hospital, Colchester, on April 11th, 1918, from gunshot wounds in the neck.

Into the field of battle,

He bravely took his place.

He fought and died for Australia

And the honor of his race.

He sleeps not in his native land,

His loved comrades laid him to rest,

In a grave in Colchester he is sleeping,

One of Australia's best.

Also my dear father, who died on the 17th March, 1913.

Gone, but not forgotten.

-Inserted by his loving brother and son, Will and sister-in-law and family

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 11 April, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

BARCLAY – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private Sydney E. Barclay, 45th Battalion, died at Colchester Military Hospital, 11th April, 1918, from gunshot wounds in the neck.

He left us happy and cheerful,

His duty intended to fill;

We heard of his sadness in battle

Caused through his righteous will.

There are no medals to his honor,

Just a wooden cross instead

By he's marching with the others

In the vanguard of the dead.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Wil and sister-in-law and family.

Also my dear father, who died on the 17th March, 1913.

Gone, but not forgotten.

-Inserted by his loving son, Will.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 14 April, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

BARCLAY – In loving memory of my dear son, Sydney, 45th Batt., killed in France 11th April, 1916.

What happy hours we once enjoyed,
How sweet their memory still.

-Inserted by his sorrowing mother, sisters and brothers, 85 Maud-street, South Geelong.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 11 April, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

BARCLAY – In loving memory of Private S. E Barclay, who died of wounds received in action on 11th April, 1918.

Though absent from amongst us,
You are ever in our thoughts,
And we who loved you dearly
Still sadly feel your loss.
Ever Remembered.

-Inserted by his loving mother, brother and sisters.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 11 April, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

BARCLAY – In loving memory of Private S. E Barclay, who died of wounds received in action on 11th April, 1918.

He never shunned his country's call
But gladly gave his life, his all.
He died the helpless to defend
An Australian soldier noble end.

-Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 12 April, 1926)

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT COLCHESTER

GRAVES CAREFULLY TENDED

Prominent Englishmen and women were quick to spring to the defence of Australian soldiers when they were libelled recently in one of the flood of belated war books on the market. The abiding sense of gratitude felt by the English people towards the men from overseas who rallied to the defence of the Empire, is typified in the action of the members of the women's section of the British Legion at Colchester. Mrs. Florence T. Towsey, chairman of the Colchester section, has sent a message to the Australian relatives of the men of the A.I.F. who were laid to rest in the cemetery at Colchester, the quaint old Essex town, which was established in the time of the Saxons, and was once a stronghold of the Danes in the days when they ravaged the coasts of England. It was strongly fortified by the Romans, and the great Roman walls remain almost entire to this day. The countryside must have seen much fighting, and the frowning Norman keep is one of the largest in England, and there is something singularly touching in the fact that the soldiers of the younger countries rest here, amid the brotherhood of warriors of long ago.

Impressive Ceremony

Mrs. Towsey says on Anzac Day, 1929, the members of the British Legion (Women's Section), Colchester Branch, assembled at the cemetery to pay a tribute to the memory of the men of the overseas Dominions, who came to fight for the British Empire in the Great War, and who lie buried there. A simple but impressive little service was held, and then flowers were placed on each grave. It is proposed to hold this service annually. The graves are carefully tended. The following are the names of the Australians who rest in Colchester Cemetery, and the simple inscriptions on their graves: —

38 651. Gunner C. C. Willcock, Field Artillery. Dec. 25, 1918. Age 38. 'Happy in my lot.'

2 182. Corporal J. P. Byrne, 58th B.N., Australian T.N.F. Jan. 5, 1918. Age 29.

3370. Private H. M. C. D. McIntosh, 3rd B.N., Australian I.N.F. July 12, 1916. Age 18. 'My son, your memory we will cherish, until we follow you.'

1100. Driver R. C. Hendry, Australian Field Artillery. August 9, 1918. Age 25. 'Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.'

6035. Private J. Hought, 6th Bn., Australian Infantry. Nov. 17, 1917. Age 31. 'Thy purpose, Lord, we cannot see; He gave his life that we might live.'

1384. Private W. I. Mackenzie, 51st Bn., Australian Infantry, Aug. 5, 1916. Age 27. 'Gone, but not forgotten.'

10973. Driver W. R. Bennett. Australian Engineers, Nov. 23, 1918.

1906. Private S. E. Barclay, 45th Bn., Australian Inf. April 11, 1918. Age 24.

493. Private F. R. Rankin, 21st Bn. Australian Inf., Sept. 10, 1916. Age 21 'God has saved from weary strife, In its dawn this young, fresh life.'

2413. Driver C. S. McKellar, Australian Engineers, June 18, 1918. Age 25. The dearly-loved son of Mr. and Mrs. McKellar, of Sydney, late of Glasgow.

19477. Sapper H. F. Smith, Australian Engineers, Nov. 5, 1918. Age 31.

Getting in Touch with Relatives

Mrs. Towsey asked Mrs. Florence Muriel Paxman, a member of the Colchester branch, who is visiting Sydney on a holiday trip, to try and get in touch with the Australian relatives of any of these men. In a letter to 'The Chronicle,' Mrs. Paxman says— 'I visited all the graves the day before I left England, and I shall be most happy to give any relatives any further information, or to get them photographs of any particular grave if they will write to me at my address, Winton, New South Head-road, Rose Bay, Sydney.'

Mrs. Towsey's address is Tollgate House, Shrub End, Colchester, and many Australians will remember with gratitude the hospitality that was extended to them there during the war.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 March, 1930)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private S. E. Barclay does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England

Colchester Cemetery was opened in 1856 and now belongs to the Corporation. It originally covered about 30 acres, but was enlarged in 1940 to 67 acres. The newer part is on the western side of the original burial ground, and behind it is the site of a Roman Way. There are 267 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 1 being unidentified, of which 50 are in the War Plot, while 11 Australian graves are together in a group nearby, the remainder being scattered. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on a site overlooking both the plot and the group of war graves, in honour of all the servicemen buried here. There are also 114 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, 1 of which is unidentified. In the early months of the 1939-1945 War, shortly after the enlargement of the cemetery, land was set aside in the newer part for service war burials. This is now the War Graves Plot. Among these casualties are men who were killed at sea after being evacuated from Dunkirk. The non-war graves are those of a man of the Merchant Navy and two ex-servicemen who were buried in the War Graves Plot although their deaths were not due to war service. There are also 7 Foreign National burials. The plot is enclosed by a hedge of cotoneaster frigida and a Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western side. The graves are set in level mown turf, with continuous flower borders along the rows of headstones in which are polyantha roses and other seasonal flowers.

(Information from CWGC)



Colchester Cemetery Entrance *(Photo by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)*



Cross of Sacrifice, Colchester Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Australian Plot of World War 1 War Graves, Colchester Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)

Private S. E. Barclay's CWGC Headstone (marked with red arrow)

Photo of Private S. E. Barclay's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth – Find a Grave)



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth – Find a Grave)