

**Paddington Old Cemetery,  
Kilburn, Greater London, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**W. J. BARTLETT SERVED AS**

**89 PRIVATE**

**J. BARKELL**

**4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**20TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 27**

*Dearer To Memory  
Than Words Can Tell*

## William John BARTLETT

William John Bartlett was born at Spring Garden, Frome, Somerset, England in 1889 to parents Charles & Susan "Jane" Bartlett. He was baptised on 4th August, 1889 at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Frome, Somerset, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded William John Bartlett as a 1 year old, living with his family at Spring Gardens, Frome, Somerset, England. His parents were listed as Charles Bartlett (Foreman on Sewage Works, aged 48, born Castle Carey, Somerset) & Susan Jane Bartlett (aged 27, born South Trent, Somerset). William was the youngest of 4 children listed on this Census – Susan Ann (Scholar, aged 9, born Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset), Charles Bartlett (Scholar, aged 6, born Bristol, Gloucestershire), Victoria Kate Bartlett (aged 3, born Frome, Somerset) & William.

William John Bartlett attended British School, Frome, Somerset. (as per information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour).

Charles Bartlett, father of William John Bartlett, died in March quarter, 1898 at Frome, Somerset, England.

Susan Jane Bartlett, widowed mother of William John Bartlett, remarried in 1900 to James Webber at Axbridge, Somerset, England.

The 1911 Wales Census recorded John Bartlett as a 21 year old General Labourer, living at 3 Elwyn Street, Coed Ely, Llantrissant, Wales with his family. His stepfather was listed as James Webber (General Labourer (road construction), aged 46) & his mother was listed as Jane Webber (aged 48). James & Jane Webber had been married for 12 years & had no children from the marriage. John Bartlett was the youngest of 3 children listed on this Census – his sister Kate Buffton (married, aged 23) & his brother Charles Bartlett (General Labourer, aged 26).

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – William John Bartlett came to Australia when he was 21 years old.

William John Bartlett enlisted under the name of John Barkell & stated he was a 27 year old, single, Labourer (he stated he was born at Llantrissant, Glamorgan, South Wales) from 10 Jersey Road, Paddington, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Randwick, Sydney, NSW on 17th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 89 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as Mrs Webber, 3 Elwyn Street, Llantrissant, Glamorganshire, South Wales. He stated he had served with 3rd South Wales Borderers for 2 months (May – July, 1908).

Private John Barkell was posted to 4th Battalion on 17th August, 1914.

Private John Barkell embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 20th October, 1914 with the 4th Infantry Battalion "C" Company.

Private John Barkell embarked from Alexandria on Troopship *Lake Michigan* on 5th April, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) - Gallipoli Campaign.

Private John Barkell was wounded at Anzac between 6 & 9th August, 1915 (date as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 6th August, 1915 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left hand then transferred to Mudros. Private Barkell was admitted to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Lemnos on 9th August, 1915. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Andania* from Mudros on 17th August, 1915.

### 4th Battalion

The 4th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these other battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. The commander of

the 4th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel A. J. O. Thompson, was killed the next day. At ANZAC, the battalion took part in the defence of the beachhead and in August, along with the rest of the 1st Brigade, led the charge at Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

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

#### War Diary – 4th Battalion

*ANZAC – 6th August, 1915:*

*Battalion was formed up at 3.15 pm preparatory to moving to attack on LONESOME PINE. Attack was launched at 5.30 pm A, C & D Coy's attacking, B, Coy Bn reserve.*

*Reserve was thrown in about 0615. Objective gained but Bn suffered severe casualties. Capt Milson, Lt's Giles, Thompson, Mackinnon, Seldon being killed. Major Heane, Lt. MacDonald & Lt Mann also being wounded. Colonel Macnaghton was wounded but did not leave the trenches until the Bn was relieved on the 9th Aug,'15; during this period Colonel Macnaghton rendered very valuable assistance in seeing the whole front line trenches were supplied with Bombs, Ammunition etc.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private John Barkell was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 30th August, 1915 with G.S.W. to left thumb (partial amputation). He was discharged on 6th October, 1915.

Private John Barkell was admonished & forfeited 5 days pay on 25th October, 1915 for Absence without Leave from Australian & New Zealand Base Depot at London from 21st October, 1915 to 25th October, 1915 (5 days).

Private John Barkell was admitted to Australian Intermediate Base Depot at Abbey Wood, England on 19th November, 1915.

Private John Barkell was admitted to Military Hospital, Rochester, England on 27th November, 1915 with soft Chancre. He was transferred to Military Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 15th January, 1916. Total period VD – 50 days.

Private John Barkell forfeited 11 ½ d. for deficiency of Kit on 13th March, 1916 while posted at Australian Base Depot at Weymouth, England.

Private John Barkell was included in No. 25 Draft returning to join M.E.F.(Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) from Weymouth Base Depot, England. He disembarked at Alexandria from H. T. *Huntspill* on 5th April, 1916.

Private John Barkell was admitted to No. 17 General Hospital at Alexandria on 6th April, 1916 with a Venereal sore. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia on 2nd May, 1916 with V.D.

Private John Barkell was awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2 on 12th June, 1916 for “(1) *Conduct to the prejudice of good order & Military discipline in that he at 1st A. D. Hospital, Abbassia did not fall in to answer his name at 5.30 am Roll Call.* (2) *Conduct to the prejudice of good order & Military discipline in that he at 1st A. D. Hospital, Abbassia on 11/6/1916 after being told he was too late to me marked “present” said to S/Sgt Nish “Fuck you then.”* “

Private John Barkell was discharged from 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital & transferred to Detention Barracks at Abbassia on 13th June, 1916. He was re-admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia on 8th July, 1916. Private Barkell was discharged to Quarantine Details on 10th July, 1916.

Private John Barkell was discharged to duty on 11th July, 1916 from Quarantine Details. He was taken on strength of 1st Divisional Base Depot at Tel-el-Kebir on 11th July, 1916.

Private John Barkell embarked from Alexandria on 29th July, 1916 on H. T. *Arcadian*.

Private John Barkell was taken on strength of 1st Training Battalion in England on 9th August, 1916.

Private John Barkell was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 15th August, 1916 with Thrombosis of Art of Brain. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Decompression operation R \_\_\_\_ . Returned paraplegia.*" He was reported to be dangerously ill on 20th August, 1916.

Private John Barkell died on 20th August, 1916 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Thrombosis of Art of Brain.

A death for James Barkell, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Andover, Wiltshire/Hampshire, England.

Base Records wrote to Mrs Barkell, 8 Saltram Crescent, Paddington, London on 9th December, 1916 with the following : "*Information has been received from Military Hospital, Tidworth, that the body of (late No. 89 Private Barkell James. 4th Battalion A.I.F.) was sent to your residence for interment. Could this Office be advised, please, the following particulars, Grave Site, grave site number and date of Burial, for Records purposes in this Office.*"

Private John Barkell was buried on 25th August, 1916 in Paddington Old Cemetery, Kilburn, Greater London, England – Grave No. 11231 Section 3. E.

Records Section, Australian Imperial Force, London, England wrote to Base Records, Department of Defence, Melbourne, Australia, on 24th May, 1919 regarding the late No. 89 Private J. Barkell, 4th Battalion, A.I.F. : "*You are advised that the above-named late member has been exhumed from common grave No. 11231, Section E. 3 and re-interred in a separate single grave No. 15207, Section 2F. in Paddington Cemetery, London.*"

This is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number 2 F. 15207 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Details for the address of the next-of-kin of the late Private John Barkell were altered on the records on 17th January, 1917 after receiving a letter from his mother. The new address for his mother – Mrs Webber was to be recorded as 14 Commercial St., Tynant, Boddan, Nr Pontypridd, S. Wales (previously 3 Elwyn Street, Llantrissant, Glamorgan).

Mrs Jane Webber, 1 Elwyn Street, Coed Ely, Nr Llantrissant, Glamorganshire, South Wales, wrote the following letter on 22nd February, 1917: "*Sorry to put you to any trouble but my son died in Tidworth Military Hospital last August – Pte J. Barkell, No. 89, 4th Battalion, A.I. Forces, and we have not received any of his personal effects which were collected by 1221 Cpl. MacDonald and signed by him on August 25th, 1916. The Will was made to me although he married a girl from London but did not alter his Will. This is a list – cash £5.3.6; 1 Photo Pendant; 3 coins; 4 photos; 1 watch & strap, Pay Book, and will you kindly let me know about his Deferred Pay & these effects. Major Storey of Sydney was his Officer when in Egypt for whom he was servant. I will be most thankful for any information from you and oblige.*"

Base Records replied to Mrs Jane Webber on 18th May, 1917 regarding the personal effects of her son, stating "*that all matters into this connection will be dealt with at the Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road, Westminster, London, S.W., and you are advised to communicate with the Commandant at that address.*"

Base Records wrote to A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, Westminster, London, on 6th March, 1917 regarding No. 89 Private J. Barkell, 4th Battalion (deceased): "*It is intimated that the abovenamed deceased soldier who died on the 30th August 1916, was married on 16th March 1916 and from letters received from his widow, it appears that he made a Will prior to marriage in favor of his Mother Mrs Webber No. 3 Elwyn Street, Coed Ely. Enclosed herewith certified copy of Certificate of Marriage and original letters (2) received from Mrs Barkell for your information.*"

*[A marriage was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Paddington, London, Middlesex, England between John Barkell & Matilda I. E. Whymark.]*

The Chief Accountant, New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways, wrote to Base Records on 6th September, 1917 requesting the date of enlistment, date of embarkation, occupation, rank and name and address of the next-of-kin for No. 89 Private J. Barkell, 4th Battalion.

Base Records replied to The Chief Accountant on 11th September, 1917 stating that “No. 89 Private J, Barkell, 4th Battalion, who is reported as having died on 20th August 1916, at Military Hospital, Tidworth, of Thrombosis of art of Brain, enlisted at Randwick, NSW, on 21st August 1914 and embarked on 20/10/14 for Active Service abroad. Deceased was, by occupation, a labourer; next-of-kin being recorded as Mrs J. Barkell (Wife), 8 Saltram Crescent, Shirland Road, Paddington, London, England.”

A War Pension issued to Mrs M. I. E. Barkell, 2 Saltram Rd, Shirland Road, Paddington, widow of the late Private John Barkell, was to cease from 3rd December, 1919 as claimant had remarried – now Sweeney.

*[A marriage was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Lewes, Sussex, between Matilda I. E. Barkell & John F. Sweeney.]*

Private John Barkell was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Barkell's widow - Mrs J. Barkell, as the closest next-of-kin. (The Memorial Plaque was to be issued in England in November, 1921. No record regarding Memorial Scroll, however in other instances the Plaque & Scroll (if issued in England) were issued at the same time.)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. Bartlett – service number 89, aged 27, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry. Served as BARKELL. He was the son of Charles and Jane Bartlett, of 29 Collwyn Street, Coed Ely, Llantrisant, Glam., Wales.

Private J. Bartlett is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 39.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

**\*\*NOTE** – Based on previous research - when a soldier enlisted under an assumed name there would be some mention in the Service Record file that he had enlisted under an assumed name & Statutory Declarations would be required by the next-of-kin. No mention is made in the Service Record file of Private John Barkell that he enlisted under an assumed name; nor does it mention his real name was William John Bartlett.

It is also unknown why he enlisted under an assumed name.

(58 pages of Private John Barkell'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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **RETURNED TO DUTY**

#### **AUSTRALIAN OFFICERS AND MEN**

The following officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Australian Imperial Force serving abroad, have been reported "returned to duty." The names are taken from official casualty lists Nos 162 to 164 :\_

New South Wales

Pte J. BARKELL (England)

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 19 April, 1916)*

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### **MORE CASUALTIES**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES LOSSES**

##### **209TH AND 210TH LISTS**

Died of Wounds

Pte J. BARKELL (England), 20/8/16

*(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 12 September, 1916)*

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### **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)*

W. J. Bartlett who served as Private J. Barkell has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

*Dearer To Memory Than Words Can Tell*

## Paddington Old Cemetery, Kilburn, Greater London, England

There are 207 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war here. 130 of the burials are in a Service Plot (denoted in the entries as S.P.) and a Screen Wall memorial commemorates 50 whose graves, throughout the cemetery, are not marked by headstones. There are 4 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war and 43 non-war Service burials.

Visitors to the Screen Wall in Paddington Cemetery are advised that the war casualties are listed alphabetically by surname.

*(Information from CWGC)*

Paddington Old Cemetery is located in Willesden Lane, Kilburn. Also known as Paddington Cemetery or Willesden Lane Cemetery.



*(Photo by Irid Escent)*



*(Photo by Oxyman)*



*(Photo from Friends of Paddington Old Cemetery)*



Photo of W. J. Bartlett who served as Private J. Barkell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Paddington Old Cemetery, Kilburn, Greater London, England.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)*