

**Manor Park Cemetery,
Forest Gate, Greater London, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



54624 PRIVATE

J. C. BARKER

35TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 18

Joseph Cecil BARKER

Joseph Cecil Barker was born in London, England on 13th August, 1900 to parents Joseph & Maude Jessie Barker (nee Yates). His birth was registered in the September quarter, 1900 in the district of West Ham, Essex. Joseph Cecil Barker was baptised on 30th September, 1900 at St. Mary Magdalene, East Ham, Essex. The family lived at 57t High Street & Joseph Barker's occupation was listed as Undertaker.

(Note: Joseph Cecil Barker recorded his birth date as 13th August, 1899 on his Attestation Papers – see below).

The 1901 England Census recorded Joseph C. Barker as a 7 month old, living with his family at 57 High Street, East Ham, Essex, England. His parents were listed as Joseph Barker (Manager & Undertaker, aged 26, born Bethnal Green, London) & Maude J. Barker (aged 24, born Bishop Gate St City). Also listed was Dorothea M. Barker (aged 2, born East Ham, Essex).

The 1911 England Census recorded Joseph Cecil Barker as a 10 year old, at School, living with his mother & three siblings in a five roomed dwelling at 17 Caledon Road North, East Ham, Essex, England. His mother was listed as Maude Jessie Barker (aged 34). Joseph & Maude Jessie had been married for 13 years & had a total of four children. The four children were listed on this Census – Dorothea Maude Barker (aged 12, at School), then Joseph, Leslie Alfred Barker (aged 7, at School, born Walthamstow, Essex) & Ernest Charles Barker (aged 5, born Bethnal Green, Middlesex).

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour - Joseph Cecil Barker came to Australia when he was 16 years old.

Joseph Cecil Barker stated he was an 18 year old, single, Despatch Clerk from Surry Hills, N.S.W. when he enlisted on 18th April, 1918 in Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 54624 & his religion was Church of Christ. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Barker, 16 Baroness Road, Hackney Road, London N.E., England. (Note: Address for the father in London was as per Embarkation Roll, however the address listed on the Attestation Papers was 18 Lt. Bloomfield St, Surry Hills, NSW.)

As Joseph Cecil Barker was under the age of 21 his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Joseph Barker, father, signed his consent "Mother in England".

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. 18

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 54624
M

Name { Surname BARKER
in full { Christian Name Joseph Cecil

Unit 351 Br

87655
Joined on 18 APR 1918

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.
You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.

1. What is your Name? Joseph Cecil Barker

2. In or near what Town were you born? London
In or near the Town of London
In the State or Country of England.

3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) British Born.

4. 18 1/2 years (13/8/1899)

Private Joseph Cecil Barker was posted to Recruit M. & D. Depot at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 6th May, 1918. He was transferred to 1st Infantry Depot Battalion at Liverpool, NSW on 2nd June, 1918.

Private Joseph Cecil Barker embarked from Sydney, NSW on SS *Field Marshal* on 19th June, 1918 with the 8th N.S.W. General Service Reinforcements & disembarked at London, England on 26th August, 1918.

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

Private Joseph Cecil Barker was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 26th August, 1918. He was allotted to Reinforcements of 35th Battalion on 26th August, 1918 whilst posted at 9th Training Battalion.

Private Joseph Cecil Barker was sent sick to Hurdcott Hospital, Wiltshire on 6th October, 1918 from 9th Training Battalion with Pleurisy. He was transferred to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 8th October, 1918 with Pneumonia.

Private Joseph Cecil Barker died at 4.30 am on 9th October, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Joseph C. Barker, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Joseph Cecil Barker was buried on 15th October, 1918 in Manor Park Cemetery, Forest Gate, East London, England – Grave No. 14.

This is now recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number 14. 371 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Joseph Cecil Barker - Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths sent from:- Mr & Mrs Kempsey, Mrs & Mrs Hobdell & family, Mr & Mrs Brandham Junr, Miss Bennett, Mr Bellions, Miss Frazer, Miss Weight, Mrs Griffin, Mrs Gunter, and friends. A large number were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev: S. A. Beveridge, of the A.I.F., conducted the burial service. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names of relatives & friends present at the Funeral – (Mother) Mrs M. Barker, 16 Baroness Rd,; Mrs Barker, Miss & Masters Barker, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Hall & Family, Mrs Fulham & family, Mr & Mrs Barker, Mrs Brandham & others.

Private Joseph Cecil Barker requested in his Will, dated 5th June, 1918, that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects to be given to his mother – Mrs Maude Jessie Barker of 16 Baroness Rd., Hackney Rd, London N.E.

Base Records wrote to Mr Barker, 7 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW on 17th October, 1918 with : *"The following is an extract of a cable received from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, referring to the late No. 54624 Private J. C. Barker, 35th Battalion, who, it is regretted died of pneumonia 9/10/18, at Fovant Military Hospital:- "advise Barker 7 Elizabeth Street Sydney "mother burying."*

The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 7th November, 1919 requesting a certificate of death, in duplicate, for Joseph C. Barker, 54624, No 8. General Service Reinforcements, the address of the deceased prior to enlistment & the name & address of the person nominated as his next-of-kin.

Marcus Clark & Co. Ltd, Employees' Superannuation and Welfare Fund, Central Square, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 18th April, 1921 requesting *"a copy of the Military Certificate of Death of the late No. 54624 Private J. C. Barker, 35th Battalion who died of pneumonia 9/10/18 at Fovant Military Hospital. We require a Certificate for Insurance purposes, and would be glad if you will let us have same as early as possible."*

Base Records replied to The Trustees, Marcus Clark & Co. Ltd, on 22nd April, 1921 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No, 54624 Private J. C. Barker, 35th Battalion.

Private Joseph Cecil Barker was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Barker's father - Mr J. Barker, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joseph Cecil Barker – service number 54624, aged 18, of 35th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph & Maud Jessie Barker, of 16 Baroness Rd., Hackney Rd., London.

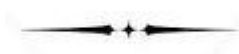
Private J. C. Barker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 124.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(52 pages of Private Joseph Cecil Barker'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

444th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Pte JOS. CECIL BARKER, England (illness)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 23 November, 1918)

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 J. C. Barker has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but no inscription

Manor Park Cemetery, Forest Gate, East London, England

There are 240 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 192 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 2 non World War burials. Those whose graves could not be marked on a headstone are named on a Screen Wall memorial.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Steve Smith)



(Photo from Manor Park Cemetery & Crematorium)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Leslie Sawyer)



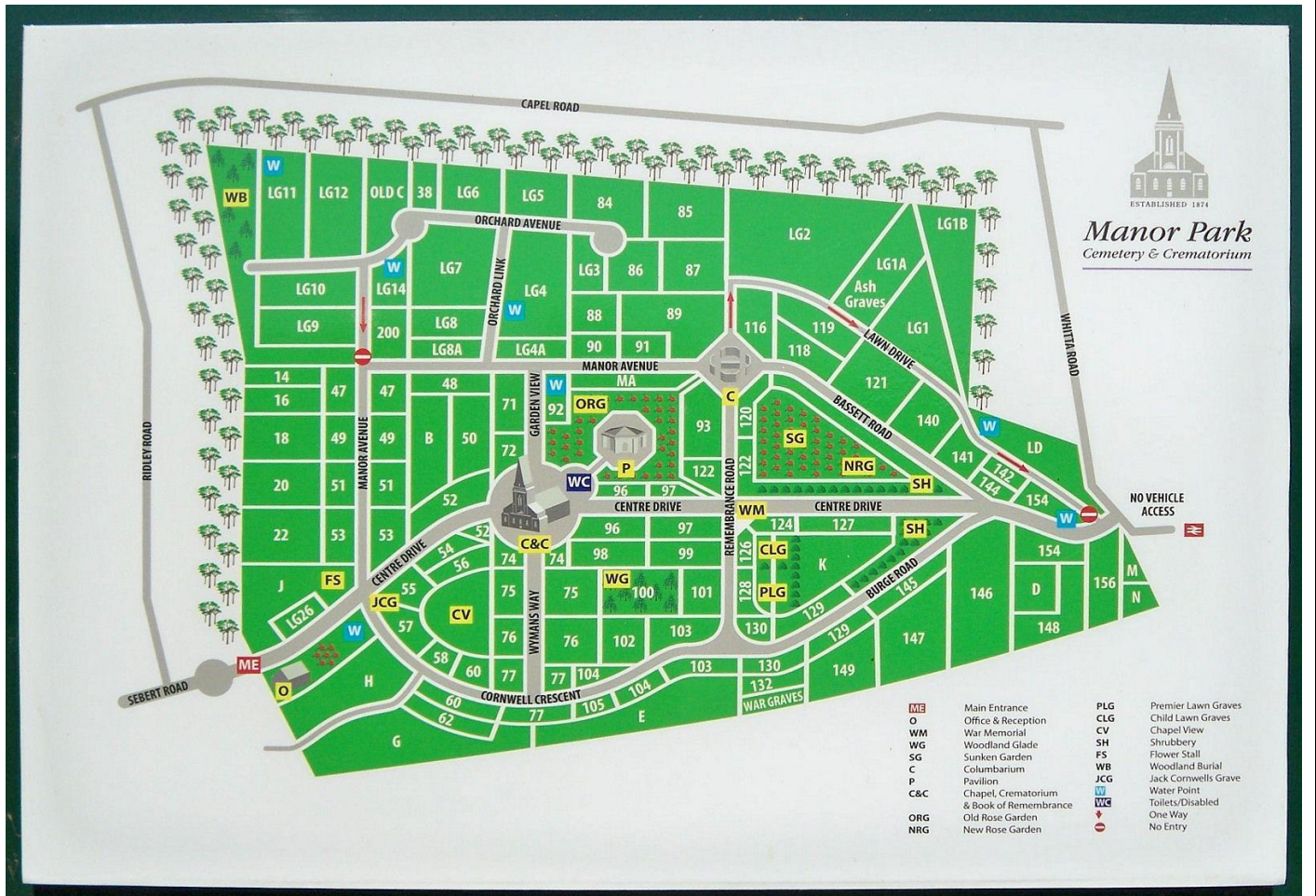
Cross of Sacrifice (above) & **CWGC War Graves** (below) (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private J. C. Barker's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Manor Park Cemetery, Forest Gate, East London, England.



(Photo from Gravestonephotos.com)



(Find a Grave – Chris Doran)