

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4137 PRIVATE**

**G. W. BARNES**

**9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**11TH JUNE, 1918 Age 29**

*In Loving Memory Of  
My Beloved Son  
Gone But Not Forgotten*

## George William BARNES

George William Barnes was born at Rockhampton, Queensland on 7th September, 1888 to parents George & Eliza Jane Barnes (nee Capps).

The 1912, 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Rockhampton, Queensland recorded George William Barnes, Labourer from 321 West Street.

George William Barnes was a 27 year old, single, Labourer from Rockhampton, Queensland when he enlisted on 30th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. J. Barnes, 321 West Street, Rockhampton, Queensland.

Private George William Barnes was posted to 13th Reinforcements of 9th Battalion (no date recorded).

Private George William Barnes, Service number 4137, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Kyarra (A55)* on 3rd January, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements & disembarked at Alexandria on 19th February, 1916.

Private George William Barnes embarked from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 on Troopship *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916. Private Barnes proceeded from 1st Australian Divisional Base at Etaples on 12th May, 1916 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 9th Battalion from Reinforcements on 14th May, 1916 at Steenvercke.

Private George William Barnes was wounded in action in France on 23rd July, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 27th July, 1916 with Shrapnel wound/s to Right Hand. Private Barnes was transferred to England from Havre on 31st July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Goorka*.

### 9th Battalion

The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Queensland, and with the 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. It was split to help form the 49th Battalion and bought up to strength with reinforcements. In March 1916 the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley. The 9th Battalion attacked on the extreme right of the line and it was during this action that Private John Leak won, with the bayonet, the battalion's only Victoria Cross.....

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

### War Diary – 9th Battalion

*On 21st July orders were issued for the 1st Aust. Divn. To attack the enemy's defences surrounding the village of POZIERES on the night of 22nd/23rd. The 1st Infantry Bde. Was allotted the left sector, the 3rd the 3rd Bde. Sector. Its objectives (two) were the enemy's front line trenches extending from X.5.b.2.3. to X.5.c.8.5. and his second line extending from X.5.a.8.6 to X.5.a.4.4. It was also given the task of driving the enemy from his two main trenches O.G. 1 and O.G.2 as far as the railway line, parts of which were attacked the previous evening. One Coy of the 10th Bn. was placed at the disposal of C.O. 9th Bn. as supports in the attack of O.G. 1 and O.G.2.*

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*The Bn. had now been fighting since the night of 20th. Strenuous hand to hand fighting with shells bursting everywhere the whole time both night and day. No sleep and sometimes for half an hour the helmets had to be worn on account of Gas shells. Everyone was absolutely worn out and nerve shattered but notwithstanding the indomitable spirit remained. The wounded were evacuated and the dead buried. The Bn was relieved by the 17th Bn of 5th Bde. at 0400 on 26th instant. Our casualties during the three operations were 3 Officers killed, 2 Off. Missing (believed killed) 8 Off wounded. 54 O.R. killed 63 O.R missing and 263 O.R. wounded. Total 393.*

*Too much praise cannot be given the stretcher bearers. These men carried out their work night and day with no rest and under shell fire the whole of the time.....*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George William Barnes was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 1st August, 1916 with G.S.W. to Right Hand.

Mrs E. J. Barnes, 321 West St, Rockhampton, Queensland was advised by Base Records on 15th August, 1916 that her son Private George W. Barnes had been wounded.

Private George William Barnes was written up for a Crime on 2nd October, 1916 while posted at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England – Overstaying Leave from midnight on 1st October, 1916 to 10 pm on 2nd October, 1916. He was awarded 3 days confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days pay.

Private George William Barnes proceeded overseas to France on 14th October, 1916 from 3rd Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 16th October, 1916.

Private George William Barnes was sent to Hospital on 31st October, 1916 from 1st A.D.B.D. He was admitted to 24th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 31st October, 1916 with Mumps. Private Barnes was discharged to Base Details on 21st November, 1916 & was marched into 1st A.D.B.D. at Etaples on the same day. He was marched out from 1st A.D.B.D. on 2nd December, 1916 & rejoined 9th Battalion in France on 5th December, 1916.

Private George William Barnes reported sick on 10th April, 1917. He was admitted to 2nd D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 10th April, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) then transferred 4th Field Ambulance on the same day. Private Barnes was transferred on 10th April, 1917 to 56th Casualty Clearing Station. (Note: Casualty Form - Active Service recorded he was transferred to CCS on 15th April, 1917 then on another line recorded he was admitted to 56 CCS on 14th April, 1917). He was transferred to 11th Ambulance Train on 14th April, 1917 & admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 17th April, 1917. Private Barnes was transferred from Rouen on 29th April, 1917 for transferred to England then on 2nd May, 1917 he was transferred to Hospital Ship *SS France* at Havre.

Private George William Barnes was admitted to Military Hospital at Eastleigh, England on 3rd May, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was granted furlough on 2nd July, 1917 & was to report to No. 1 Command Depot on 16th July, 1917.

Private George William Barnes was written up for an Offence at Perham Downs – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 3.30 pm on 16th July, 1917 until 4 pm on 18th July, 1917. Award – admonished by Lieutenant W. Crampton on 19th July, 1917 & forfeited 3 days' pay.

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. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Private George William Barnes was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 18th July, 1917 & medically classified as B1A (fit for overseas training camp in a few weeks). The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Private Barnes was suffering from Myalgia – “*Considerable pain in muscles legs & back.*” He was dentally fit on 1st August, 1917.

Private George William Barnes proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 15th August, 1917 from Overseas Training Depot. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 16th August, 1917 then marched out from 1st A.D.B.D. on 29th August, 1917. Private Barnes rejoined his Battalion in France on 31st August, 1917.

Private George William Barnes reported sick on 26th December, 1917. He was admitted to 1st A.D.R.S. (Australian Divisional Rest Station) on 26th December, 1917 with Scabies & discharged to Duty on 2nd January, 1918. Private Barnes rejoined 9th Battalion in the Field on 6th January, 1918.

Private George William Barnes was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd February, 1918 with Scabies. He was discharged to duty on the same day.

Private George William Barnes was on Leave to UK from 18th March, 1918 & rejoined 9th Battalion from Leave on 4th April, 1918.

Private George William Barnes was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 14th May, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 14th May, 1918 then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to Back. Private Barnes was transferred to 54th General Hospital on 15th May, 1918. He was transferred to England on 26th May, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew*.

### 9th Battalion

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The battalion remained in Flanders in the Messines sector of the front into early 1918. Following the launch of the German spring offensive beginning on 21 March 1918, all five Australian divisions were despatched south to the Somme front. In mid-April, however, the 9th Battalion along with other units of the 1st Australian Division, was rushed back to northern France to help contain an enemy breakthrough aimed at the vital town of Hazebrouck. There they remained until August 1918.....

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

### War Diary – 9th Battalion

13th May, 1918:

*Early this morning Lieut KNOWLES found another prisoner hiding in the ruins of the baths close to our new post. The prisoner stated he was sent out to join an outpost but could not find it. It was probably the post we cut off in the operation of ours of 11th instant.*

*By arrangement with Battalion on our left (15th West Yorks) a post was established in front of the baths. The left Battalion put up a post on the left of the METEREN RECQUE thus linking up the two battalions. Liaison was established at once. We had an N.C.O. join the post on our left to keep up liaison, owing to the troops being rather young and inexperienced.*

*This morning about 11.30 the Divisional Commander called at Battalion H.Q. and asked that his congratulations for the good work done by the Battalion be passed to all ranks.*

*Battalion Strength – Present with Unit – 29 Officers and 627 Other Ranks*

*Detached            20            “            176            do*

*Casualties during relief – 1 O.R. Killed and 7 O.R's wounded.*

*METEREN-STRAZEELE - 14th May, 1918:*

*Relief Complete by 12.20 am when the Battalion moved Companies to new position in Divisional Reserve.*

*Enemy planes bombed vicinity of billets apparently looking for our heavy guns.*

*Major J. NEWMAN rejoined 11th Battalion.*

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

Private George William Barnes was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 26th May, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Back & his condition was listed as dangerous. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: *“Notes from France. Wounded May 13/18. Wound of back involving spine weakness of both more marked on Rt side. Loss of sensation on dorsum & soles of feet. Retention of urine. Operation – wound enlarged & explored. Fract of Laminae found & piece of spine of Vertebra which was detached was taken away. X ray – F.B. (foreign body) lying to the right just anterior to body of 3rd L.V. C.O.A. Large open septic wound. Incontinence of faeces. Retention of Urine, No power in legs feet or toes. 29 – 5 -18 Supra pubic performed. Fract of*

*3rd 4th Lumbar vertebra, piece of metal lying between the two bones. 6 – 6 -18 Gradually getting worse, meningeal symptoms. Delirious, copious discharge from spinal wound. 11-6-18 Died from Meningitis.”*

Mrs E. J. Barnes, 321 West St, Rockhampton, Queensland was advised by Base Records on 30th May, 1918 that Private G. W. Barnes had been wounded, second occasion. She was advised on 10th June, 1918 that Private George Barnes had been admitted to King George Military Hospital, England on 26th May with gunshot wound/s to Back & his condition was dangerous.

Private George William Barnes died at 5.5 pm on 11th June, 1918 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from wounds received in action - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Spine & Paraplegia.

A death for George W. Barnes, aged 29, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, Surrey/London. England.

Private George William Barnes was buried on 15th June, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 181, 134.

*From the burial report of Private George William Barnes - Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by a beautiful wreath. Chaplain Terry, A.I.F. London, officiated at the graveside. The “Last Post” was sounded by the A.I.F. Bugler. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

*Names of Relatives or Friends present at the Funeral – Aunt – Mrs J. Wilson, 13 North Everard Street, Kings Lynn. Friend – Mrs A Wilson, 6 Treport Street, Garrett Lane, Wandsworth, London.*

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. J. Barnes, 321 West St, Rockhampton, Queensland, on 22nd March, 1923 advising that the site of her son’s grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row A Grave 2.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. A. 2. Private George William Barnes now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. J. Barnes, 321 West St, Rockhampton, Queensland, on 19th October, 1921 stating she was registered on the records of the late No. 4137 Private G. W. Barnes, 9th Battalion, as the next of kin but required to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Eliza J. Barnes replied to Base Records on 10th November, 1921 advising that her son’s father “...my husband has been dead a few years. I am the nearest relation to my Soldier boy.”

Private George William Barnes was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Barnes’ mother – Mrs E. J. Barnes, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George William Barnes – service number 4137, aged 29, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Eliza Jane & the late George Barnes.

Private G. W. Barnes is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



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

The Rockhampton War Memorial, located in Botanic Gardens, 100 Spencer Street, Rockhampton, Queensland does not list individual names.



**Rockhampton War Memorial** *(Photo from Monument Australia)*

(61 pages of Private George William Barnes' 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*



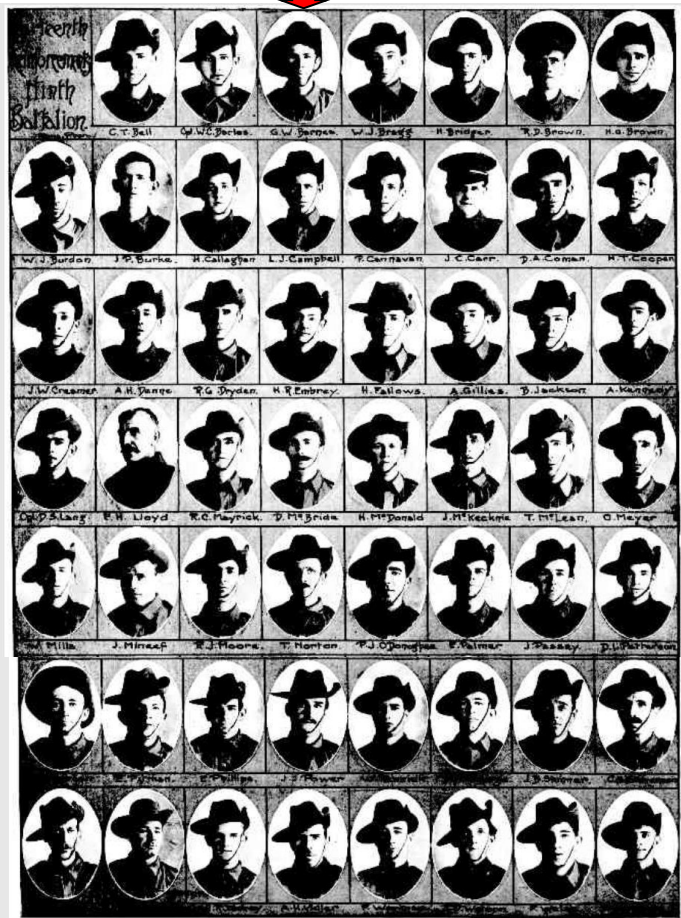
**Private George William Barnes**



## Newspaper Notices

### Sixteenth Reinforcements

#### Ninth Battalion



(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 15 April, 1916)



## **CASUALTIES**

### **THE 200th AND 201st LISTS**

QUEENSLAND

WOUNDED

Pte G. W. Barnes, Rockhampton

*(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 29 August, 1916)*

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### **The Roll of Honour**

#### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

##### **254th LIST**

QUEENSLAND

RETURNED TO DUTY

Casualty Prev. Reported

G. W. Barnes, Rockhampton

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 December, 1916)*

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#### **ANOTHER LIST OF CASUALTIES**

The 409th list of casualties, issued on Saturday, contains the names of the following Queenslanders:-

WOUNDED

Pte G. W. Barnes, Rockhampton (2nd occ.)

*(The Daily Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 17 June, 1918)*

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## **CASUALTIES**

### **413 LIST**

NAMES OF QUEENSLANDERS

DIED OF WOUNDS

G. W. Barnes, Rockhampton, 11/6/18 (prev. rep. wounded, 2nd occ)

*(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 1 July, 1918)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

BARNES – In loving memory of my dear Friend, Private George W. Barnes, 9th Battalion, who died of wounds, 11th June, 1918, at the King George Hospital, London.

His country called,

He answered.

(Inserted by N. Smith)

*(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 11 June, 1919) & (The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Qld – 14 June, 1919)*

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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)*

Private G. W. Barnes does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory Of My Beloved Son*

*Gone But Not Forgotten*

## Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

*A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)*

*Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.*

*Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.*



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photo from CWGC)



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)



**Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)





*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



**Australian War Graves** *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private G. W. Barnes' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

