

**Streatham Cemetery, Tooting,  
London, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**11311 PRIVATE**

**R. E. BARNES**

**WILTSHIRE REGIMENT**

**29TH DECEMBER, 1918 Age 33**

*Pro Patria*

## Reginald Emblem BARNES

Reginald Emblem Barnes was born at Woolloongabba, Brisbane, Queensland on 22nd October, 1885 to parents Albert James and Maria Barnes (nee Witty).

The 1901 England Census recorded Reginald Barnes as a 15 year old, living with his family at 147 Offord Road, Barnsbury, Islington, London, England. His father was listed as Albert J. Barnes (Journeyman Tailor, aged 36, born Finsbury, London) & Maria Barnes (aged 35, born Brixton, London). Reginald was one of 4 children listed on this Census – Ernest Barnes (aged 16, born Hornsey, London) then Reginald (born Queensland), Maud Barnes (aged 13, born Queensland) & Helen Barnes (aged 3, born Queensland).

The 1911 England Census recorded Reginald Barnes as a 25 year old Barman living with his family at 42 Corsehill Street, Mitcham Lane, Streatham, Wandsworth, London, England in a 5 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Albert James Barnes (Tailor Maker, aged 46) & Maria Barnes (aged 45). Albert & Maria had been married for 27 years & had 7 children. The 7 children were listed on this Census – Albert Barnes (Barman, aged 26) then Reginald, Maud Barnes (Tailoress, aged 23), Helen Barnes (At School, aged 13), Stanley Barnes (At School, born London), Dorothy Barnes (At School, aged 5, born London) & Maria Barnes (aged 1, born London).

Reginald Barnes enlisted in the British Army on 5th September, 1914 at Devizes, Wiltshire. He was a 24 year old, single, Barman. His religion was Church of England. He was 5 feet 3 inches, fresh complexion, blue eyes & light brown hair. His next-of-kin was listed as father - Albert Barnes & mother – Maria – 42 Corsehill St, Mitcham Lane. S.W.

Private Reginald Barnes was posted to Wiltshire Regiment with a Service number of 11311. He was posted to 6th Wiltshire Regiment on 10th September, 1914.

Private Reginald Barnes joined B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) in France on 19th July, 1915.

### **6th (Service) Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment**

Formed at Devizes in September 1914, the 6th (Service) Battalion was soon assigned to the 19th (Western) Division, eventually being assigned to the 58th Brigade. In July 1915, the battalion was sent to France with the rest of the division. It would see action at the Battle of the Loos, Battle of the Somme, and Third Ypres. Due to losses sustained in Passchendaele campaign in 1917, the 6th Battalion would be amalgamated with the Wiltshire Yeomanry to form the 6th (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) battalion on 9 September 1917. Eventually, the battalion would be reduced to cadre strength. The excess personnel would be used as replacements for the 2nd Battalion which assumed its place in the 58th Brigade. The cadre was returned to England on 18 June 1918 and the battalion brought up to strength by absorbing the 9th Battalion, Dorset Regiment.

*(Information from Wikipedia)*

Private Reginald Barnes was wounded in action at Festubert, France on 25th September, 1915.

(It appears that Private Barnes Service Record file is not longer available. Information regarding his time in Wiltshire Regiment has been taken from his Pension Record)

### War Diary – 6th Wiltshire Regiment

*25th September, 1915 – Rue de Callioux, France:*

*At 5.15a.m on the 25th an order was received that the attack would commence at 5.50 with asphyxiating sic [asphyxiating] gas and smoke candles. The assault signal was given at 6.30 by rockets from Brigade Office. The 58th Brigade's objective was that German lines just in front and rear of Rue d' Auvert. The Welch on our right supported by the Cheshires, the Welsh Fusiliers to our left supported by ourselves made the assault which was carried out by advancing through the saps. Owing to the gas not taking affect the Division on our right were unable to take the "crater" ridge with the result that the enemy on our front were able to bring enfilade fire on our troops. The*

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saps were soon full and the attack was repulsed. A & B did not come into action but D Company on the left went over the parapet and attacked. They were soon held up and suffered heavy casualties. Capt. Wykes and Lt Wiles were wounded, 2nd Lt's Moore and Coleman were killed and other ranks were 17 killed, 17 missing and 46 wounded. 2nd Lt. Trueman took over charge of the Company and after holding on for a considerable time withdrew the remainder of the Company with considerable judgement to our original firing line under orders from Major Hartley. The enemy remained quiet. The Battalion took over the firing line from the Fusiliers who had suffered heavy losses, Owing to the wet weather considerable difficulty was experienced in bringing back the wounded and clearing up the trenches.

(War Diary information from The Wardrobe – Home of The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum)

A Medical Report was completed on Private Reginald Barnes on 16th May, 1916 which listed his disability as G.S.W. Abdomen. The disability had occurred on 25th September, 1915 at Festubert, France, while on Active Service. *"In the trenches he received a gunshot wound in the abdomen. After four days in hospital in Rouelles, he returned to England & was in a V.A.D. Hospital at Newton Abbott for nearly two months & in Hospital at Exeter for 1 week. He rejoined his Unit & was sent to Lulton (?) Coldfield 6/3/16."* The Medical Board recommended on 23rd May, 1916 that he be permanently discharged for any military service *(This man has been tried as a clerk in the orderly room, but cannot sit for any length of time on account of pain).*

A Medical Report was completed on Private Reginald Barnes on 23rd May, 1916 which stated *"Medically Unfit. G.S.W. Abdomen. In action 25.9.15 at Festubert, France. X-rays show a bullet in front of the left illium. He is obliged to walk with the thigh flexed on account of pain in the groin. The left thigh is wasted. He is unable to walk without the aid of a stick. Permanent."*

Private Reginald Barnes was posted to Command Depot on 7th March, 1916.

Private Reginald Barnes was discharged from Wiltshire Regiment on 16th June, 1916 - N.L.P.F. (no longer physically fit for War Service as per Para 392 (xvi) King's Regulations due to wounds received in action – G.S.W. to abdomen. He had served for 1 year & 286 days.

Summary of Service at Home & Abroad:

COUNTRY	FROM	TO
Home	5.9.14	18.7.15
E.F. France	19.7.15	6.10.15
Home	9.10.15	16.6.16

Private Reginald Barnes was entitled to a Pension from 29th June, 1916. His Chelsea Pensioner number was 3516E.

Private Reginald Emblem Barnes was entitled to Silver War Badge & Certificate – No. 7077.

### Silver War Badge

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

The large sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes. The decoration was introduced as an award of "King's silver" for having received wounds or injury during loyal war service to the Crown's authority. A secondary causation for its introduction was that a practice had developed in the early years of the war in the United Kingdom where some women took it upon themselves to confront and publicly embarrass men of fighting age they saw in public places who were not in military uniform, by ostentatiously presenting them with white feathers, as a suggestion of cowardice. As the war had developed substantial numbers of servicemen who had been discharged

from His Majesty's Forces with wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance, found themselves being harassed in such a manner and the badge, to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, was a means of discouraging such incidents being directed at ex-forces' personnel. It was forbidden to wear the badge on a military uniform.

*(Information from Wikipedia)*



**Silver War Badge**

A Medical Report was due to be completed on ex-Private Reginald Barnes on 29th November, 1916 in order to adjust his Pension.

A Medical Report was completed on ex-Private Reginald Barnes on 6th January, 1917. His capacity for earning a full livelihood was listed as "1/2". His present earnings were listed as "*none since discharge*".

A Medical Report was completed on ex-Private Reginald Barnes on 16th July, 1917 His percentage was 30% "*Man willing to enter Hospital 15-10-17.*" The D.G.A.M.J. recommended on 23rd October, 1917 "*admission into 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, as an "In Patient."*

Reginald Emblem Barnes married Gladys V. Lantaff in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

The 1918 London Electoral Registers listed Reginald Emblem Barnes living at Credenhill Street, Wandsworth.

A son – Reginald Stanley Albert Barnes was born on 8th November, 1918 to parents Reginald Emblem Barnes & Gladys Violet Barnes. He was baptised on 10th August, 1919. The family was listed as living at 42 Corsehill Street & Reginald Emblem Barnes was listed as a Clerk.

Private Reginald Emblem Barnes died on 29th December, 1918. (Died of wounds as listed by Australian War Memorial's Commemorative Roll).

A death for Reginald E. Barnes, aged 33, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Wandsworth, Greater London, England.

Private Reginald Emblem Barnes was buried Streatham Cemetery, Tooting, London, England – Plot number U. 237 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

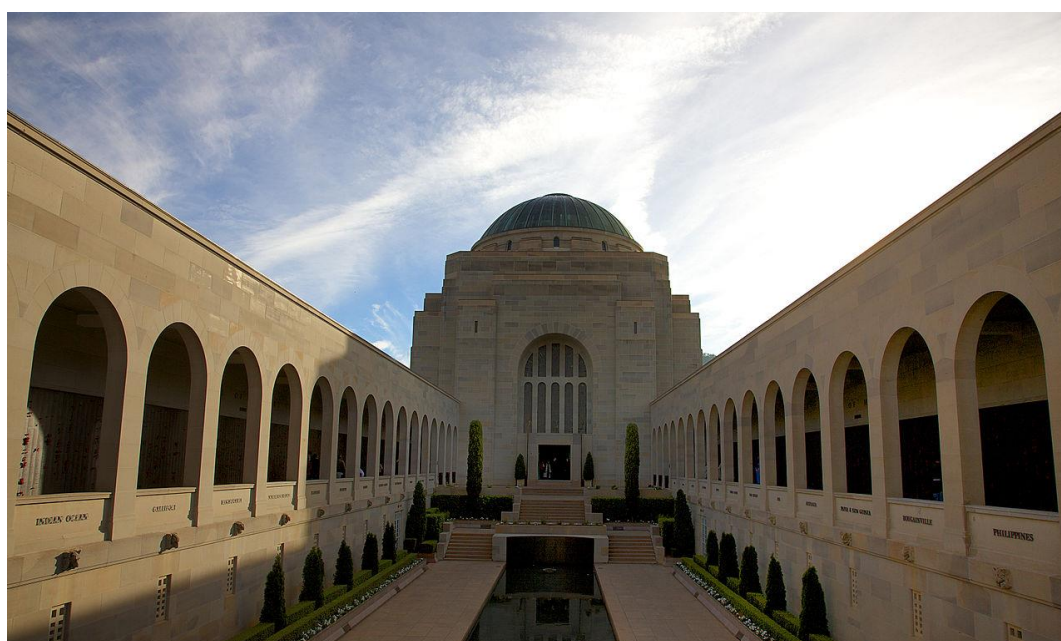
Private Reginald Emblem Barnes, of 6th Wiltshire Regiment, was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Reginald Emblem Barnes – service number 11311, aged 33, of "D" Coy., 6th (Wiltshire Yeomanry) Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. He was the son of Albert and Maria Barnes, of 42 Corsehill St., Mitcham Lane, Streatham. Previously wounded at the Battle of Loos 25th September, 1915.

Private Reginald Emblem Barnes is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



**Commemorative Roll** (Photo from AWM)

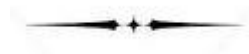


**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (Capital Photographer)

Gladys Violet Barnes (widow, aged 28) married William Ayers Lathey (Bricklayer, aged 35) on 23rd December, 1923 at St. Andrew's Church, Earlsfield, Wandsworth, London. They both listed their address as 86 Tranmore Rd.

(24 pages of Private Reginald Barnes' Pension records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives UK).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll) & National Archives*



### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private Reginald Emblem Barnes has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

*Pro Patria*

(Translation: For One's Country)

## **Streatham Cemetery, Tooting, London, England**

The cemetery is in Garratt Lane, mid way between Upper and Lower Tooting. It contains scattered burials and those whose graves are not marked by headstones are recorded on a Screen Wall Memorial at the junctions of Blocks F, L, G and M.

There are 216 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 167 of the 1939-1945 war here.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Streatham Cemetery** (Photo from Find a Grave – Ferdinand)



**Cross of Sacrifice, Streatham Cemetery** (Photos from CWGC)





Photo of Private R. E. Barnes' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Streatham Cemetery, Tooting, London, England.



*(Headstone Photos from Find a Grave – Chris Doran)*







Map of Streatham Cemetery (Photo from Find a Grave – Chris Doran)