

**Greenwich Cemetery,
London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3479 PRIVATE

C. C. BARR

60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST AUGUST, 1916

Colin Campbell BARR

Colin Campbell Barr was born at Richmond, Melbourne, Victoria in 1896 to parents Robert & Maria Barr (nee Thompson).

Colin Campbell Barr attended school at Hawthorn West, Victoria.

Colin Campbell Barr was an 18 year old, single, Farmer from Richmond, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 16th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3479 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Robert Barr, of 109 Mary Street, Richmond, Victoria. Colin Barr's older brother – David Barr also enlisted on the same day. Colin Barr stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Citizen Forces for 12 months.

As Colin Campbell Barr was under the age of 21 - his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. Robert Barr & Maria Barr signed their consent on 7th August, 1915.

Private Colin Campbell Barr was posted to "D" Company at Geelong & Ascot Vale, Victoria on 16th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion on 22nd November, 1915.

Private Colin Campbell Barr & his brother Private David Barr both embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 5th January, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 22nd Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

22nd Battalion

The 22nd Battalion AIF was formed on 26 March 1915 at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria. The battalion became part of the 6th Brigade of the 2nd Division.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Colin Campbell Barr was allotted to & proceeded to join 57th Battalion on 23rd February, 1916 from 22nd Battalion from Zeitoun. He was taken on strength of 57th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 23rd February, 1916.

Private Colin Campbell Barr was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 26th February, 1916 with Influenza then transferred & admitted to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 26th February 1916 – "P.O.U.O." (Pyrexia – fever of unknown origin). He was discharged from Hospital on 11th March, 1916 & rejoined his Unit the same day.

57th Battalion

The 57th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 18 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 5th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 5th, the 57th was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Melbourne. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Colin Campbell Barr was transferred from 57th Battalion to 60th Battalion on 15th March, 1916. He was taken on strength of 60th Battalion on 15th March, 1916,

Private Colin Campbell Barr embarked from Alexandria on 18th June, 1916 on H.M.T.S. *Kinfauns Castle* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Colin Campbell Barr was sent sick to Field Ambulance on 3rd July, 1916. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 3rd July, 1916 with Tonsillitis & discharged to his Unit on 5th July, 1916. He returned to duty on 5th July, 1916.

Private Colin Campbell Barr was reported as wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 13th General Hospital on 23rd July, 1916 (G.S.W. Loins mild) & embarked from Boulogne, France on 23rd July, 1916 for England on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to back.

60th Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 28 June, the 60th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the battalion. In a single day, it was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties. These losses meant the battalion saw little further offensive action in 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 60th Battalion

Trenches on Fromelles Front – 19th July, 1916:

Coy Cmders and all other available officers received final instructions re assault at Batn. Hdqtrs at 10 am.

Zero time 11 am. Head of battalion moved past Brigade Hdqtrs at 1.30 and marched via V.C. Sap to front line trenches under heavy enemy artillery bombardments. Friendly artillery very heavily bombarding enemy trenches. Battalion established in front line trench by 4.20, Lewis guns excepted, a few casualties having occurred, some serious. Battalion scaled parapet and advanced in four waves, the first wave leaving at 6.45, the last at 7. Each wave advanced under very heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, suffering very heavy casualties. Advance continued to within 90 yards of enemy trenches. The attack was held up, although it is believed some few of the battalion entered enemy trenches. During the night 19/20 a few stragglers, wounded and unwounded, returned to our trenches.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Colin Campbell Barr was admitted to Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, England. He was reported as seriously ill on 31st July, 1916.

Mr R. Barr, 109 Mary St., Richmond, Victoria, father of Private Colin Campbell Barr, was advised by Base Records on 3rd August, 1916 that Private C. C. Barr was seriously ill – disability not stated. Mr R. Barr was advised on 4th August, 1916 that Private C. C. Barr was suffering from gunshot wound / septic loins. Mr R. Barr was advised on 21st August, 1916 that Private C. C. Barr was in 13th General Hospital as of 22nd July, 1916. Mr R. Barr was advised on 25th August, 1916 that Private C. C. Barr, 60th Battalion, late 22nd Battalion, was progressing favourably.

According to the book "Fromelles" (page 398) by Patrick Lindsay this was the last letter that Private Colin Campbell Barr wrote to his parents:

Dear Mother, father and all,

I am in the hospital wounded and happy. I got hit in the back by schrapnel. I didn't know I was hit. I'm sorry to say that Dave got killed. I was lying down when he was speaking to me, he said he wanted father to forgive him for what he done some time back, he died a hero Mother. Visitors come here they are very kind. One girl said when I get better she will take me out for motor rides. The worst of it all mother I never fired a shot at them. We was in the trenches only for about 2 hours, then we done a charge. I was lying in No Man's Land for two days and two nights. How is Bob and Richmond getting on. All the Richmond boys done their best with the 60th. I don't know how G. Collins got on. The nurses are very nice and will do anything for you,

Your loving son, Colin, Ward 32 Brook War Hospital.

Private Colin Campbell Barr died on 31st August, 1916 at Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, England from wounds received in action in France – Septic G.S.W. of lower Lumbar regions.

A death for Colin Barr, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Woolwich, London, England.

Private Colin Campbell Barr was buried in Greenwich Cemetery, London, England.

Mr R. Barr, 109 Mary St., Richmond, Victoria, father of the late Private Colin Campbell Barr, was advised by Base Records on 19th April, 1920 that the remains of his son had *“been exhumed from former site, and reinterred in Grave No. 46, Section “Z”, Greenwich Cemetery, Shooters Hill, London. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photographs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin.”*

Private Colin Campbell Barr is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as being buried in Plot number 3 “C”. Z. 34 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Colin Campbell Barr contains a letter from Lieutenant Colonel R.A.M.C., Officer in Charge, Brook War Hospital, Shooters Hill, Woolwich, in reply to an Enquiry from the Red Cross and reads: *“In reply to your enquiry of 6th March, Private Barr died in this hospital on 31st August, 1916. He appeared quite happy and contented all the time he was here and was very pleased with everything that was done for him. He spoke frequently of his parents and home and dictated several letters which the patients wrote for him as he was in a very weak condition most of the time. He was particularly friendly with another Australian (a Corporal Finch) who wrote many letters for him but this Corporal was discharged to Epsom before Barr died and he wrote to the Sister of the ward when he heard of Barr’s death, asking for any messages as he was going to write to Mrs Barr and had her address. The sister wrote and told him that he died very peacefully and apparently in no pain.”*

A War Pension was granted to Maria Margaret Barr, 109 Mary Street, Richmond, Victoria, mother of the late Private Colin Campbell Barr, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 13th November, 1916.

Private Colin Campbell Barr was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Barr’s father – Mr R. Barr, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private C. C. Barr – service number 3479, of 60th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private C. C. Barr is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 169.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

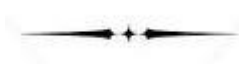
The Richmond War Memorial, located in Barkly Gardens, Mary Street, Richmond, Victoria does not list individual names.



Richmond War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

(46 pages of Private Colin Campbell Barr'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



[Connected to Private Colin Campbell Barr:](#)

Older Brother – David Barr – Enlisted 16th August, 1915 as a 23 year old, Tanner. Service number 3474A. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Afric* (A19) on 5th January, 1916 with 22nd Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements. Killed in action at Fromelles, France 19th July, 1916. Buried V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL H05659

Private David Barr

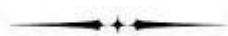




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H05658

Private Colin Campbell Barr



Private David Barr and his brother Private Colin Campbell Barr were remembered in a special Last Post Ceremony commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the battle of Fromelles, held at The Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 19th July, 2016.

Tonight in a special Last Post Ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the battle of Fromelles we remembered and paid tribute to Private David Barr and his brother Private Colin Campbell Barr.

David and Colin Barr were born in 1890 and 1896, respectively, in Richmond, Melbourne, to Robert and Maria Barr. They attended school in Hawthorn West, and Colin, who thought the world of his big brother, followed David into working for a tannery.

David and Colin Barr enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force together in August 1915. After a period of training in Australia they were sent to Egypt, arriving at a time when the AIF was undergoing a period of expansion and reorganisation. As a result, the brothers were taken out of the 22nd Battalion, to which they had originally been

posted, and placed in the 60th. They underwent further training before being sent to France to fight on the Western Front, arriving in late June 1916.

On the 19th of July the 60th Battalion participated in its first major operation on the Western Front, at the town of Fromelles. The brothers turned to each other in the trench just as the attack began, and shook hands before climbing out over the parapet. The waves of infantry from the 60th Battalion came under heavy artillery, machine-gun, and rifle-fire as soon as they left the trenches, and suffered heavy casualties.

As David and Colin crossed no man's land together they were both hit. Colin later wrote, "the worst part of it all [was] I never fired a shot at them". As they were lying near each other, David told Colin to ask his father to forgive him for something done years before. He died shortly afterwards. His remains were never recovered from the battlefield. He was 25 years old.

At roll call after leaving the front line, just four of the battalion's officers and 61 other ranks were present. More than 750 had been made casualties in the attack.

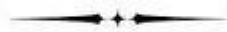
Colin Barr had been hit in the back by shrapnel, and was sent to hospital in England with wounds to his chest and lungs. A regular visitor was Miss Bloxham of Kent, who came to try to cheer up the sick men. She wrote of visiting Barr: "he is only 19 and looks even younger ... I thought him a very nice boy". Barr often spoke with her about David, and was clearly devastated by his death.

One Wednesday Miss Bloxham arrived to find Barr's condition had deteriorated. She wrote, "he didn't know me, but he held my hand tightly and I hoped he might feel someone belonging to him was there". Private Colin Barr died later that night, aged 19. He was buried in a cemetery near the hospital.

(Information & photo from Facebook – Australian War Memorial)



**Last Post Ceremony at The Australian War Memorial - 19th July, 2016 for
Private David Barr and his brother Private Colin Campbell Barr**



Newspaper Notices

THE DARKEST HOUR

RICHMOND'S LOSSES IN LATEST CASUALTY LISTS ARE WORST IN WAR

BRAVE MOTHERS LEARN SAD NEWS OF KILLED AND WOUNDED SONS

.....

Mrs Barr, 109 Mary-street, has been notified that her son, Private Colin C. Barr, has been wounded and is now in hospital. He is suffering from severe gunshot wounds in the loins. The Barr family has a fine record in the war. Private Dave Barr was, at latest, still in the firing line, and yet another son, Edward Barr, went into camp at Royal Park last week. He is married and has two children.

(Richmond Guardian, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)

TOLL OF WAR

197TH LIST

VICTORIANS

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte C. C. Barr, Richmond

(The Evening Echo, Ballarat, Victoria – 21 August, 1916)

FACING THE FOE

BRAVE RICHMOND BOYS WRITE CHEERFUL LETTERS HOME

.....

Machine-gunners David and Colin Barr, sons of Mrs. Barr, Mary-street, put their joint signature to a postcard specially issued in France "to remember Nurse Cavell," and forwarded it to the "Guardian. In a vivid manner it portrays the heinousness of the crime. The nurse, with the Red Cross emblem on her breast, lies, with arms outstretched and closed eyes, on the ground. Over her, with a revolver in his hand, is the Hun officer who gave the order for a firing-party to shoot her. The soldiers in the firing squad realise what they have been directed to do, and turn their heads away in shame. "Such a scene as this," declare the brothers, "should move some of the boys to realise the fiendishness of Our enemy and to come over here to avenge our womenfolk." Continuing, the brothers write, "We are well treated here. When the Richmond boys here learn that the 'Guardian' has arrived, there is a rush for it. By the time it is finished your fine production is worn out—but it has served a purpose. It has given the boys the real news of 'home,' and it cheers us up. We see that our town is still in front of all the others for soldiers at the war: Good old Richmond!"

(Richmond Guardian, Victoria – 9 September, 1916)

SADDEST STORY EVER TOLD

RICHMOND BOYS GO BRAVELY TO END

MANY ARE KILLED, OTHERS MISSING, SOME WOUNDED

“THE CALL THAT COMES FROM ACROSS THE WATER”

MARY STREET MOTHER LOSES TWO SONS

Casualties from Richmond this week include:-

Killed in Action

Bomber J. A, McConchie, Field-Engineer O. J. Collins, Privates Colin C. Barr, David Barr.....



FELL SIDE BY SIDE

PRIVATE COLIN BARR AND PRIVATE DAVID BARR

Sons of Mrs Barr, Mary Street.

.....

No sadder notes were ever penned than these. They are from Mrs Maria Barr, of 109 Mary-street, who was first informed that her son, Private David Barr, was killed and called at the "Guardian" office with his picture on Wednesday. She said then, that another son, Private Colin Barr, was in hospital. She went home, to find a clergyman waiting on the verandah. He told her that her other son, had also been killed. Mrs. Barr is a brave woman—as brave as her dead sons. This, the first note of hers to this office, shows that. It read:—"With deep regret I have to inform you that, my son, Private Dave Barr, was killed in action on July 19, and his brother, Private Colin Barr, was wounded at the same time. I have received a letter from the chaplain of the Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, where Colin is, to notify me that Dave was killed, and that Colin was with him to the last. He received his last message home to us. The chaplain informs me that Colin is doing fairly well, and is being well cared for. I knew nothing about poor Dave until receiving the chaplain's letter, as the Defence Department could give me no information excepting that he had been missing since July 19. It is a terrible blow to me to lose my dear boy, but I

thank God he was conscious to the last, and died a noble death fighting for his King and Country. So I will try and bear my trouble as bravely as possible."

Then came this other note the following morning:—"Since writing, you yesterday I have been officially informed by the Defence Department that my other, son, Private Colin C. Barr, has died at Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, from septic poisoning, caused by wounds received while fighting in France. So now, dear, sir. both my poor boys have sacrificed their lives, for King and Country. It is a terrible blow to me, as both Dave and Colin were two of my youngest children. Dave was 25 years of age, while poor Colin, who was the baby of the family, had not yet reached his 20th birthday. They went away together and served by each other's side."

(Richmond Guardian, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

In Memoriam

On Active Service

BARR – In loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Private Colin C. Barr, died of wounds on 31st August, 1916; also Private David Barr, killed in action at Pozieres, France, on July 19, 1916 (previously reported missing.)

For those to whom the call has come
We pray Thy tender welcome home,
The toil, the bitterness, all past.
We trust them to Thy love at last.
O, hear a people's prayer for all,
Who, nobly striving, nobly fall.

-Inserted by their sorrowing mother, father, sisters and brothers.

(Richmond Guardian, Victoria – 1 September, 1917)

Terrible Truth Told at Last

RICHMOND BOYS REPORTED MISSING WERE KILLED AT POZIERES

TWENTY-FOUR MORE NAMES ON CITY'S DEATH ROLL

Richmond casualties since our last list, published a fortnight ago, are.....

Many of the names given above as killed were previously reported as missing after the battle of Pozieres on July 19, 1916. Hope was held that they may have been taken prisoner, but careful inquiries by the authorities abroad have established beyond doubt that they made the great sacrifice.....

....

The Women of England. How little we really know of the care they show and the immensity of good they are doing for our soldiers. Witness these extracts from letters by a Miss Bloxam, of the Court Yard, Elton, Kent, to a resident of another suburb, who sought out Mrs Barr, Mary-street, the mother of the brave boys referred to and read to her the messages of condolence, sorrow, and, yes, consolation. "Yesterday, as well as last week, I talked to a badly-wounded boy, and only discovered then that he is from Richmond, Victoria. He has not the usual accent, nor is he in the least like Flynn in any way. His wound a very bad one - is in the lung, but I think, a worse one is in his heart, as he told me his elder brother was killed quite close to him at the same time. They had only just got over a parapet (having shaken hands, he said), and ordered to charge, when they were hit without having been fighting at all since they came to France from Egypt, via Marseilles. (He was quite enthusiastic about the scenery in France). He is only 19 and looks even younger. He has not had any of the parcels sent from home constantly." And again:—"The young Australian I told you of, in the Brook, died. He was quite off his head yesterday week, and in a separate ward, but

they thought then they might be able to pull him round." Another letter:-"I have at last succeeded in getting the address of Barr's parents. I saw the Sister yesterday, and he sent me to the Registration Office. She seemed pleased to hear you would go and see them from me. I can't remember exactly what I told you about him, except that I thought him a very nice boy (he was only 19) and that we had some nice talks on Wednesdays. I saw him on the Wednesday before his death, when he was quite up to a little chat, but the next Wednesday he was in a separate ward and delirious, so he didn't know me, but he held my hand tightly and I hoped he might feel someone belonging to him was there. His nurse said they hoped to pull him through, but he died that night, so after all the brothers were not separated for long-the elder one was killed just when this one was wounded. Evidently he was devoted to him, he talked about him so much. You might tell his people that I didn't know their address till so long after I heard from you offering to go and see them, and before that did not know Richmond was near enough for you to go or would have asked you. You might tell them that everyone in the ward - men as well as nurses - was very good to him and upset by his death, and that he had everything possible done for him; also that if there should be any little thing they want to know about him I will do my best to find out and will then write direct."

.....

(Richmond Guardian, Victoria – 8 September, 1917)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 2nd July, 1921, to Mr R. Barr, 109 Mary St., Richmond, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Private C. C. Barr, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private C. C. Barr does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Greenwich Cemetery, London, England

Greenwich Cemetery contains 561 First World War burials. More than half of these graves are scattered throughout the cemetery, but 263 form a large war graves plot known as 'Heroes' Corner'. Here, two curved screen walls bear the names of casualties buried both in the plot and in unmarked graves in the cemetery.

The Second World War plot adjoins and contains 75 graves. An additional screen wall commemorates casualties buried in this plot and ten others buried in unmarked graves elsewhere in the cemetery. In all, the cemetery contains 124 Second World War burials, 3 of which are unidentified British soldiers.

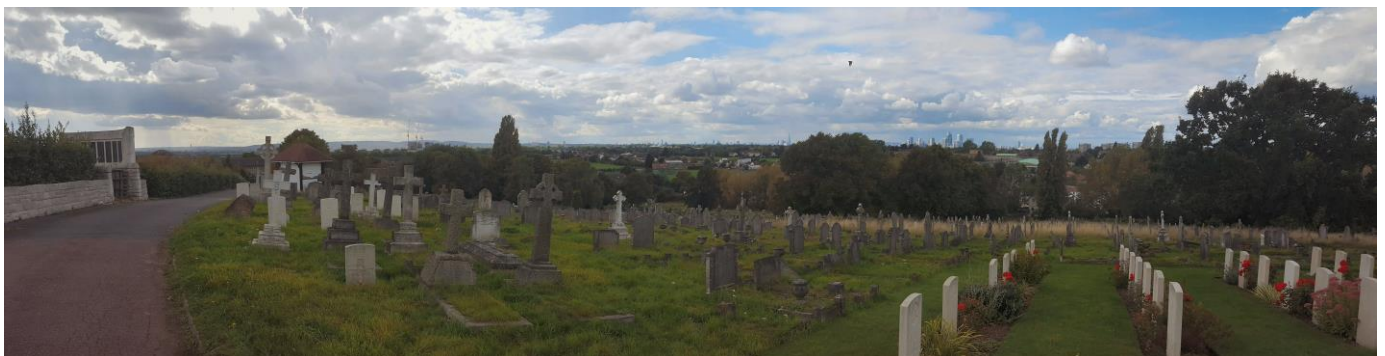
Section E contains a plot of 30 Norwegian service graves from the Second World War.

There are 11 Australian WW1 War Graves in Greenwich Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice & Screen Walls *(Photo by Mike Ganly – Find a Grave)*



Greenwich Cemetery *(Photo by Steve Johnson – Find a Grave)*



War Graves in Greenwich Cemetery *(Photos by Marathon)*



Photo of Private C. C. Barr's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Greenwich Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)



War Graves in Greenwich Cemetery *(Photo by Marathon)*