

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1520 PRIVATE

D. BARTON

55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH MARCH, 1917

David BARTON

David Barton was born at Folkestone, Kent, England around 1877 to parents George & Annie Barton. He was baptised at St. Michael's Church, Folkestone, Kent, England on 4th March, 1877.

The 1881 England Census recorded David Barton as a 4 year old Scholar, living with his family at 9 Prospect Place, Folkestone, Kent, England. His parents were listed as George Barton (Mariner, aged 40, born Dover, Kent) & Annie Barton (aged 32, born Folkestone, Kent). David was the youngest of six children listed on this Census (all born Folkestone, Kent) – William Barton (Scholar, aged 13), Jane Barton (Scholar, aged 13), George Barton (Scholar, aged 9), John Barton (Scholar, aged 7), Richard Barton (Scholar, aged 6) then David.

David Barton attended Dover Road Boarding School, Folkestone, Kent, England,

The 1891 England Census recorded David Barton as a 14 year old living with his family at 2 Harvey Court, Folkestone, Kent, England. His widowed father was listed as George Barton (Labourer – Agricultural, aged 50). David was the youngest of five children listed on this Census - William Barton (Ship Fireman, aged 23) & his wife Alice Barton (aged 24), George Barton (Labourer-General, aged 20), John Barton (Boiler Chipper, aged 18), Richard Barton (aged 16) then David.,

According to information supplied by his sister – Mrs Jane Twynn for the Roll of Honour – David Barton enlisted in Royal West Kent Regiment on 5th December, 1895. He was discharged to Reserve (Colombo) on 15th October, 1903 & on 5th December, 1907 he was discharged from Reserve (Hong Kong). He received a Medal & 2 Clasps for Tirah Campaign; a Medal & 4 Clasps for Queen's South Africa & a Medal & 2 Clasps for King's.

From information supplied by his sister – Mrs Jane Twynn for the Roll of Honour – David Barton was employed by Hong Kong Wharf & Godown Co., Hong Kong from 1st November, 1903 to 1st November, 1908. He left due to the reduction of staff brought about by the disastrous Typhoon.

From information supplied by his sister – Mrs Jane Twynn for the Roll of Honour – David Barton was employed with H.M.B. Legation, Peking as Chief Constable for a period of 12 months (ending in January, 1910) & was leaving owing to the return from an absence of leave of substantive holder of the position.

David Barton was a 32* year old, single, Labourer (address listed as G.P.O. Sydney) when he enlisted on 22nd April, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1520 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Jane Twynne, Gascoyne Road, Dover, England. (*according to information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour – David Barton was aged 41 at the time of death). David Barton listed on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 97th West Kent Regiment & 50th West Kent Regiment for 8 years & he left due to time expired.

Private David Barton was posted to 1st Reinforcements of 17th Battalion on 22nd April, 1915 for recruit training.

Private David Barton embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 12th May, 1915 with the 1st Reinforcements of 17th Battalion.

Private David Barton joined his Unit on 13th August, 1915.

Private David Barton was sent to Base Details at Camp Zeitoun for disciplinary reasons (no date recorded).

Private David Barton was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital on 3rd March, 1916 with Dysentery.

Private David Barton was admitted to 17th General Hospital at Alexandria on 21st March, 1916. He was discharged to duty on 12th April, 1916.

Private David Barton was taken on strength of 5th Infantry Brigade Details at Tel-el-Kebir on 19th April, 1916.

Private David Barton was allotted to 55th Battalion on 20th April, 1916 while posted at 5th Training Battalion at Moascar. He was taken on strength of 55th Battalion at Ferry Post on 20th April, 1916.

55th Battalion

The 55th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 12 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 3rd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 3rd, the 55th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 30 June 1916, the battalion entered the frontline trenches for the first time on 12 July and fought its first major battle at Fromelles a week later. The battle was a disaster, resulting in heavy casualties across the division. Although in reserve, the 55th was quickly committed to the attack and eventually played a critical role, forming the rearguard for the 14th Brigade's withdrawal. Despite its grievous losses the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private David Barton was sent sick to Hospital on 28th April, 1916. He was admitted to 14th Field Ambulance – "eyes to be tested" on 28th April, 1916 then transferred to No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station the same day where he received Ophthaline (?) treatment. He was discharged to his Unit on 30th April, 1916 & rejoined 55th Battalion at Ferry Post the same day.

Private David Barton embarked from Alexandria on 19th June, 1916 on H.T. *Caledonian* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private David Barton was sent sick to Hospital on 20th July, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Divisional Rest Station on 25th July, 1916 with Varicose Veins then transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 14th August, 1916. Private Barton was transferred on 16th August, 1916 & admitted to 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France the same day with Varicose legs. He was transferred to Marlborough Camp at Etaples, France on 18th August, 1916. Private Barton was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 20th August, 1916 He was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D. on 30th September, 1916 & attached to 2nd Anzac Headquarters as P.B. (Permanent Base duties) the same day.

Private David Barton was written up for a Crime on 3rd December, 1916 while posted at 2nd Anzac Corps Schools – 1. Absenting himself Without Leave from 9 am till 7.30 pm on 2nd December, 1916 & 2. Drinking in an Estaminet during prohibited hours. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 7 days' pay.

Private David Barton was written up for a Crime on 26th December, 1916 while posted at 2nd Anzac Corps Schools – Drunk in Camp around midnight on 23rd December, 1916. He was fined 2/6 & deprived of 5 days' pay.

Private David Barton was sent sick to Hospital on 9th January, 1917. He was admitted to 15th Casualty Clearing Station on 9th January, 1917 with Bronchitis then transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 15th January, 1917. Private Barton was invalided to England on 25th January, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Brighton* with Cystitis.

The address of Private David Barton's next-of-kin – his sister Mrs J. Twynne was changed on 21st February, 1917 to 17 Odo Rd, Tower Hamlets, Dover, Kent, England.

Private David Barton was admitted to Kitchener Hospital, Brighton, East Sussex, England on 27th February, 1917 with Cystitis.

Private David Barton died at 8.45 am on 18th March, 1917 at 3rd Australian General Hospital, Brighton, East Sussex, England from Pulent Cystic Kidney, Haemorrhage & Exhaustion.

A death for David Barton, aged 44, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Private David Barton was buried on 20th March, 1917 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIX.51 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs Jane Twynne, of 171 Odo Road, Tower Hamlets, Dover, Kent, sister of the late Private David Barton, applied for a War Pension but the claim was later withdrawn (no date).

Private David Barton requested in his Will dated 1st June, 1915 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects to be given to his brother – Mr Richard Barton, 62 Hazelbury Rd, Wandsworth Bridge Road, Fulham, London, England.

The personal effects of the late Private David Barton were sent to his sister – listed as the next-of-kin, however the legatee was his brother – Mr Richard Barton. The parcel containing the personal effects was returned on 7th May, 1917 in accordance with a request and handed to the brother on 8th May, 1917 who called in person to receive the items.

Mrs Jane Twynne, of 15 Vally Road, River near Dover, Kent, sister of the late Private David Barton, wrote to Base Records on 21st May, 1917 asking if her brother – the late No. 1520 Private D. Barton, 2nd Anzac Headquarters had left a will in her favour. She stated that her brother had told her at the Kitchener Hospital, Brighton that his effects & belongings were coming to her & her brother in London had produced a copy of a Will *“supposed to be made 2 years last June, his effects & belongings were all sent to me with 50£ war loan certificate which he showed me at the hospital & told me it was mine in the presence of my Daughter. I had them about a month and I had to send them all back also his medals. if you could furnish me with the address of the clergyman that he was in service with at brisbane on rejoining I should be greatly obliged to you.”*

Base Records replied on 6th February, 1918 to Mrs Jane Twynne, of 15 Vally Road, River, Dover, Kent, sister of the late Private David Barton, regarding her communications in November, 1917 about the effects and belongings of her brother. It was stated that in his *“Will dated 1st June, 1915 that he left the whole of his property and effects to his brother – Richard Barton and his estate has been dealt with in accordance with that Will. ... There is no record here of the Clergyman by whom your brother was employed.”*

Mrs Jane Twynne, of 15 Valley Road, River near Dover, Kent, wrote to Base Records on 13th February, 1918 stating she had read in the paper that the nearest female kin of a deceased soldier was entitled to the Australian Medal. She stated she had no mother & was the only sister of the late Private David Barton, 1520, 55th Battalion.

Base Records replied on 23rd April, 1918 enclosing an application form for the badge issued to nearest female relative of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Private David Barton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Barton's next-of-kin which would be the eldest brother - Mr R. Barton (if the parents were deceased). Private Barton's Service Record file shows that the Memorial Plaque was issued in England to his sister Mrs J. Twynne & Memorial Scroll was issued in England – with no name listed.

(see paragraph above relating to a letter sent to Base Records on 21st May, 1917 by Mrs Jane Twynne, sister of the late Private David Barton).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private D. Barton – service number 1520, of 55th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private D. Barton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 160.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(54 pages of Private David Barton'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

CASUALTIES

285th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Pte D. Barton, England

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 13 April, 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)

Private D. Barton does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private D. Barton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham via Peter Bennett)



(Photo from CWGC)