

In Memory of

Sapper

Alfred George Barrett

51816, 130th Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 26 June 1916 Age 40

Son of R. M. Barrett; husband of Lovedy Barrett, of 64, Brassey Rd., Winton, Bournemouth Born at Moordown.

Remembered with Honour

Throop United Reformed Church



Sapper Alfred George Barrett



Alfred's headstone at Throop

Alfred Barrett was a 38 year old carpenter from Oakwood Rd in Moordown, who enlisted with the Royal Engineers in September 1914. He was a married man with 6 children.

He died in a military hospital in Blackburn on 26th of June 1916, and his body was buried at Throop on July 1st, 1916.

Alfred had been returned to England from Rouen in France, where he had contracted an infection during routine surgery. In 1916 there was no penicillin to help fight infection, and Alfred died the day after his return of peritonitis.

In the pages that follow, we show copies of much of his service record. Our thanks to his grandson, John Wilson, for letting us borrow and copy these.

There must be literally millions of similar records that were drawn up for all the men who served during the Great War. Most do not survive (many were destroyed by fire during the Second World War). Those that do survive allow us to see the personal details of the men who served..... They make fascinating reading....

Description of Alfred George Barnett on Enlistment.

<p>Apparent Age <u>38</u> years <u>—</u> months. <small>(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small></p> <p>Height <u>—</u> feet <u>—</u> inches.</p> <p>Weight <u>—</u> lbs.</p> <p>Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded <u>38½</u> inches. Range of expansion <u>2</u> inches.</p> <p>Complexion <u>—</u></p> <p>Eyes <u>Brown</u></p> <p>Hair <u>Brown</u></p> <p>Religious denomination { Church of England <u>—</u> Presbyterian <u>—</u> Wesleyan <u>—</u> Baptist or Congregationalist <u>Yes</u> Other Protestants <u>—</u> <small>(Denomination to be stated.)</small> Roman Catholic <u>—</u> Jewish <u>—</u></p>	<p>Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.</p> <p><small>(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the approving Officer.)</small></p> <p><u>—</u></p>
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Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named man and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for the Army Medical Services.

He can see — required distance with either eye: his heart — lungs are healthy: he has the free use of his — limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

Form: — for the Army.

Date —

Place —

* Insert Regt.

Major Barnett
 Medical Officer.

Note: If the recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and who

Certificate of Primary Military Examination.

I certify that the above-named recruit was inspected by me, and I consider him fit for — in the 45 **ROYAL ENGINEERS** and that due care has been exercised in his enlistment.

Date Sept 11 1914.

Place Bournemouth

* Insert here "ft" or "unfit."

—
 Capt. — Regt. Officer.

† Insert the "Regiment" or "Corps."

***Certificate of Approving Officer.**

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the ROYAL ENGINEERS.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 5-11-14

Place CHATHAM.

—
 MAJOR, R.E.

O.O. DEPUTY

* The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
 † Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

Description at enlistment

STATEMENT of the SERVICE of 51816 Name Barrett, A.G.

Corps in which served	Regt. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pensions		Service in Reserve not allowed to reckon towards O. C. Pay		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	years	days	
Service towards limited engagement reckons from <u>21-9-14</u>									
Joined at <u>Bournemouth</u> on <u>21-9-14</u>									<u>W. H. ...</u> MAJOR, O.D. DEPOT BATT. R.E.
R.E.	GERO	APPOINTED	Sapper	21-9-14					
				23-10-14					
				21-9-15					
		NEWARK, EMBARKED B.E.F.		5 DEC. 1915					
				26-6-16					MAJOR, R.E. O.O. No. 3 DEPOT CO. R.E. <u>W. H. ...</u>
				26-6-16					<u>W. H. ...</u> MAJOR, O.O. No. 3 DEPOT CO. R.E.

Statement of service (where and when)

Squadron, Troop, Battery and Company Conduct Sheet. Army Form B.

Regiment of Royal Engineers Number of Sheet 01

Signature of O. C. W. H. ... COMMANDING OFFICER

Regimental Number and Name		Enlistment		Trade	Good Conduct Badges, Service Pay or Proficiency Pay			
No. <u>51816</u>	<u>Barrett, A.G.</u>	Age on <u>38</u> years - months	Place and Date of Enlistment <u>Bournemouth 21-9-14</u>	<u>Carpenter</u>				
Joined	Date	with Colours	Period with Reserve	Religion <u>Baptist</u>				
Joined	Date			Place of Birth <u>Holmwood</u>				
Joined	Date							

Place	Date of Offence	Rank	Case of Desertion	OFFENCE	Names of Witnesses	Punishment awarded	Date of award or order discharging with total	By whom awarded	REMARKS
<u>Rollstone Camp</u>	<u>20/15</u>	<u>Spr.</u>		<u>Absent without leave from 7.15 AM. 20/1/15 to 21/1/15. (2 days)</u>	<u>1st Corp. Ratten 2nd Corp. Radford</u>	<u>3 days C.B. Forfeit 2 days pay</u>	<u>22/15</u>	<u>L. C. Baker Supt R.E.</u>	<u>L.M.F.</u>

Alfred went 'AWOL'..... 3 days 'CB' (Confined to Barracks - known as 'jankers'!)

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

1. Service at Home and Abroad.

COUNTRY	FROM	To	YEARS	DAYS
Home + British	21-9-14	14-12-15	1	1
B & F (France)	5-12-15	25-6-16		
Home	26-6-16	26-6-16	1	240

N.B.—The Country only to be shown—it is not necessary to show separately the service in the different stations of the same country, England, Scotland and Ireland to be shown under the general term "Home."
For mode of computing Service Abroad, see King's Regulations.

2. Army School and other certificates of education ...

3. Passed classes of Instruction † ...
† This includes any authorized class of instruction, e.g., in swimming, chiropody, etc.

4. Campaigns (including Medals and decorations) ...
*Since 21.9.14 to 11.12.15
 B & F (France) 5.12.15 to 25.6.16
 Home 26.6.16 to 26.6.16
 1914-15 STAR, British War Medal, Victory Medal*

5. Wounded ...

6. Effects of wounds

7. Special instances of gallant conduct and mentions in public despatches ...

8. Annuities ...

9. Injuries in or by the Service ...

10. Name and Address of next of kin ...
*Wife Mrs & V. Bennett
 52 Oakwood Rd. Moor-down
 Bournemouth*

11. Particulars as to Marriage

(a) Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow, (b) place and date of marriage, (c) name of officiating Minister or Registrar, and (d) names of two witnesses	(e) Date of being placed on Married List	Initials of Officer
<i>Mrs. ...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>Captain, R. E. Records</i>

12. Particulars as to Children

Christian Name	Date and Place of Birth	Date and Place of Baptism, and Name of officiating Minister
<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>

NOTE.—These entries are to be made from time to time as they occur and checked by the Officer making the entry. To be ruled through (a) in the case of a Soldier, and (b) in the case of a Soldier, and (c) in the case of a Soldier, and (d) in the case of a Soldier, and (e) in the case of a Soldier.

Alfred received the 3 standard campaign medals awarded to the original BEF (the 'Old Contemptibles')... affectionately known as 'Pip, Squeak and Wilfred'.

To be used for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army only.
 Army Form B. 178^A to be used for Special Reserve recruits
 and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Barnett Christian Name Alfred George

TABLE I.—GENERAL TABLE.

Birthplace .. Parish Haldemes County Hants

Examined { on 21st day of Sept
 at Bournemouth

Declared Age 38 years — days.

Trade or Occupation .. Carpenter

Height 5 feet, 7 1/2 inches.

Weight 149 lbs.

Chest Measurement { Girth when fully Expanded 38 1/2 inches.

{ Range of Expansion 2 inches.

Physical Development .. Just

Vaccination Marks { Arm .. Right Left
 Number 3

When Vaccinated Infancy

Vision { R.E.—V= normal
 L.E.—V=

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease (a) ✓

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection (b) ✓

Approved by .. (Signature) W. Verma

(Rank) Major Rame Medical Officer.

Enlisted at Bournemouth

on 21st day of Sept 1916

Corps	Regtl. No.
ROYAL ENGINEERS.	51816.

Transferred to

Became non-effective by deceased

on 26th day of June 1916

(Signature) B. Stilson / Capt. R.C.O.

(Rank)

Part 1 of Alfred's Medical Record ... there's something very impersonal about becoming 'non-effective' by being 'deceased'!

MEDICAL CASE SHEET.

No. in Admission and Discharge Book.	Regimental No.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.
	51816	Sapper	Barrett	A.G.
Year	Unit.	Age.	Service.	
	R.E.			
Station and Date.	Disease			
	Piles: Peritonitis.			
	Admitted June 26th, 1916, 1 a.m. convoy from France, No. XI Stationary Hospital, Rouen. Patient states he was operated for piles on June 22nd, 1916, at Rouen. Says they had existed for three months and bled. Never had suffered previously with them.			
	When admitted complained of abdominal pain, general, but more specially in right flank. The abdomen was distended and discoloured; the skin boggy, pitky on pressure in both flanks, breathing rapid and laboured, had vomited coffee grounds. The pulse was rapid, feeble and irregular. → inactive jaundiced.			
	There was retention of urine, c. The Anus and lower part of Bowel examined; e from former, tissues on right side n. tion very serious indeed.			
	About 2.15 p.m. under an anaes isions were made through abdomen walls, right and tissues were boggy, and when abdomen was opened very offensive gas and thin blood-stained fluid welled up. Drainage tube was inserted and fomentation applied.			
	Patient gradually became weaker and died at 3.45.			
	(Sd) John Keay Capt. R.A.M.C.			

*The first and last entries will be signed, and transfers from one Medical Officer to another, attested by their
 (Hse. No.) W 10373-1916. 800M (E) 1/15. Mc. & W.

These days, such an infection would probably be very treatable...

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
45, Grosvenor Road,
London, S.W.,
and the following number quoted.

WAR OFFICE,

45, GROSVENOR ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.

B

Dec. 27. 1916
REMARKS: RECORDED & INDEXED

No. 1433 R.S. (F. 3A, Rev.) *Row 6*

SIR,

I am directed to inform you that the widow of No. 51016
Spr. A. G. Barnett
Royal Engineers

has been awarded a Pension of 29/- a week, for herself
and six children, with effect from the 1st Jan. 1917

The Officer issuing Separation Allowance has been informed of the Award.
The Pension will be paid from the Central Army Pension Issue Office.
The certificates received in support of the application have been returned

to the widow.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient Servant

Chambers

Assistant Financial Secretary.

The Officer in charge of Records,

Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

*W. H. W.
PA*

After his death, Alfred's widow received a pension of 29/- (about £1.50) a week, to look after herself and 6 children.....



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

I join with my grateful people
in sending you this memorial
of a brave life given for others
in the Great War.

George R. I.

.....And this note from Buckingham Palace 'signed' by the King.

This kind of document was probably more respected in those days than it would be today.....although with far fewer service personnel being lost these days, such a document might *really* be signed by the present Monarch!



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

*Sapper Alfred George Barrett
Royal Engineers*

And a personal 'Scroll of Honour'. Again, probably more appreciated in those days.

At least we are carrying on the sentiment of the last phrase....