Description

A group of 26 medical officers assembled outside a tent after a lecture by Sir Victor Horsley on the effects of gunshot wounds to the head. This group was the precursor of the Anzac Medical Association, which was formally convened on 7 November 1915 with Colonel (Col) Neville Howse VC as its chairman. Identified from left to right: Major Edward Rowdon White or Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Thomas White; Captain Archibald John Aspinall; unidentified (pipe); Captain Alan Sinclair Barton (back to camera);
21/4/18 AIF Adjutant

22 11/16 AIF Order List No. 15

23 6/7/17 OC 2nd GCS Stn

24 14/6/17 AIF List No. 166

25 16/7/17 OC 2nd GCS Stn

26 20/7/17 do

27 21/4/18 OC 2nd AG. Hosp.

28 3/1/16 do

29 30/2/16 do

30 31/12/16 do

31 22/11/16 AIF Order List No. 16

4 Proc. to join MEF Wallipoll

5 Disembarked

6 Temporarily attached to No. 1 AGS

7 Proc. to join BEF Alex'dra

8 Disembarked.

9 To England on Leave France

10 Rejm'd. from Leave do

11 Trans. to 3 GCS (Temporarily) do

12 Tfd. to 2nd AGS do

13 Prom. Major do

14 To Rejoin 1st AGS Stn do

15 Detached & Proc. to

16 Join 2nd AGS London

17 T/O/S & Trans from

18 1st AGS Stn. France

19 Leave to England

20 from 17/12/16 to

21 27/12/16 London

22 Leave extended to

23 29/12/16 on Medical Certificate London

24 Leave extended to 2/1/17 on Medical Certificate do

25 Received Special Mention in Sir D. Haig's despatch of 9th April 1917 do 5/6/1

26 Leave to UK do 9/7/1

27 Rejoined from Leave do 23/7/1

28 Temporary Detached with 44th GCS do 9/10/1

29 Rejoined from 44th GCS do 2/1/1

30 Proc. on Leave do 23/12/1

31 Rejm'd. from Leave France do 1/1/1

32 Awarded D.S.O. do

33 Mentioned in Sir Douglas

34 Haig's despatch of 7/11/17 for distinguished and gallant service.

35 For 27/11/17 to 28/11/17 during the

36 Proc. on Leave to Beaufort Field.

37 Rejm'd. from Leave do 20,

38 Trans. to No. 2 Surgical team at 2 A.G. Hosp. (DAC AIF 148/01/78

39 Attached for duty with No. 2

40 Surgical team from 2 AGS Wimereux T/Detached with 53 Bty. Hosp. do

41 4th A.D. Capt.
In reply to your letter dated 26th May, 1950, in which you request particulars of the Unit in which the abovenamed served, I have to advise that according to the records Major Barton served on Gallipoli attached to the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station, he transferred to the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station in France in December 1916 and served with that Unit until his return to Australia, with the exception of several detachments of short duration.

Yours faithfully,

(A. J. Bowman)
OFFICER I/C A.I.R. BASE RECORDS.

Mr. H. S. Robinson,
57 Donnison Street,
MOSMAN. N.S.W.
ALAN SINCLAIR DARVALL BARTON, D.S.O., M.B., Ch.M.

(Britton period)

As his home, “Esrom House”—now the site of the College—had been closed, he broke the family tradition by coming to All Saints' as a boarder. He was prominent in cricket, football, and tennis, he did consistently solid work in class, and was a highly successful monitor and captain of the School. He entered the Medical School in the University of Sydney in 1905 and was a resident in St Paul's College. He graduated M.B. in 1909 and Ch.M. in 1911, spent two years at the Sydney Hospital as a resident doctor, and then began to practise at Coonabarabran. When the First World War started, he was among the first to enlist in the Medical Corps, and his brilliant surgical work, both on Gallipoli and in France, gained him the Distinguished Service Order; he was also twice mentioned in despatches. When the evacuation of Gallipoli was due to start, it was assumed that the removal of the wounded men was impracticable, so Major Barton offered to stay with them; his offer was accepted. However, so successful was the evacuation that the wounded were taken off, and he was amongst the last to leave.

After the war was over he settled in Singleton, and during his twenty-six years' residence there he built up an extensive—and very strenuous—practice, particularly in surgery. He retired in 1946, and lived quietly in Gosford, where he died suddenly on 18 May 1950, aged 63.

ASC History pp. 176-7

Barton, Alan Sinclair Darvall (1886–1950)

By William A. Land

This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 7, (MUP), 1979

Alan Sinclair Darvall Barton (1886-1950), medical practitioner, was born on 12 March 1886 at Bathurst, New South Wales, son of Robert Darvall Barton, grazier and author of Reminiscences of an Australian Pioneer (Sydney, 1917), and his wife Fanny Blanche, a daughter of John Smith, sheep-breeder; he was a first cousin of A. B. Paterson. Educated at All Saints' College, Bathurst, and the University of Sydney (M.B., Ch.B., 1909; Ch.M., 1910), he became resident medical officer and registrar at Sydney Hospital in 1910-11. Two years later he began private practice at Coonabarabran.

When World War I broke out Barton enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and was commissioned captain, Australian Army Medical Corps, on 14 November 1914; he was posted to the 2nd Australian General Hospital and sailed for Egypt. After serving with the 1st Australian Division at Mena Camp, he joined No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac Beach in September 1915. Plans for the Allied withdrawal from Gallipoli assumed that the badly wounded would be left behind and taken out later under the Red Cross flag; Barton's offer to stay with them was accepted. As it turned out, all the wounded were evacuated on 20 December and he
commanded one of the last medical parties to leave the beach. He rejoined his clearing station at Serapeum, Egypt, and accompanied it to France in April 1916. It was soon to deal with the heavy casualties from the battle of Fromelles.

In France Barton quickly gained a reputation as a skilful and dedicated surgeon and spent most of his time in casualty clearing stations close to the front lines. The demands made on surgical teams were extreme; they often worked shifts of sixteen to twenty-four hours in the operating theatres, and at the same time were required to keep pace with new developments in the treatment of wounds. In August Barton was attached to a British station near Amiens where many gas and gangrene victims were treated. Promoted major on 14 November, he was transferred next month to No.2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Armentières; he was still there in June 1917 when casualties poured in from the battle of Messines. In that month the station admitted over 7000 casualties, evacuated almost as many again, and performed over 1000 operations. Barton was mentioned in dispatches in June and December and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on 1 January 1918. He remained at Armentières until March and was then posted to the 2nd Australian General Hospital at Boulogne. His final service was with a British clearing station near Péronne during the final attacks on the Hindenburg Line; on 28 December he was again mentioned in dispatches.

In February 1919 Barton married Dorothy Ellena Duffy at St Philip's Anglican Church, Sydney. His A.I.F. service ended in March, and in August he published a paper on his work in Allied casualty clearing stations; this drew attention to new techniques for the closure of wounds and to the use of gas and oxygen as anaesthetics. Late that year he settled at Singleton and over the next twenty-six years built up an extensive private practice. He became a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1928. In 1946 he retired to Gosford and, survived by his wife, a son and three daughters, died of coronary occlusion on 18 May 1950.

The situation at the end of this stage is shown in the report of the Surgical Specialist of No. 2 A.C C.S. 1918. “During the month,” it says, “both Lieut.-Colonel Quick and Major Barton have visited the Research Centre-No. IO C.C.S., Remy Siding to see the work that is being done there in connection with the early closure of wounds. The object of this research has been to find out in what class of case, with how much safety and how much success, recently afflicted wounds may be closed after thorough excision; or, when it is not judged safe to close at once, whether early secondary closure is not
practicable. A very considerable degree of success has been obtained-------

Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services, 1914–1918 P.332

Collection relating to Major Alan Barton, AAMC. Collection consists of typed extracts from diary dated 1/1/1915 to 28/12/1918, as well as typed copies of two letters concerning Major Barton. The diary extracts consist of short, regular diary entries and include criticism of management; men working on transports and numbers of deaths on transports; and English soldiers.

1. WM 2DRL/0056

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Alan Sinclair Darvall Barton

Book of Remembrance, Sydney University.

Died 18/5/50
### War Service Record

**Surname:** Barton  
**Other Names:** Allan Farwell  
**Rank:** Major  
**Unit:** 2nd Australian Machine Gun Corps  
**Place, date and nature of Casualty:** None

**Date and Place of Enlistment:** 29/10/14, Sydney  
**Date of Embarkation and Name of Transport:** 5/11/14, Kojarra  
**Date of Return to Australia and Name of Transport:** 31/12/18, Gaika

**Decorations (if any):** D.C.O.

**Full details and remarks as to service:**
- Left with No. 2 M.G. Corps on Gallipoli with 1st M.G. B. O.
- Transferred to No. 2 M.G. B. O. when promoted to Major
- Transferred to France 1917-1918
- Surgeon Specialist No. 2 M.G. B. O. when given 1914 leave to return to Australia

**School or Schools attended before entrance to University:** All Saints College, Ballarat

**Period of attendance at University:** 5 years

**Faculty and Degrees:** Medicine

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*The particulars above are correct to the best of my belief.*

**Signature:** [Signature]
DEATHS

Alan Sinclair Darvall Barton, Rodney Rouse Danger, Wallace Woodward Twigg.

It is with deep regret that we record the death last May of Dr. A. D. Barton, a distinguished Old Boy of All Saints'. We are indebted to a former Headmaster, Mr. H. E. Britten, who knew Dr. Barton intimately, for the following biographical sketch:—

"By the death of Alan Sinclair Darvall Barton, M.B., Ch.M., R.A.C.S., D.S.O., All Saints' College has lost one of her most distinguished Old Boys. As his home, Esrom House—now the site of the College, had been closed, he broke the family tradition by coming to us as a boarder, an outstanding piece of luck that I fully appreciated. He was prominent in cricket, football, and tennis, he did consistently solid work in class, and was a highly successful monitor and captain of the School. He entered the Medical School in the University of Sydney in 1905, and was a resident in St. Paul's College; he graduated in due course, spent two years at the Sydney Hospital as a resident doctor, and then began to practice at Coonabarabran. When the First World War started, he was among the first to enlist in the Medical Corps, and his brilliant surgical work, both on Gallipoli and in France, gained him the Distinguished Service Order; he was also twice mentioned in despatches. When the evacuation of Gallipoli was due to start, it was assumed that the removal of the wounded men was impracticable, so Alan offered to stay on shore with them; his offer was accepted, and the authorities acknowledged that they had intended to ask him to take on this risky job. However, so successful was the evacuation that the wounded were taken off, and Alan was amongst the last to leave.

"After the war was over he settled down in Singleton, and during his twenty-six years' residence there he built up an extensive—and very strenuous—practice, particularly in surgery; this, following hard on his five years' work in the army, so impaired his health that he retired in 1946, and lived quietly in Gosford, where he died."
Amiens, France. 1918-06-15. Portrait in the outdoors, from left to right: Sister A.E. Robinson, Lieutenant 'Digger' Watson, Sister Dorothy Ellena Duffy. Watson provided the food for the Sisters while they were at Amiens, during the Battle of the Somme. The Sisters were part of a group of 20 civilian trained nurses, from New South Wales, who volunteered to serve in France for the Australian Red Cross during World War 1. The group became known as 'Bluebirds' because of their distinctive blue uniforms (not seen here). Sister Duffy is holding a pet rabbit, Claude - the savage rabbit.

Born in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia on 1889 to William John Duffy and Ellen Elizabeth Harriman. Dorothy Ellena married Allan Darvall Barton and had 4 children. She passed away on 29 Dec 1973 in Lindfield Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Ancestry