Barton, Brian Templar.

ASC 1904-6

Service number: 588

Rank: Trooper

Unit: 6th Australian Light Horse

Date of death: 3 December 1917. Killed in action

Cemetery or memorial details: Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel


Portrait of 588 Trooper Brian Templar Barton; born at Wellington, NSW. Son of Charles Hampden Barton and Annie Barton of “Nanima” Wellington. He was educated at Kings School, Parramatta, partly trained as a surveyor and spent time as a grazier before enlisting at Wellington on 7 December 1914, joining the 6th Light Horse Regiment. In late 1914, he embarked on HMAT Suevic for overseas and served for some time at Gallipoli Peninsula. It was here that he contracted Enteric fever and returned to Australia in late December 1915. On recovery from his illness, Barton returned to the Middle East and rejoined his unit, the 6th LHR, which was engaged in various operations in Palestine, such as Romani, Gaza and Beersheba, during the Allied drive northward. In late November 1917, the Allied forces had reached an area east of Jaffa in which there was a prominent position known as Bald Hill; then, occupied by Turkish forces. A few days later, C Squadron, 6th LHR, was ordered to capture the objective known as the Ypres Salient adjacent to Bald Hill. An artillery barrage was ordered to cover the advance of the attacking troops and timed to cease before the advance started. In the event,
the cessation of the barrage was delayed and Barton and an officer, Lt O W Tooth, were already advancing and were killed. This action took place on 3 December 1917. Barton and Lt Tooth are both buried in the Ramleh War Cemetery, Palestine.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier: <strong>Brian Templeton Barton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Unit and Number (if known): <strong>No. 588, B 2nd L.H. Regiment, E. Troop, C Squadron</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (after which his name ought to come on the Memorial): <strong>Wellington, N.S.W.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. What was his Birthplace: <strong>Wellington, N.S.W.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Date of Death: <strong>December 3rd, 1917</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Place where Killed or Wounded: <strong>Unknown</strong></td>
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<th>Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What was his Calling: <strong>Carpenter</strong></td>
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<td>2. Age at time of Death: <strong>Eighty</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. What was his School: <strong>The High School, Parramatta</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. What was his other Training: <strong>Partly trained as surveyor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia: <strong>Unknown</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars): <strong>Yes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment: <strong>Served at Gallipoli.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state relationship): <strong>Brother-in-Law</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information: <strong>Annie Barton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information: <strong>Maj. H. D. Barton</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mounted on their horses in camp on a beach at Khan Yunis, are two men of the 6th Australian Light Horse Regiment. From left to right, 588 Trooper Brian Templer Barton (who was killed in action on 3 December 1917) and 2869 Tpr. George Hamilton Milson.

Once in the Middle East the Regiment settled into further training; this time acclimatising to the harsh desert conditions. In April 1915 the Infantry elements of the AIF stormed ashore at Anzac Cove. It was not long before elements of the Light Horse were sent to fight (dismounted) on the Peninsula. Brian landed on Anzac Cove on 20 May 1915. While there he had two lucky escapes: on the first he was lucky to escape death when he was partially buried by a bursting shell. On the second occasion in September he was holding a periscope that was struck by a bullet, causing Brian to lose some skin off the top of his head.

On 22 September 1915 Brian was promoted to Lance Corporal. Shortly afterwards he was admitted to the 3rd Field Ambulance suffering from what was first diagnosed as ‘jaundice’. This was changed to ‘influenza’ in later paperwork. Brian’s condition was finally found to be enteric fever (typhoid) and on 4 October he was evacuated back to Alexandria. After a month’s treatment he was sent to a

Above: Brian Barton

Society
The 6th Light Horse to the north had still advanced at H hour plus 10 and reached their objective bayoneting 20 Turks from the 2nd Battalion 57th Regiment, where they stayed long enough in the Turkish’s trenches to capture three prisoners from the 57th Regiment and
one prisoner from the 1st Battalion 52nd Regiment and some rifles before returning with the required information with the loss of one officer (Owen Tooth) and one other rank (Brian Barton) killed and one officer and 22 men wounded.

here a series of small redoubts on ridges sur-
rounded by a large orchard of almond trees.
Large digging parties were found every night, and
operate with the S.C.C. in an attack on point 265,
most immediately in front of the salient. The
were driven back to their supports by a strong enemy counter attack. Lieut. Ronald was
badly wounded, and two other ranks were killed
and wounded.

During the month the following decorations
were awarded: Lieut. H. Dickson, the Military
Cross, and Sergeants Potter and Sheridan,
Troopers Smith, McNamee and Hindmarsh, the
Military Medal.

The month of December opened with the Regi-
ment still holding redoubts in the almond orchard
around One-tree Hill. The horses had, mean-
while, been sent back towards Selmeh village for
safety from shell fire, and on the night of the 1st,
the Regiment was relieved by the 5th L.H., and
withdrew into reserve about half a mile behind the
firing-line.

The enemy had been observed digging in on the
salient in front of One-tree Hill. A raiding party
from C Squadron, comprising 5 officers and 100
other ranks, Captain D. C. Close in command,
was detailed to attack the salient, the principal
object being to discover whether the enemy were
intending to fortify and permanently occupy this
point or not.
Throughout these dossiers, are various copies from “Red Cross Missing and Wounded Reports.” These can be seen on the AWM site. Note how many are written by the wounded in military hospitals. Also observe that often the facts stated, are inaccurate.
6th Light Horse

HARTON, B.T. Pte. No. 588.

K. 3/12/17.

I knew Private Barton very well, and I know his people too.

He and I were together when he was killed. I was wounded, and he put me on a stretcher; he was killed directly afterwards. It was in a small raid, seven miles N.E. of Jaffa, about 8 p.m.

He was about the most popular man in the Battalion. He died instantly, and later was buried where he fell.

Informant - Trooper Low, No. 310,
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.

A.I.F. 6th Light Horse.


Re-interred Ramlet Military Cemetery, 12½ miles S.E. of Jaffa, on
Railway to Jerusalem—10 miles E of the Sea.
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs List 3.7.19.

6th Light Horse
A.I.F.

Barton, Pte. No. 588

E/A 3.12.17.

Informant described Barton as about 6 ft 4 inches high, medium build, fair, aged about 26/27. Believed to have come from Talgett District and to have been a "squatter.

Informant states that on or about 3.12.17 the 6th Light Horse was attacking the Turks near Jaffa, Palestine. Informant was told by one of Barton's cousins that he had seen him killed by artillery fire while out with a raiding party. Informant had been wounded before Barton was killed.

Informant said that Barton was very popular on account of his great height.

Informant: Tpr. C. H. Webster, 1050,
6th Light Horse, "A" Squadron,
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick.

Home address: Newbridge, N.S.W.
When Brian’s remains were transferred to Rishon Le-Zion and then to Ramleh Military Cemetery his mother requested that the cross be sent out to Australia. It was erected in the Nanima Cemetery (Aust) where it remains to this day.

(Details taken from Nat D Barton’s letter home Page 195 Aust. Light Horse Assoc)

Quite detailed account, which describes actions against the Turks between August 1916 and March 1917):


... LATE PRIVATE BARTON, formerly grazier, of Murrurndy, near Wellington, New South Wales, but more recently of the 6th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F., was killed in action on December 3 last. He died intestate. Letters of administration have been granted to Mrs. Annie Barton (widow), mother of the deceased soldier, and to his sister, Miss Ursula Sterling Barton, of Nanima, Wellington. The net value of the estate is £28,034 15s 11d, of which £17,590 16s 9d is realty.

SMH 21/6/18 P. 7

A GENEROUS DONATION

WELLINGTON. Sunday.

Mrs. C B Barton and family of Nanima Wellington took a most charitable way of perpetuating the memory of their son and brother, Brian Templar Barton who was killed in Palestine during the great war by donating £1600 towards a new ward at the local hospital, the Government giving the balance.

The whole cost of the ward amounts to over £****. The new ward will be for women, and will contain six beds.
Wellington Cenotaph

Cameron Park Wellington, NSW.  2820. Established: 1923.

A Copyright proof from Commonwealth War Graves Photographic Project

AWM
Eight page typed biographical account written by Eythan Shany, of the life and death in battle of Cpl Barton. The story is woven around the accidental discovery in 1972 of a tombstone noting the burial place of Cpl Barton. He was killed on 3 December 1917 during a short attack on the Ypres Salient, Bald Hill, Palestine.

ID number 3DRL/6256

The first grave stone was placed upon the tomb of Brian Templar Barton by his brother Nat Barton. There is some dispute over the material since Nat declares that he used a concrete slab but the stone found in 1972 by a group of bush walkers wandering among the orange groves of Petah Tuikvah and Kiriath Ono Israel is just that, a stone and rather than a concrete block.

Brian Templar Barton's body had been moved at the end of the war and re-interred at Ramleh where his official war grave exists.

Nat Barton was sure he used a concrete block. The stone indicates that the body had been exhumed prior to its placement. So one can conclude that the stone replaced the concrete block of Nat Barton and was placed there by a person or persons unknown.

As to the location of current day relatives, you will need to follow this trail yourself. It begins at Wellington NSW. Also you might try to contact Lindsay Baly, the author, who had most contact with the current Barton family.

Cheers

Bill

Internet dialogue from Oct. 2010

Brian Templar Barton’s first grave stone.