

Private Ernest Barker[©]

Regimental number: 3041

56th Australian Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force

born: 26 September 1888–died: 20 July 1916

Private Ernest Barker (a.k.a. Barber) was one of 61,522 Australians who died in or because of the First World War.¹

Ernest was born on 26 September 1888 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia,² the first child of Bertha Alice Barber (1866–1941),³ a native of Orange, New South Wales, a town located about 254 km west of Sydney. Bertha was apparently a widow and employed as an upholsterer when she married Henry Edward Stone (1871–1926),⁴ a painter, in St. David's Anglican Church, Surry Hills, Sydney, on 12 October 1891.⁵

The couple had five children, of whom four survived to adulthood. Their first child, Roger (1892–1930),⁶ was followed by Henry Albert (1893–1945),⁷ Hepzabah Florence (1895–1898),⁸ Alexander Humphrey (1897–1975),⁹ Muriel Cecilia (1902–1959),¹⁰ and finally Edna (1906–?).¹¹

It was at St. David's Church that Bertha baptized Ernest, Roger, Henry and Hepzabah on 13 March 1895. The family was living at 521 Bourke Street, a rooming house owned by Mrs. E. Stewart.¹² By 14 March 1897, when Alexander was baptized at St. David's, the family was living at 472 Crown Street.

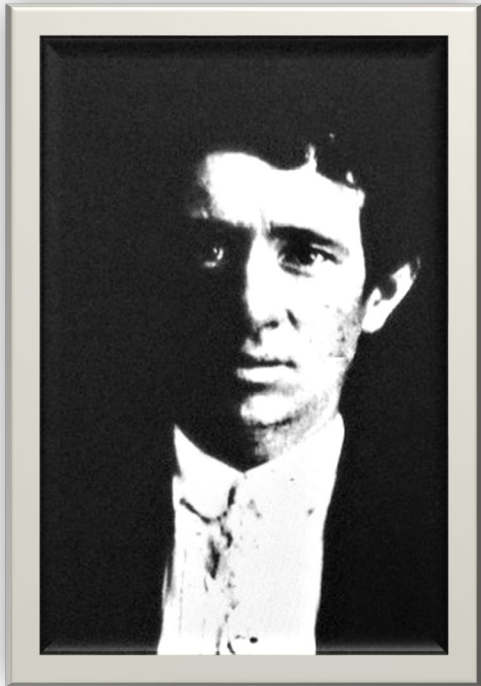
However, by 1899 10-year-old Ernest was living with Mrs. E. Stewart; in April of that year he was apprehended by the police for wandering the streets of Sydney with "bad companions." Mrs. Stewart testified that he lived with her but was out of control, refusing to attend classes at the Bourke Street South Public School and habitually wandering. Ernest's mother, who was still working as an upholsterer, earning £1 7s 6p a week, said that Ernest's father was dead and that she had three other children to support. Ernest was sentenced to the *Sobraon* Industrial School at his mother's request. The *Sobraon* was a refurbished clipper ship that was docked in Sydney Harbour and used as an all-boy industrial school from 1891 until 1911. The boys received an education and were taught a trade. Mrs. Stewart said that she would endeavour to pay something toward Ernest's support at the school.¹³

Ernest's problems with law enforcement continued. On 16 September 1903, he was sentenced to two years at the Carpentarian Reformatory for being "unlawfully on premises." On 26 June 1908, he was sentenced to 24 hours of hard labour for being in breach of the *Railways Act*. On 3 March 1913, Ernest, employed as a carter, was arrested for embezzling £5 6s 5d from his master, Robert Hugh Hanlon. He received a suspended sentence on 10 March after providing a £30 surety for one year's good behaviour.¹⁴

On 4 August 1914 (5 August in Australia), Britain declared war on Germany. As a dominion of the British Empire, Australia was automatically at war. At the time, Ernest was most likely living in Sydney, employed as a carter. Australia was in the midst of an election campaign. With Cabinet members dispersed electioneering, Governor General Sir Ronald Craufurd Munro Ferguson, who had been appointed on 14 May 1914, took the lead: recalling Cabinet, implementing a mobilization plan and promoting the war effort.¹⁵

Australia had a small permanent army that was prohibited from deployment overseas by the *Defence Act* of 1903. To circumvent this, the mobilization plan included the creation of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), which would be staffed by volunteers. These would be men at least 5 ft. 6 in. (168 cm) tall with good eyesight and teeth and between the ages of 18 and 45. (Those 18

to 21 years of age needed a parent's permission.) The pay was six shillings a day for a private, which was higher than some other forces' wage.¹⁶ By the end of 1914, 52,000 men had volunteered. However, when the volunteering rate declined, Prime Minister Hughes¹⁷ attempted to introduce conscription on 18 October 1916 and 20 December 1917, but both times the public voted against it.¹⁸ By the end of the war, 417,000 men had volunteered (about two-fifths of the eligible men), of whom 315,000 served overseas.¹⁹



Ernest Barker

Photo: "New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930," *Ancestry*

The volunteers to the AIF were sent for training to Egypt, where the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was already in action defending the Suez Canal. Lieutenant General William Riddell Birdwood was assigned command of the New Zealand and Australian armies by Britain's Lord Kitchener. Birdwood and his staff coined the acronym ANZAC to describe the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.²⁰ On 25 April 1915, Australian troops saw their first substantial action when the 1st Division and the 4th Brigade, together with other units of the BEF, were committed to the Gallipoli campaign, which failed dismally. By 8 January 1916, when the last Australian was evacuated, 8,709 Australian soldiers were dead and 17,924 wounded.²¹

When news of the Gallipoli landing reached Australia on 8 May 1915, patriotic fervour swept the country, with the result that 10,526 men volunteered that month. By the end of 1915, the peak year for enlistment, 165,912 had volunteered.²² One of these volunteers was Ernest Barker.²³

Earlier that year, Ernest had encountered law enforcement yet again. A warrant for his arrest was issued on 10 March 1915 for fraudulently appropriating the sum of £3 from Andrew Wilson on 15 January. Ernest was described as slight of built, of fair complexion, wearing a navy blue serge suit and straw hat. On 30 June 1915, he paid a fine of £6 6s in lieu of six weeks of hard labour.²⁴

Ernest enlisted on 20 September 1915 at the military barracks at Holsworthy, a suburb of Sydney. He gave his occupation as "horse driver." He had black hair, blue eyes and weighed 57 kg; at 164 cm tall he was slightly under the height requirement. Both his arms were covered with tattoos—on his outer left arm, a woman with flags, on his inner left arm, a nude woman, on the back of his left hand, a tombstone; on his upper right arm, clasped hands across a sea and above a ship, and on his lower right forearm, a dagger through a heart. He also had multiple scars on both legs.²⁵ He was assigned to the 7th Reinforcements, 20th Battalion.

During the following three months, Ernest trained at military camps in the Sydney area. On Thursday, 23 December 1915, he embarked on HMAT [His Majesty's Australian Transport] A.29

Suevic from Sydney, destined for Cairo, Egypt. Ernest was one of 1,538 troops perched on every available spot aboard the ship.²⁶ The *Suevic* docked at Port Suez at the south end of the Suez Canal in mid-January 1916. Ernest spent the next month with the 5th Training Battalion, at the Australian army camp at Zeitoun near Cairo.

In Egypt at this point there were between 35,000 and 40,000 Australian and New Zealand reinforcements. With this growth came organizational change. The AIF expanded from two to five divisions. The new commander-in-chief of the BEF in Egypt, General Sir Archibald Murray, expressed concern that the AIF troops were untidily dressed, lacked discipline, and needed to be trained to respect and salute officers.²⁷

Although Ernest travelled out to Egypt with the 7th Reinforcements, 20th Battalion, on 16 February 1916, he was sent to Tel-el-Kebir to join the 56th Battalion, which had been raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 4th Battalion and the other half, fresh reinforcements, like Ernest. The majority of both groups were from New South Wales. The 56th Battalion was part of the 14th Brigade, 5th Australian Division,²⁸ commanded by Major General James Whiteside McCay.²⁹

The 56th Battalion's officers began the process of integrating the new recruits and veterans into the battalion using the prescribed syllabus of training.³⁰ Ernest was taught basic military operations such as drills, manoeuvres, and equipment usage. On 8 March, Lieutenant General Birdwood informed the Australian troops that they were going to France and asked them to uphold the good name of Australia among the people of France and "to play the game."³¹ The transportation of AIF battalions to Marseilles, France, commenced on 13 March 1916.

On 22 March, HRH the Prince of Wales inspected the 56th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir. At the end of the month, the 5th Division was assigned responsibility for the Suez Canal's defences and ordered by General Headquarters staff to march there because there were no trains available for transport. At 7:30 a.m. on 27 March, Ernest—with full pack, water bottle and 120 rounds of ammunition—marched 60 km with the battalion through the desert to Moascar, near Ismailia, arriving around 11 p.m. the next day. The march was deemed a disaster. Many of the soldiers collapsed on the route. They were weak from a series of inoculations and could not cope with the intense heat and difficult terrain. New Zealand troops stationed in the area assisted the exhausted Australian soldiers.³² On 29 March, the battalion moved to a camp about 2.5 km from Ferry Post, located east of the Suez Canal.

The battalion remained at the Ferry Post camp for over a month. The health of the men continued to be a concern, as many were judged medically unfit, suffering from diarrhea and other problems. The officers continued training exercises. The soldiers lacked musketry and other military skills, but the assignment of divisional tasks made training sessions difficult to schedule. On 25 April, Anzac Day was celebrated with a parade and a half-day holiday. Troops present at the Anzac Cove landing wore red ribbons. Those who served in Gallipoli but were not at the landing wore blue ribbons.

On 9 May, the battalion moved to camps at Mount Kembla and Gundagai Hill on the Duntroon Plateau, where Ernest and his fellow recruits constructed a communication trench and cleared defence line trenches.³³ The work was strenuous. "Water was so scarce that the men seldom had a wash, and a change of clothes was out of the question. At times the men would wear their clothes inside out and fancy they had new ones."³⁴ Because of the severe heat, much of the work and training was done in the morning and evening. On 24 May, Ernest was found guilty of uttering

obscene language to a non-commissioned officer. He was punished with five days, Field Punishment Number Two.³⁵

The battalion returned to Ferry Post on 30 May. For the next 16 days, Ernest and the other recruits received training followed by a swim in the canal and then marched in a parade. This routine continued until 16 June, when the 56th Battalion's 31 officers and 959 other ranks (ORs) marched to Moascar. On 19 June, it embarked by train for Alexandria, arriving at 1:30 a.m. on 20 June; there the battalion boarded the HMT *Huntsend*. On 21 June, the ship left Alexandria, docking at Malta on 25 June, where the men were allowed to swim in the harbour. The next day it sailed for Marseilles, France, arriving at 5:30 a.m. on 29 June.

On 1 July, the 56th Battalion divided into two sections to travel the 1,020-km train journey from Marseilles to Thiennes, France. The first section arrived there at 4:15 a.m. on 3 July, the second at 8:30 p.m. that evening. During the following days, the battalion's soldiers, while coping with heavy rain, dug new latrines and received Lewis gun training.

On 9 July, the battalion relocated to Estaires, France, and on 12 July marched to the "Wyve Farm" trenches at Frommels (a.k.a. Fleurbaix), France, experiencing shell fire for the first time. Two men were accidentally killed on 13 July. Under heavy shell fire the next day, the battalion was unsuccessful at obtaining artillery support because the 5th Division's signallers did not recognize the battalion's code. On 15 July, the battalion was relieved and retired to billets, only to be informed that an attack on the enemy was planned. The date of the attack and its zero hour changed a number of times. In the interim, the men were assigned to nightly work parties, moving supplies to the front line.

At 9 a.m. on 19 July, the battalion's officers received orders to prepare for an attack on the Sugarloaf, an enemy-held strongpoint that jutted forward and rose slightly above the surrounding landscape near the village of Fromelles. The 56th Battalion was designated a reserve battalion. At 4:00 p.m. it was at its assigned position along the Rue Quesnoy–Rue Raitalle line and began its advance to the front line.

Fromelles was the first major battle fought by Australian troops on the Western Front. The attack, led by troops from the 5th Australian and 61st British divisions, was intended primarily as a feint to draw enemy troops away from the Somme Offensive. On 19 July, the BEF's seven-hour preparatory bombardment of the enemy trenches did little damage but alerted the enemy to the upcoming attack. The battalions of the 5th Australian Division attacked the enemy trenches in waves starting at 6:45 p.m. and were mowed down by the enemy's machine gun fire.

At 8:50 p.m. the 56th Battalion's "A" and "B" companies advanced to the 300-yard-line trench and by 9:00 p.m. were in the front line with orders to hold it and on no account to leave it. During the advance, the companies encountered heavy shelling, which killed five and wounded 30. Nonetheless, the men were reported to be in good spirits, showing no regard for enemy fire. At 11 p.m., "B" company was ordered to dig a communication trench across "No Man's Land" to the captured enemy trenches. This was completed by 3 a.m. on 20 July and allowed supplies to be moved forward. Later it was used as an escape route by retreating soldiers from other units. By 5:40 a.m., "C" and "D" companies had advanced to the 300-yard-line trench, which was heavily bombarded by the enemy's artillery. Although the soldiers of the 56th Battalion did not go "over the top" in attack formation, they were instrumental in saving the lives of many of the men who did. For example, the 8th Brigade's retreat was chaotic. The 56th Battalion's Captain Walter Roy Sheen was instrumental in stemming the disorder and rallying the men, which was deemed an example of "coolness under very heavy shell fire." Private Thomas Charles Rowley of "A" Company proceeded

to the enemy's parapet, where he threw grenades at the enemy, forcing them to withdraw and allowing 80 men to reach safety. Men from "B" company did come out of the trenches and assisted others to reach safety. By 11 a.m. on 20 July, the 56th Battalion was the only battalion holding the 300-yard-trench. Enemy action decreased after 12 noon, which allowed the battalion's soldiers to remove the wounded and dead.³⁶

The 56th Battalion's casualties were 12 killed, 77 wounded and 13 missing. The 5th Australian Division suffered 5,533 casualties, the 61st British Division 1,547, and the enemy about 1,000. The attack was a complete failure and had no impact upon the progress of the Somme Offensive.³⁷ Charles E. W. Bean, the official Australian war correspondent, concluded that it failed because of "loose thinking and reckless decision-making on the part of higher staff."³⁸

The battle at Fromelles received brief coverage in the Australian newspapers. The number of casualties was not mentioned, but the Australian troops were praised for the manner in which they carried through the operation, which was "worthy of the tradition of Anzac."³⁹ Some Australian newspapers did mention a German communique that expressed puzzlement about the British attack at Fromelles because it seemed to serve no purpose.⁴⁰

One of the 56th Battalion's casualties was Private Ernest Barker, who was critically injured, with wounds to his head and legs. He was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) at Bailleul, France, about 15 km away. A casualty clearing station was a medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who could not be adequately treated were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.⁴¹ Ernest was one of 446 casualties admitted on Thursday 20 July and one of nine patients to die that day.⁴² His death was recorded by the No. 1 CCCS chaplain.⁴³

Private Ernest Barker was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. F. 31).⁴⁴ Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 CCCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

Ernest's mother Bertha Alice Stone was informed of his death. His name appeared on the *Australian Casualties List No. 192*, published on 12 August.⁴⁵ As next of kin, his mother was awarded a pension on 5 October 1916. The next year, on 17 April, she received Ernest's personal effects—an identify disc, a letter, an aluminum ring, a damaged mirror and a 50 centime note. She thanked the military for returning these items.

Private Ernest Barker was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918). His mother also received a parchment scroll with the words "Where the Australians Rest" and a memorial plaque.

Ernest's sacrifice was not forgotten. His name was inscribed on panel 161 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.⁴⁶ More recently, he was remembered in the AIF Project, UNSW Australia at Canberra.⁴⁷

¹ "First World War 1914–1918," *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar/first-world-war>: accessed 28 March 2022)

² "Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages," *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Ernest Barber, Birth Registration number: 3202/1888, District: Sydney, Father's Given Name(s): blank, Mother's Given Name(s): Alice; "New South Wales, Australia, Entrance Books for the Vernon and Sobraon, 1867–1911," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Ernest Barber, Date received: 26 April 1899, Ship: Sobraon, Mother's name: Bertha Stone Note: Ernest's surname was spelled as Barker, Baker and/or Barber on various documents. When he was admitted to the Industrial School, his birthday was given as 26 September 1886. This might have been a transcription error or his birth might have been registered two years later in 1888. Other documents recorded his birth as 1889.

³ "Australia, Birth Index, 1798–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Bertha Alice Barber, Birth place: New South Wales, Registration year: 1866, Registration place: Orange, New South Wales, Australia, Father: Alfred S. Barber, Mother: Hephzibah A. Barber, Registration number: 12503; "Sydney, Australia, Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 7 March 2022), entry for Bertha Alice Stone, Death date: 22 April 1941, Burial place, Sydney, New South Wales, Age at death: 76

⁴ "Australia, Birth Index, 1798–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Henry E. Stone, Birth place: New South Wales, Registration year: 1872, Registration place: Orange, New South Wales, Australia, Father: Henry W. Stone, Mother: Jessie Stone, Registration number: 14965; "Australia, Death Index, 1787–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Henry E. Stone, Death date: 1926, Death place: Sydney, New South Wales, Registration date: 1926, Registration place: Sydney, Australia, Father: Henry E, Mother: Jesse J, Registration number: 11239

⁵ "Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers 1814–2011," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Henry Edward Stone, Record type: Marriage, Marriage date: 12 October 1891, Marriage place: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Father: Henry W. Stone, Mother: Jesse Jane Stone, Spouse: Bertha Alice Barber

⁶ "Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages," *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Roger Stone, Birth registration number: 28/1892, District: Sydney, Father's given name(s): Henry, Mother's given name(s): Bertha; "Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages," *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Roger Stone, Death registration number: 15359/1930 District: Newton, Father's given name(s): Henry, Mother's given name(s): Bertha

⁷ "Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages," *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Henry A Stone, Birth registration number: 1852/1893, District: Sydney, Father's given name(s): Henry, Mother's given name(s): Bertha; "Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages," *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Henry Albert Stone, Death registration number: 25852/1945, District: Manly, Father's given name(s): Henry, Mother's given name(s): Bertha

⁸ "Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages," *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Hepzabah F Stone, Birth registration number: 518/1895, District: Sydney, Father's given name(s): Henry, Mother's given name(s): Bertha; "Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages," *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Hepzibah F Stone, Death registration number: 209/1898, District: Sydney, Father's given name(s): Henry, Mother's given name(s): Bertha

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- ⁹ “Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages,” *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Alexander H Stone, Birth registration number: 418/1897, District: Sydney, Father’s given name(s): Henry A, Mother’s given name(s): Bertha; “Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages,” *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Alexander Humphy [sic] Stone, Death registration number: 4158/1975, District: Cabramatta
- ¹⁰ “Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages,” *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Muriel C Stone, Birth registration number: 28667/1902, District: Sydney, Father’s given name(s): Henry A, Mother’s given name(s): Bertha A; “Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages,” *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Muriel C Stone, Death registration number: 30890/1959, District: Chakwood, Father’s given name(s): Henry, Mother’s given name(s): Bertha Alice
- ¹¹ “Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages,” *State of New South Wales (Department of Justice)* (<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search;jsessionid=0DD3FBAB52EE7F30F70A4D795B89F636?0>: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Edna Stone, Birth Registration number: 9862/1906, District: Sydney, Father’s given name(s): Henry E, Mother’s given name(s): Bertha A; “Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers 1814–2011,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Edna Stone, Record type: Marriage, Marriage age: 16, Marriage date: 22 December 1922, Marriage place: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Parish as it appears: Leichhardt, Father: Henry A. Stone, Mother: Bertha Alice Stone, Spouse: Robert William McAllon
- ¹² “Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers 1814–2011,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 March 2022), entry for Ernest Roger Stone, Record type: Baptism, Baptism date: 13 March 1895, Baptism place: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Parish as it appears: St. David, Surry Hills, Father: Henry A. Stone, Mother: Bertha Stone
- ¹³ “New South Wales, Australia, Entrance Books for the Vernon and Sobraon, 1867–1911,” op. cit.
- ¹⁴ “New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818–1930,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 April 2022), entry for Ernest Barker, Date of admission/photo: 3 March 1913, Gaol: Darlinghurst; “New South Wales, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1854–1930,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 7 April 2022), entry for Ernest Barker, Publication date: 19 March 1913, Page: 130. See also page 85. Note: Ernest gave his birthdate as 26 September 1889.
- ¹⁵ J. R. Poynter, “Munro Ferguson, Sir Ronald Craufurd (1860–1934),” *Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University* (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/munro-ferguson-sir-ronald-craufurd-7688>: accessed 5 January 2022)
- ¹⁶ Joan Beaumont, *Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War* (Sydney, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2013), e-book (Apple), Chap. 1, “Why did they volunteer?” pp. 39–44. Note: The New Zealand Expeditionary Force paid a private five shillings; the British Expeditionary Force paid one shilling, later raised to three shillings.
- ¹⁷ “William Hughes,” *National Archives of Australia 1961–2021* (<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/australias-prime-ministers/william-hughes>: accessed 1 April 2022)
- ¹⁸ “Conscription during the First World War, 1914–1918,” *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/conscription/ww1>: accessed 5 March 2022)
- ¹⁹ “Enlistment statistics, First World War,” *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/enlistment/ww1>: accessed 5 March 2022)
- ²⁰ Charles E. W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918, Volume 1: The Story of ANZAC from the outbreak of war to the end of the first phase of the Gallipoli Campaign, May 4, 1915* (11th edition, 1941), p. 25, *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/understanding-military-history/official-histories>: accessed 3 April 2022)
- ²¹ “Australian fatalities at Gallipoli,” *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/gallipoli/fatalities>: accessed 3 May 2022)

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- ²² Charles E. W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War 1914–1918, Volume III: The Australian Imperial Force in France, 1916* (12th edition, 1941), Chapter I, “Preparations in Egypt,” p. 8, *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1416847>: accessed 21 May 2022)
- ²³ “First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914–1920,” *National Archives of Australia* (<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records/army-world-war-i-1914-18>: accessed 12 April 2022), entry for Barker, Ernest, Service number: 3041, NAA: B2455, Item ID: 3049206, Note: All information about Ernest Barker’s military career came from this source.
- ²⁴ “New South Wales, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1854–1930,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 7 April 2022), entry for Ernest Barker, Publication date: 30 June 1915, Page: 313 and 113
- ²⁵ “First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914–1920,” op. cit., entry for Ernest Barker, Medical Examination; “New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818–1930,” op. cit.; “New South Wales, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1854–1930,” op. cit.
- ²⁶ “First World War Embarkation Roll,” *Australian War Memorial* (https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people?roll=First%20World%20War%20Embarkation%20Roll&people_preferred_name=Ernest%20Barker&people_service_number=3041: accessed 14 April 2022), entry for Ernest Barker, Service number: 3041; “Sea Transport of AIF,” *Australian National Maritime Museum* (https://issuu.com/anmmuseum/docs/sea_transport_of_the_aif: accessed 19 April 2022), p. 127. Note: There was a slight discrepancy in the sailing date in these sources.
- ²⁷ Charles E. W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War 1914–1918, Volume III: The Australian Imperial Force in France, 1916* (12th edition, 1941), chap. “The Doubling of the A.I.F.,” pp. 32–68, *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1416847>: accessed 21 May 2022)
- ²⁸ “56th Australian Infantry Battalion,” *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51496>: accessed 14 April 2022)
- ²⁹ Geoffrey Serie, “McCay, Sir James Whiteside (1864–1930),” *Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University* (<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mccay-sir-james-whiteside-7312>: accessed 14 May 2022)
- ³⁰ “Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries 1914–1918 War,” *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339123>: accessed 16 April 2022), AWM4 Subclass 23/73–56th Infantry Battalion, AWM4 23/73/1 February 1916 to AWM4 23/73/7 August 1916. Note: Information about the 56th Battalion’s activities in 1916 came from this source.
- ³¹ Charles E. W. Bean, op. cit., Volume III, chap. “The Doubling of the A.I.F.,” p. 66. Note: The words from the Henry Newbolt poem, *Vitai Lampada* were also used as an Australian recruitment slogan.
- ³² Charles E. W. Bean, op. cit., Volume III, chap. “The Arrival of II ANZAC,” pp. 288–290
- ³³ Note: The Australians gave familiar Australian names to some of the natural features in the area east of the Suez Canal where they were training and setting up defences.
- ³⁴ Private Douglas Bond, “Soldiers’ Letters,” *Richmond River Express & Kyogle Advertiser*, 15 August 1916, p. 6, in *Trove, National Library of Australia* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>: accessed 15 April 2022). **Note:** Private Douglas Bond, service number 2573, served in the 18th Battalion in Egypt and France during the same time period as Ernest Barker. Although wounded, Bond survived the war.
- ³⁵ “Field Punishment,” *Wikipedia* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_punishment: accessed 15 April 2022). A soldier given Field Punishment Number Two was placed in fetters and handcuffs but was able to move.
- ³⁶ “Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries 1914–1918 War,” op. cit., entry for 19 and 20 July, 1916; “First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914–1920,” *National Archives of Australia* (<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records/army-world-war-i-1914-18>: accessed 12 April 2022), entry for Sheen, Walter Roy, NAA: B2455, Item ID: 8080949, Note: Captain Sheen died on 22 October 1916; “First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914–1920,” *National Archives of Australia* (<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records/army-world-war-i-1914-18>: accessed 12 April 2022), entry for Rowley, Thomas Charles, Service number: 2436, NAA: B2455, Item ID: 615212, , Note: Private T. C. Rowley survived the war.
- ³⁷ “Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries 1914–1918 War,” op. cit., entry for 20 June 1916; “Battle of Fromelles,” *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E84321>: accessed 5 May 2022)

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- ³⁸ Charles E. W. Bean, op. cit., Volume: III, Chapter XIII, "Battle of Fromelles (Continued)," p. 444
- ³⁹ "Where the Australians attacked," *The Argus*, 24 July 1916, p. 7; "An Australian Sortie. Bravery of Engineers. Severe Casualties," *The Mercury*, 14 July 1916, p. 5, in *Trove, National Library of Australia* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>: accessed 5 May 2022)
- ⁴⁰ "Enemy Experts Puzzled," *The Argus*, 24 July 1916, p. 7; "Object of Attacks. The Germans Puzzled, London, July 22," *The Mercury*, 24 July 1916, p. 5, in *Trove, National Library of Australia* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>: accessed 5 May 2022)
- ⁴¹ "Casualty Clearing Station," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station: accessed 2 May 2022)
- ⁴² "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/redirect?app=fonandcol&id=2005082&lang=eng>: accessed 4 May 2022), entries for 20 July 1916. Note: Some documents in Ernest's *Personnel Dossier* incorrectly stated that he died at the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station.
- ⁴³ "No.1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 4 May 2022), entry no. 238 for Pte. E. Barker, Service number: 3041
- ⁴⁴ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/198274/e-barker>: accessed 5 May 2022), entry for E. Barker, Service number: 3041
- ⁴⁵ "More Casualties, New South Wales Losses, 192 List," *The Evening News*, 12 August 1916, p. 6, in *Trove, National Library of Australia* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>: accessed 6 May 2022)
- ⁴⁶ "Roll of Honour," *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1635982>: accessed 12 April 2022), entry for Ernest Barker, Service number: 3041
- ⁴⁷ *The AIF Project: Australian Anzacs in the Great War* (<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=13356>: accessed 12 April 2022), UNSW Australia Defence Force Academy, Canberra, entry for Ernest Barker, Regimental number: 3041