

.....

# THE NEWSLETTER

BERKSHIRE MILITARY MUSEUM

ISSUE #10

JUNE-AUGUST, 2018



## THE STORY: CHARLES WOOD

HENRY WILLIAM BARR WAS A PRIVATE IN B COMPANY OF THE 33RD BATTALION, 3RD REINFORCEMENT, AND LATER A 2ND CORPORAL IN THE AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. HE WAS BORN IN GRENFELL, NSW ON 12 DECEMBER, 1894 TO WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BARR. AT THE TIME OF HIS ENLISTMENT ON 10 APRIL, 1916 HE WAS WORKING AS A DRIVER. HE HAD BROWN HAIR AND BLUE EYES, WAS 6'2" TALL AND WEIGHED 156 LBS. HENRY LISTED HIS NEXT OF KIN AS HIS MOTHER, CATHERINE BARR AND HIS DENOMINATION AS ROMAN CATHOLIC.

ON 24 AUGUST, 1916 HE LEFT SYDNEY ON BOARD *HMAT ANCHISES*, BOUND FOR SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND. BARR ARRIVED IN SOUTHAMPTON ON 11 OCTOBER, AND WAS ON A SHIP TO FRANCE 10 DAYS LATER. AFTER SERVING WITH THE 33RD BATTALION, BARR WAS DETACHED AND TRANSFERRED TO THE 3RD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION TRAFFIC CONTROL. ON 1 NOVEMBER, 1918, BARR WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE 3RD DIVISION TRAFFIC CONTROL TO THE PROVOST CORPS. THE PRIMARY DUTY OF THE PROVOST CORPS WAS MILITARY POLICE, WHICH TIED IN WITH TRAFFIC CONTROL. AFTER THE WAR, BARR RETURNED TO AUSTRALIA ON BOARD *HMAT SHROPSHIRE*, ARRIVING ON 2 DECEMBER, 1919. HE WAS OFFICIALLY DISCHARGED ON 23 MARCH, 1920.

ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1919, BEFORE LEAVING EUROPE, BARR WAS MARRIED TO MARIE SERAPHIE HENRIETTE EMILIE DELBOSE OF PARIS. IT APPEARS THAT SHE FOLLOWED HIM BACK TO AUSTRALIA AFTER HE WAS DISCHARGED. HOWEVER THIS WARTIME ROMANCE DID NOT WORK OUT, AND AT THE TIME OF BARR'S ENLISTMENT IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR ON APRIL 1ST, 1942, HE LISTED HIS NEXT OF KIN AS HIS WIFE, ALICE BARR. DURING WWII HE SERVED AS A CORPORAL IN THE 10TH BATTALION VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS WITH PART TIME DUTIES, AND WAS STATIONED IN AUSTRALIA. BARR WAS DISCHARGED ON SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1945.



MEMBERS OF THE 1ST AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS  
(UNKNOWN, c.WWI)

## NEW ITEM

ONE OF THE LATEST DONATIONS TO THE BERKSHIRE MILITARY MUSEUM IS PART OF AN AUSTRALIAN AIR RAID WARDENS KIT USED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. IT WAS KINDLY DONATED BY MY UNCLE HARRY WALLACE. THIS PARTICULAR KIT INCLUDES A NO. 4 GAS MASK, AN UNNAMED WARDEN'S HANDBOOK AND AN ARMBAND. IT WAS USED BY AN AIR RAID WARDEN WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICE IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA. THE MASK IS DATED 1942, ALONG WITH THE BOOK AND ARMBAND.

ESTABLISHED IN 1939 THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICE (NES) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING AIR RAID WARDENS TO PATROL THE STREETS, ALERT THE PUBLIC TO ENEMY ATTACKS AND ENSURE PROPER BLACKOUT PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED. MANY WHO WERE TOO OLD OR WERE DECLARED UNFIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE VOLUNTEERED. THE NES WAS ESTABLISHED ALONG WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO ENSURE AUSTRALIA WAS ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR JAPANESE HOSTILITY. ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE DID BOMB OTHER PARTS OF AUSTRALIA, ONLY ONE ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON SYDNEY IN 1942, WHEN JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINES SNUCK INTO THE HARBOUR AND SUNK SHIPS AND DAMAGED HOUSES ON THE WATERFRONT. BY THE END OF WWII, 115,418 PEOPLE HAD VOLUNTEERED FOR THE NES, THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHOM BECAME AIR RAID WARDENS.



THE GAS MASK AND BAG



THE NES ARMBAND AND AIR RAID WARDENS HANDBOOK



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P10992.005

A PHOTO OF HAROLD WOMBEY, AN AIR RAID WARDEN

WITH THE NES IN SYDNEY  
(AWM, WWII)

## QUICK FACTS

REVOLUTIONARY WAR: IN 1779, SPAIN JOINED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AS AN ALLY OF FRANCE AND AMERICA, HOPING TO SEIZE BRITISH TERRITORY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: CLARA BARTON KNOWN AS 'THE ANGEL OF THE BATTLEFIELDS' TO THE UNION TROOPS, WAS A NURSE DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND FOUNDED THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN 1881.

WWI: THE GERMANS WERE THE FIRST TO USE FLAMETHROWERS DURING WWI. THESE WEAPONS COULD SHOOT A JET OF FIRE AS FAR AS 130 FEET.

WWII: THE SOVIET UNION SUFFERED 21 MILLION CASUALTIES DURING WWII, THE MOST OF ANY COMBATANT.

KOREAN WAR: THE KOREAN WAR WAS THE FIRST MILITARY ACTION OF THE COLD WAR.

VIETNAM WAR: THE VIETNAM WAR WAS THE LONGEST WAR IN US HISTORY, LASTING FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS.



A PORTRAIT OF CLARA BARTON, FOUNDER  
OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS



GERMAN SOLDIERS USE A FLAMETHROWER DURING WWI



AN UNIDENTIFIED US SOLDIER WITH GRAFFITI  
ON HIS HELMET DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

# **BERKSHIRE MILITARY MUSEUM**

**E-MAIL: [berkshiremilitarymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:berkshiremilitarymuseum@gmail.com)**

**FACEBOOK: [@berkshire.military.museum](https://www.facebook.com/berkshire.military.museum)**

**INSTAGRAM: [@berkshire.military.museum](https://www.instagram.com/berkshire.military.museum)**

**FOR PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.berkshiremilitarymuseum.org](http://www.berkshiremilitarymuseum.org)**

