



# BARROT

## Charles Wesley

Service No: 6798



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Charles Wesley Barrot

Service Number: 6798

Date of Enlistment: 20/10/1916

Age at Enlistment: 33 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: Labourer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 7 inches

Weight: 160 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Black

Father: Charles

Mother: Ann

Married: No

### Life Story

Charles Wesley Barrot was born in Jersey, one of the Channel Islands, around 1883. He arrived in Melbourne in 1885, aged two, aboard the *Notosi* with his mother and siblings; Ann (aged eight), Wesley J. (aged three) and Louisa J. (aged ten months), to join his father, Charles, and older siblings, John Charles (aged eleven) and Francis A. (aged nine), who had arrived in Victoria in 1884.

By 1903, Charles Wesley, along with his siblings John Charles and Wesley John, was working as a miner in the Menzies district. A sister, Louisa Josephine, was also in the area. Wesley later enlisted in the A.I.F.

In 1907, Charles moved to Katanning but returned to Menzies in 1908 to replace his brother, John, as bandmaster of the local band, after John and his wife, Emily, departed Menzies for Northam.

By 1913, Charles was living in Clifford Street, York, with John and Emily. John was bandmaster of the York Brass Band for nine years, until he and his family left York in 1921. (John eventually settled in Katanning where his wife had family and died there in May 1949).

Charles completed his attestation papers at Bunbury in October 1916, giving his address as Chowerup, near Bridgetown. His mother was listed as next of kin, his father having died in Victoria in 1898.

Charles was transferred from the Depot to the Tunnelling Reinforcements, as a Sapper, on the 21<sup>st</sup> November, before being transferred to the Miners' Reinforcements, at Seymour Camp, in Victoria, on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. He was then transferred, again, to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company, on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1917.

Charles embarked on RMS *Omrah* at Melbourne on the 17<sup>th</sup> January. He marched in to the Draft Depot at Perham Downs, England, on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1917. Charles proceeded overseas to France on the 14<sup>th</sup> April and was Taken on Strength with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company, on the 15<sup>th</sup> June.



After six months in the Field, Charles accidentally injured his left knee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Over the next six days, he was transferred between two Field Ambulance posts and the 1<sup>st</sup> Casualty Clearing Station, before he was admitted, on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian General Hospital at Boulogne. He was then sent to England and, on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, admitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern General Hospital (E.G.H.), at Brighton, with an inflamed knee joint. Charles was then discharged from the E.G.H, and admitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

He was finally discharged from hospital on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, to be marched in, firstly to the No.3 Commonwealth Depot at Hurdcott on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, then to the Overseas Training Brigade on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. Charles finally returned to France on the 28<sup>th</sup> March and was Taken on Strength with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

However, Charles saw only a further four months' action before there was a recurrence of the knee injury. He transferred through a Field Ambulance post and two Casualty Clearing Stations between the 13<sup>th</sup> August and the 18<sup>th</sup> August, and was then admitted to the 18<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, at Camiers.

After being discharged from hospital on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, Charles marched in to the Australian General Base Depot in France from where, being classified as Class B2, he was then transferred back to England on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. Charles marched in to No.2 Commonwealth Depot at Weymouth, England, on the 9<sup>th</sup> September.

He embarked on HS *Argyllshire* on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1918, and disembarked at Fremantle on the 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1919. Charles was discharged from service on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1919.

There are few records of Charles' life after the War, but he appears to have moved around the State to find work.

In February 1919, Charles attended a Returned Soldiers' Reception at the York Town Hall. However, his 1925 electoral enrolment showed him working as a brickmaker at Wagin.

For a short time in 1929, Charles returned to York and was casually employed by Western Australian Government Railways as a repairer.

On the 1931 electoral roll, he was enrolled at Narrogin as a brickmaker, with the 1936 electoral roll showing him enrolled at Boulder, occupation brickmaker.

Charles Barrot died at the Sunset Home in Nedlands on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1946, as published in a death notice lodged by his brother John. A funeral notice referred to him as "late of Katanning" which suggested he may have settled, for a period of time, in that town where his brother, John, and family had lived since leaving York in 1921.



## Acknowledgements

Heather Harvey

Clarke, Cathy

## References

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