

JOHN HAMPDEN BARTON

Jack Barton was born on 9th April 1888 at Wellington, NSW.

His father Arthur Sterling Barton was the son of Robert Johnston Barton of "Boree Nyrang" near Molong.

Robert Johnston Barton, a retired East India Company captain, came to Australia in 1839. He met on the ship, and subsequently married, Emily Mary Darvall. Robert Barton brought funds with him and with the Darvall family as partners occupied "Boree Nyrang" near Molong. Mrs Barton was a well educated young woman fluent in several languages and in the isolated circumstances of their property virtually educated her own eight children. She wrote much of her early experiences in the pioneering bush.

Arthur Sterling Barton took up land near Wellington, NSW and married Lucy Smith a daughter of Francis Smith of "Camboogle" Dubbo. The Smith family came from St Kevernes, Cornwall. They had eight children, four boys and four girls – Jack Barton was the eldest son and third child.

Arthur Barton owned grazing country near Walgett – "Polly Brewon" where the family grew up. The early education was by governesses, one of whom was Grace Paterson, a cousin of the Bartons and sister of Andrew Barton Paterson (Banjo).

Jack Barton finished his schooling at All Saints School in Bathurst.

John Hampden Barton (Jack) was in partnership with his father and Fred Taylor (husband of Grace Paterson) at "Moorendah" out of Walgett in the period 1905-1914. His work and life were typical of the times.

On outbreak of war – 1914 – there were heavy enlistments from the country. His younger brothers Ted and Ben were early to join up. Ben was at Gallipoli. The fourth brother was still a small child.

Jack cleared up his partnership responsibilities and enlisted in late 1915. He applied for the Lighthorse but was posted to an N.C.O.'s school and subsequently sent on to an Officer's school – the N.C.O.'s school and the Officer's school each lasted a month. He was 27 years old, used to management, running his own property, dealing with men and got on well with people. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant. His father's sudden death saw his departure for service delayed for six months. He sailed in charge of a reinforcement platoon for the 54th Battalion in late 1916.

He joined the Battalion at Bullecourt and his book "One Year with the Platoon" covers the active service period of his war year.

On discharge he returned to Australia, married Miss Myee Australie Martin, daughter of Francis George Martin, Bank Manager, and Laura Annie Martin of Dungog.

He returned to the property "Moorendah" at Walgett but after several years the partnership was dissolved and he took up his own property "Derrima" at Collarenebri.

The family worked the property till he retired to live in Sydney. There were three children

- Patricia Sterling (b. 1920)
- John David Sterling (b. 1929)
- Alan Francis Sterling (b. 1936)

Mr and Mrs Barton participated in district activities and on outbreak of World War II he was asked to form the local unit of the V.D.C.

He died in Sydney on 12 March 1969.