

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**18641 Gunner  
Robert Samuel Barber**

**7th Field Artillery Brigade**



0220805H

**3rd DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.**  
**3rd Div. Ammunition Column.**  
**2 Section.**

**BARBER.**  
**Gunner R.S. 18641.**

**"KILLED - 3.10.17."**

Informant described Barber as about 5 feet 6 inches high, rugged build, clean shaven, fair complexion, aged about 25.

Informant states that they both belonged to the 25th Battery, 7th Field Artillery Brigade, Barber being a lumber gunner and under Informant's charge. On or about 3.10.17 the Battery was in front of Ypres in action, firing at different targets. Barber was working with him and left him to go over to his gun, No. 1, and went into a little dugout that he was building alongside the gun. He had only been there about a minute when a stray shell came over and killed him instantly. Informant was only a few yards away at the time and saw his body. He was buried not far from the Battery, and Informant made a cross for his grave.

Informant added that Barber was very popular and a good worker and was thought highly of by his officer.

INFORMANT:- Fitter Sergeant R. Camfield, 18849,

25th Battery, 3rd Div. Ammunition Column,

HOME ADDRESS:- c/o J.R. Camfield, Byrnes St, WEST KOGARAH.

W.E.C.

No. 4 Australian General  
Hospital, RANDWICK:

4.4.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Barber

23th January 1918.

7th Aust. F. Art

Barber R.S. No. 18641

4. 3rd October 1917. Not M.D.

He was fair, of medium build, aged about 25 or so. He is buried in a little cemetery up from Zillebeke Lake. I have not seen the grave myself but it is well known in the Battery that he is buried there.

Corporal Abbott, Battery Clerk, of the 7th A.F.A., 25th Battery (now with the unit) would know all particulars.

Inf:- Gunner H.L. Moorhouse No. 18504.  
7th A.F.A. 25th Batty.  
Australian Corp.  
Rouelles.

G.T.

Written Cpl. Abbott 23.2.18.

7th F.A.B.  
late 3rd D.A.C.  
A.I.F.

Barber.  
Gar. R.S. 18641

"Killed in Action 3.10.17"

Re No.18641 Gar.Robert Samuel Barber. He was killed instantly whilst standing just in rear of gun pit by a stray shell which landed about 2 yards from where he was standing. The battery was in action at the time. He was buried on the field at Bell Cottage Farm 2 miles along the Menin Road from Ypres. Burial service was conducted by our C.O. and cross erected to his memory. All his personal effects were sent to D.A.G. 3rd Echelon and his next of kin informed of his death by the O.C. I might just add that he had a slight impediment in his speech.

Letter from:- Roy.C.Abbott  
Battery Clerk  
5.3.18.

London.  
16.3.18.

S.

1st DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY, A.I.F.  
25th Battery,  
late 26th Battery,  
7th Field Artillery Brigade

BARBER R. S. Gunner  
No. 18641

"Killed 3.10.17"

Informant described Barber as about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, thick set, medium complexion, aged about 32. Had been transferred from the 26th Battery.

Informant states that they both belonged to 25th Battery. On or about 3.10.17 the Battery was in action in front of Dickebusch. About midday while Informant was having his dinner Barber was engaged in digging a dugout alongside his gun when he was killed outright by gunshot wound through the forehead. Informant was about 50 yards away and saw Barber a couple of minutes after he was killed. He was buried about 100 yards behind his gun and Informant afterwards saw his grave, over which the Battery had erected a cross.

According to Informant Barber was a well liked chap.

INFORMANT :- Signaller G. C. Beaumont, 18427  
25th Battery

*S. ed Suff*  
W.E.O.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

Home address :- "Lola"  
Gordon Street, MASCOT

12.2.19

SYDNEY BUREAU

18641 Gm. R S. BARBER  
7 F.A.B.

late 30. A.C. In the Field  
K/A 3-10-17 5-3-18.

The Secretary,

Australian Red Cross Society,

36 Grosvenor Place

London S.W.1

ack'd 11/5/18

Dear Madam,

I am in receipt of  
your letter dated 23rd ulto, making enquiry  
for No 13641 Gunner Robert Samuel BARBER.  
He was killed instantly whilst standing  
in rear of gun - hit by a stray  
shell which landed about 2 yards  
from where he was standing. The  
battery was in action at the time.  
He was buried on the field at Bell

2

Cottage Farm, 2 miles along the  
Main Road from Hford. Burial  
service was conducted by our O.C.  
and cross erected to his memory.  
All his personal effects were  
sent to D.A.G. - 3rd. Battalion, and  
his next-of-kin informed of his  
death by the O.C.

I might just add that he had  
a slight impediment in his speech.  
Trusting this is the information  
required.

Yours faithfully,  
Royb Abbott  
Battery Clerk.

W. Abbott

Battery Clerk 121-2-18

Cpl. Abbott

25<sup>th</sup> Battery

7<sup>th</sup> Brigade

A. I. F.

Abnt

Abroad

18641 R. S. BARBER

7<sup>th</sup> A. F. A

A. I. F.

PQ

12-3-10-17

23-2-18  
A. I. F.