

Harry Barlow

W. [Harry] Barlow was born on 24 December 1886. Harry's father and mother, Mr J. and Mrs C. Barlow, lived in Radcliffe, Manchester, England. Harry was a miner at Wakamarina and he worked for Humphries Brothers, in Havelock in 1914.¹ Harry had a sister living in the South Island, New Zealand.²

His army serial number was 6/194 and he was ranked as a private when he enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 17 August 1914. He gave his religion as a Methodist. He embarked on 16 October 1914 with the 12th (Nelson) Company in the Canterbury Infantry Battalion, NZEF.³

He was sent to the Balkan theatre of war and saw action at Gallipoli in the Dardanelles campaign in 1915.⁴ At Quinn's Post, on Walker's Ridge above Anzac Cove on 21-22 June 1915, he distinguished himself. He crawled from his trench, without orders, to reconnoiter a Turkish shelter. He bombed it and returned with two Turkish bombs in hand.⁵

At the advance on Chunuk Bair on 7 August 1915 he was suffered a wound from an enemy bomb attack, which caused blindness in his right eye.⁶ He contracted influenza two weeks later and was invalided to England in September.⁷ He spent time with his family in Manchester while recovering then he returned to New Zealand on the troopship 'Rotorua' in December 1915.⁸ He was discharged from the NZEF on 16 March 1916.⁹

He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions, by the Mayor, on the Church steps in Nelson on 27 June 1916.¹⁰

His further medals were the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

He attested again in the armed forces, 9 October 1919 and the medical report mentions his disability of blindness in the left eye. He finally left the army being discharged on 27 July 1920.¹¹ He resided then at Hastings Street, Christchurch and he died at Christchurch on 8 July 1954.¹²

Endnotes

- 1 Barlow, Harry. Military Personnel record, History sheet.
- 2 Colonist, 8 Feb 1916, p7.
- 3 Barlow, Harry. Cenotaph Database record.
- 4 Barlow, Harry. Military Personnel record, History sheet.
- 5 Barlow, Harry. Kiwis at war.
- 6 Colonist 8.2.16, p7 and Barlow, Harry. Kiwis at war.
- 7 Barlow, Harry. Military Personnel record, Casualty Form.
- 8 Colonist 8.2.1916, p7.
- 9 Barlow, Harry. Military Personnel record, History sheet
- 10 Stade, p88.
- 11 Barlow, Harry. Military Personnel record, Statement of Services sheet
- 12 Barlow, Harry. Military Personnel record, History sheet

Sources

A hero decorated. The Colonist, 28 June 1916, p.4.

Barlow, Harry. Military Personnel record, Archives New Zealand, URL: www.archway.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=22272528 , accessed 18 February 2014

Barry, Harry. Kiwis at war, URL: <http://www.armymuseum.co.nz/kiwis-at-war/voices-from-the-past/sergeant-harry-barlow> , accessed 18 February 2014

Barlow, Harry. Cenotaph Database record, Auckland War Memorial Museum, URL: <http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/Cenotaph/37954.detail?Ordinal=15&c-su> , accessed 18 February 2014

Bravery recognized. The Colonist, 8 February 1916, p.7.

Stade, Karen. 2013. Meet you on the church steps: a social history of a Nelson landmark. Nelson, Karen Stade.

This Biography was compiled by Anna Wilkinson, Nelson Provincial Museum, in 2014.

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