

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



SECOND LIEUTENANT

J. C. BARKER

ROYAL AIR FORCE

19TH MAY, 1918 AGE 23

Requiescat In Pace



Joseph Claude Anthony BARKER

Joseph Claude Anthony Barker was born on 3rd March, 1895 at Toronto, Ontario, Canada to parents John Joseph and Mary Evaleen Barker (nee Ohagon).

The 1901 Census of Canada recorded Joseph C. A. Barker as a 7 year old living with his family in the sub district of White River, Algoma, Ontario. His parents were recorded as John J. Barker (aged 28, Teacher) & Mary E Barker (aged 29). Joseph was the eldest of 3 children on this census – John J. (aged 5) & Margaret E. (aged 2). Also listed was Emily Louttit (Domestic) & Herbert Hodgins (Lodger, aged 18).

Joseph Claude Anthony Barker was educated at Nipigon P.S.; St. Michael's College between 1912-1913; R. College Dental Surgeons, 1913-1917.

The 1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta recorded Claude A. Barker as a 21 year old at Camp, along with his brother John J. Barker (aged 19). They were both still listed with the family at 892 Dorchester Avenue, Winnipeg South, Manitoba. Their parents were listed as John J. Barker (aged 45, Manager, General Store) & Eveleen Barker (aged 45). Also listed were 5 other children – Eva M. (aged 17), Loyola E. (aged 14), Grace K. (aged 12), Cyril L. (aged 10) & Arnold G. (aged 6). Also listed was Rose Lawesky (aged 19, Maid).

Through the summer of 1916 Joseph Claude Barker served as Sergeant in the C.A.S.C. at Camp Hughes and then returned to College to complete his course. He again served in the C.A.D.C. in Winnipeg and Camp St. Charles in the summer of 1917. Joseph Claude Barker was discharged from the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 6/10/17 in order to re-enlist in Royal Flying Corps. In October he joined the Royal Flying Corps at Toronto and trained through the winter in Texas, obtaining his commission in March 1918.

After reaching England, Second Lieutenant Joseph Claude Barker was completing his course, when he was accidentally killed in a flight near Bournemouth, the day before he was due to go to France. (*From: University of Toronto Roll of Service, 1914-1918.*)

Second Lieutenant Joseph Claude Barker, Pilot, aged 23 years, was killed on 19th May, 1918 at 5.30 pm in an aero accident. He was attached to 109 Squadron. 2. A. M. J. Stillman was seriously injured in the accident.

A Court of Enquiry was held – No. 24442/1918. 2/Lt. J. C. Barker & 2. A.M. J. Stillman. "The cause of the Accident was in our opinion due to the Pilot stalling machine at too low an altitude to regain control before striking the ground, in the resultant dive. The machine with double passenger weight in back seat, with tail adjustment wheel wound fully back, would be extremely likely to stall."

A death for Joseph C. Barker, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Second Lieutenant Joseph Claude Barker was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Grave / Plot Number 283 on 24th May, 1918. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Joseph Claude Barker, aged 23, of 109 Squadron, Royal Air Force, as the son of John J. and Evaline Barker of North Bay, Ontario, Canada.

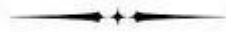
Second Lieutenant Joseph Claude Barker is remembered at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto.

Second Lieutenant Joseph Claude Barker, previously of Canadian Expeditionary Force is remembered on page 583 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, Canadian Virtual War Memorial.





Second Lieutenant Joseph Claude Barker



Newspaper Reports

WINNIPEG BOY KILLED

Flight-Lieut. Barker, Well Known in Toronto, Killed In England

Word was received in Winnipeg by Mr and Mrs J. J. Barker, of 1024 Dorchester Ave., that their son, Flight-Lieut. J. C. Barker, had been killed while flying in England. No particulars were given. Flight-Lieut. Barker was well known in Toronto, his two sisters having attended Loretto Abbey here. He completed his training in Texas, and visited his parents in Winnipeg before going overseas.

(Toronto Evening Telegram – May 30th, 1918)

FLT. LIEUT. T. C. BARKER

Flight-Lieut. T. C. Barker, who enlisted last October in the R.F.C., and spent 3 months in Texas, has been killed in England. He reached London in April this year, and wrote an account of the trip to his relatives here. He mentions the convoy and an engagement with a German submarine. "The sea appeared a stubble field of periscopes, and if anyone slammed a door we were on deck like a jack-in-the-box. I'm infernally proud of being a Canadian – We are being attached to a fast bombing squadron, so I'll be able to greet a few of my friends besides ending the war in double time" he writes. Lieut. Barker was born in Winnipeg is a graduate of St. Michael's and was in the Dental Corps previous to joining the R.A.F.

(Toronto Evening Telegram – June 8th, 1918)



Photo of Second Lieutenant J. C. Barker's headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo by Ian King - 2010)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*