

# First World War Service Record of Frederick Leycester Barwell

The following is from the National Archives Ref: WO 374/4529

Register No. 71622/288 (T.F.) Minute Sheet No.

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BARWELL.  
Frederick Leycester  
Captain.  
16th London Regt, & R.F.C.

(E) A. L. Barwell,  
The Tower,  
Ascot,  
Berks.

Killed in Action 29th April 1917. X.59053 d/3-10-17.

(Plaque & Scroll).  
(Accounts 4.)

7 MAY 1919

1

Send F2P to Father. #1

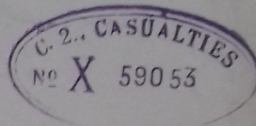
21st.

Register No.

16 LONDON REGT

288

Minute Sheet No.



Captain F. L. Barwell.

16 London Regt R.F.C.

Missing 29.4.17 (G.H.Q. 941, C1186 & C1310).

Next of kin:- A. L. Barwell Esq. (Father)

The Tower.

Ascot. Berks.

Extract from G.H.Q. 1095.

Information has been received from a German message dropped into our lines that the above named officer was killed.

6.2 bas.

of death

Submitted for presumption of death

M. S. S. CAS. T. F.

114/9/14

W. M. Campbell Colonel

C. 2. Cas.

With reference to your enquiry  
regarding Capt. F. L. Barwell, this officer  
was flying Kiteport Scout A/6745 when he  
was reported missing on 29/4/1917.

D. J. M. H.

Major  
D. J. M. H.

O.S.A.  
16/11/17

Capt. F. L. Barwell.  
16<sup>th</sup> London Regt R.F.C.  
death accepted on X59053

---

~~C.2. Cas.~~ Mr. Wellington

On P.M. 276 it is reported that the  
above named officer was shot down with  
hisport single seater near Beaumont west  
of Bouai and that Capt Barwell died on  
29-4-17. Grave unknown.

Will you notify next of kin of this  
report.

M. S. S. CAS. T. F.  
7-12-17.

T. Fetherstone

Lieut. Colonel

Letter sent to L. Barwell, Esq. as per copy  
C.2. Cas. 19.12.17

WO 374/4529

11034445

354

C. 2. Casualties. 9/16 London. Reg. 1/288

TELEPHONE,  
26 ASCOT.

ackd  
6.10.17  
SHTP

Oct. 2. 1917.

THE TOWER.  
3 OCT 97 ASCOT.

Sir,

I beg to thank you for  
your letter of Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, & enclose  
copy of a letter & German prisoner's  
account sent me by Major Tibney,  
40<sup>th</sup> Squadron, early last May.

Would it be possible for you to  
supply me with the number of my  
son's machine, as I am in communication  
with the Comité International de la  
Croix Rouge, Geneva, & they have  
written to say that if I could get  
the number of his machine, it  
would be a great help.

As it is now so long ago, I hope  
you will be able to do this,

April, 1917", on List No. C.1310.

Information has been obtained from a message dropped  
into our lines by a German aeroplane that this officer was  
killed.

In view of this report and of the lapse of time since  
he was reported Missing the death of the above named officer  
now been accepted for official purposes as having occurred "in  
action on the 6th April, 1917".

as I am anxious to know the  
official circumstances of my son's  
death. I wrote to Major Silmer  
but have received no reply.

I have the honour to be  
Sir,

Your obedient servant

Worcester Barwell

2nd Lt.

R.S.C.

Convoys & Formations

Seyncombe

Sydenham Hill

S.E.

The Secretary

War Office.

London S.W. 1.

354  
WO 374/4529  
11034445

*Copy of Letter from Squadron  
Commander.*

I enclose a copy of some statements made by some German prisoners who were recently captured. I am afraid it is very likely that your son is the young Captain referred to, but it is also one of the bravest deeds I have ever heard of, and it shows that the Royal Flying Corps has lost a very gallant Officer. We miss him awfully in the Squadron, both as a Pilot and in the Mess. Although he had only been with us a very short time he was very popular indeed, and was already a very good Pilot and showed signs of becoming a brilliant one. He died one of the finest deaths in quite the finest way.

*Information obtained from prisoners concerning British Airmen recently brought down behind the German lines.*

April 29th, about 7 p.m. a British biplane which had apparently been on a long distance reconnaissance, engaged 5 or 6 German planes near Beaumont, apparently in the direction of Henin Lietard. The combat lasted a full half hour. Prisoners state that all the troops in the neighbourhood came out and watched this thrilling fight. The British airman persistently sought combat and half a dozen times appeared to be nose diving to earth, but each time he flattened out, and with admirable daring attacked again. Prisoners describe his aerial manoeuvres as Pegouistic. They were full of admiration for the courage of this Pilot.

The Pilot, who was alone in the machine, was a young English captain. He was evidently shot through the lungs. He appears to have got his machine, however, safely to within a few feet of the ground, and then expired, and the machine crashed.

Prisoners state that they saw his body laid out in the Church at Beaumont.

*Extract from Note from the Chaplain, R.F.C.*

As far as can be discovered, Captain Barwell was the only R.F.C. Captain missing on the day in question.

9/17 Lond. Regt/335.

Lieut. G. J. Hatch, 17th London Regt. & R.F.C. Reported "Missing" April, 1917, on List No. C.1310.

Information has been obtained from a message into our lines by a German aeroplane that this officer killed.

In view of this report and of the lapse of

Information respecting

Captain Frederick Leycester Barwell,

London Regiment

(Queen's Westminster Rifles),

and

Royal Flying Corps.

Reported "Missing" on April 29th, 1917.

W0374/4529

Number. 9		From whom and date.	
<b>KEPT.</b>		SUC	
9 16/LONDON REGT 16		SUBJECT. Temp Capt. F.L. Barwell 16 Bn Admitted to Hosp.	
Date of Registry-- 23/9/16			
Former paper.	Referred to	Date	Referred to
	<del>L.S.P.</del> A44A	<del>10/3</del> 15/3	

25th January, 1917.

From O.C. 16th (Reserve) Battalion London Regt.  
QUEEN'S WESTMINSTER RIFLES.

To The Secy,  
War Office,  
Whitehall, London S.W.

A.G.4.C. All.

Sir,

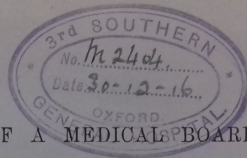
With reference to your letter 9/16/L.R./16 dated 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that Capt. F.L. Barwell was ordered to report forthwith to the Commandant, Royal Flying Corps, School of Instruction, Oxford, for instruction in aviation in accordance with ~~XXXX~~ War Office Letter ~~111~~ - No. 9/London Regiment/4815 (A.G.4.a) dated 28th December, 1916.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*W. L. Comdg.* Lt. Col. Comdg.,  
16th (Res.) Batt. London Regt.  
QUEEN'S WESTMINSTER RIFLES.

6A 64/4  
WAR OFFICE  
28 JAN 1917

*Christchurch*  
CONFIDENTIAL *not*



*Original.*  
Army Form A. 45.  
*SA*

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at 3rd Southern General Hospital Oxford on Dec: 20th 1916

by order of Headquarters Southern Command,

for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of

(Rank and Name) Capt. F.L. Barwell (Corps) 16th London Regt

Age 31 Service 25mths Disability Wound of Knee

Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability —

Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability —

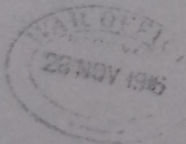
The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

The wound of the left knee is now completely healed.  
There is no disability of the joint.

TELEPHONE.  
26 ASCOT.

THE TOWER,  
ASCOT.

26/11/16.



Sir

In accordance with  
instruction I beg to be allowed to  
appear before a medical board.

I am, Sir, yours obedient servant

F. L. Boswell  
Capt

Queen's Westminster Rifles

to what specific conditions  
is it attributed?

see attached O.V.

(7.) If the disability was not caused by military  
service, was it aggravated by it?

Signatures

W. H. M. Coe President.  
M. L. C. Capt Members.

9/16/16  
CONFIDENTIAL.

24, Park Street. W.

9  
Army Form A. 45.

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at Caxton Hall, S.W. on 20th Sept. 1916.

by order of G.O.C. London District.

for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of

(Rank and Name) Capt. F. A. Barwell (Corps) Infantry

Age 31 Service 25 yrs. Disability Wound & Bruise

Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability 27/9/16

Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

*This officer is suffering from injury detailed on Form A 45A and. In addition he is suffering from exhaustion neurosis brought on by 15 months continuous & arduous active service. at Ypres. On July 21st his battalion was wiped out only 150 men remaining after an attack on the German trenches. He has been suffering from diarrhoea, palpitation, headaches, exhaustion, dyspepsia, insomnia & is subject at times to attacks of nervousness.*

The opinion of the Board upon the questions herein is as follows

- (1.) a. Is the officer fit for "General Service"? no.  
b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit? 3 1/2 months
- (2.) a. If unfit for General Service, is he fit for service at home? no  
b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit for service at home? 2 1/2 months  
c. If unfit for General Service at home, is he fit for light duty at home? no  
d. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit for light duty at home? 2 1/2 months
- (3.) Was the disability contracted in the service? yes
- (4.) Was it contracted under circumstances over which he had no control? yes
- (5.) Was it caused by military service? yes
- (6.) If caused by military service, to what specific conditions is it attributed? In action
- (7.) If the disability was not caused by military service, was it aggravated by it?

Signatures

W. H. C. Coe President.

M. C. C. C. C. Members.

CONFIDENTIAL

To be used in cases of wounds or injuries received in action.  
(For instructions for preparing this report see back of form.)

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD assembled by order of \_\_\_\_\_

G.O.C. London District.

for the purpose of examining and reporting on the present state of a wound or injury sustained

Capt H. Bawell, Queens Westminster, N. H.

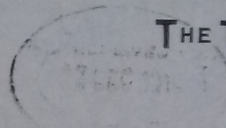
at (Place of inquiry) France on the (Date of inquiry) 10/24/46

The Board find that the effusion still on a touch  
(line) • sustained a slight abrasion of the  
heel which has now healed.

He is suffering  
from exhaustion neurosis as detailed  
on a Q5 attached.

TELEPHONE,  
26 ASCOT.

9  
16/12  
16  
Pro  
alpe



THE TOWER,  
ASCOT.

22/12/16

Dear Sir

I beg to state that since  
my commutation of the 26/11/16 I have  
appeared before a medical board and have  
been passed for service as an observer.  
The A.F.C. and am attending the school  
at Croft on the 28<sup>th</sup> Dec for a course of  
instruction. Trusting that I have not  
put you to any inconvenience I am  
Your obedient servant

F. L. Barwell  
Capt. F. L. Barwell  
16/London  
Capt A.F.C.

The Secretary -

Royal Flying Corps. War Office. London. S.W.

Sir -

I beg to say that Captain F. L. Barnwell of the Ball<sup>ts</sup> under my command who is desirous of exchanging into the Royal Flying Corps has my full sanction in his application for this transfer.

I am only very sorry to lose him from my own Regt - he is a very good officer indeed - Keen, quick, very thorough, firm & also tactful in his handling of his men, & his service all through during 1914 & 1915 & again during the summer of 1916 with my Ball<sup>ts</sup> in France & Flanders was most excellent, and as I only much regret losing him as a company commander - but I believe he has all the qualifications for the R. F. C. & as he desires to transfer to it I have pleasure in giving him the strongest recommendation I can. He is an expert with motors & has engineering qualifications of an exceptional, for an amateur, degree, - and I am confident that if he obtains the transfer he desires he will do as much credit to his new Corps as he has to his old regiment.

Yr. Thro'ly Obedt

L<sup>ieut</sup> Col

Comd<sup>g</sup> 1/ Queen's Westminster Regt  
16<sup>th</sup> London Regt T.F.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1916.

2-A  
SUBJECT:- Transfer to Flying Corps.

The Secretary,  
War Office.

Sir,

I beg to forward and recommend attached application for transfer to the Flying Corps from Lieut. F.L. Barwell, who served in the Battalion under my command since September, 1914 and out here from the beginning of November, 1914, until August, 1915, when he was invalided to England. I forward this application because though this Officer on account of having been invalided home is no longer on the strength of this Battalion, he has no C.O. except myself, through whom he can forward it, as, though he is, I believe, well again he has not yet been posted to either of the home Battalions; and I send it direct to you because as Lieut. Barwell is no longer on the strength of the B.E.F. there does not appear to be any reason for sending it through G.H.Q. on this side.

I can thoroughly recommend Lieut. Barwell as a keen, energetic and highly capable young officer. The way he handled his platoon was proved by the good results he always got out of them, and I am only sorry I cannot look to having him back in the Battalion, where had he not got what appears to have undoubtedly been a slight touch of enteric ~~fever~~ with which he had to go home, he would certainly by now have been a Captain and a Company Commander.

He has also mechanical qualifications which I think should well qualify him for the flying Corps.

In all ways as a promising young officer I can confidently recommend him.

*N. Woodhead*  
Lieut-Colonel,  
Commanding/Queens Westminster Rifles.

1-1

I try to say that I can thoroughly recommend  
Lieut. F. L. Barwell of the Buffs under my command  
as a highly capable, energetic & efficient officer.  
He was out in France with this Buffs in the front  
trenches from Nov 1914 until the middle of August  
during the whole of which time he handled his  
platoon with much ability & success.  
He went to England in August of this year & had  
not illness prevented his return I should before this  
have recommended him for promotion to Captain.  
I am only very sorry if I cannot look to having  
him back with the Buffs.

R Shoolbred  
2<sup>d</sup> Col

on leave.

17-XII-1915

Comd<sup>g</sup> 1/ Queen's Westminster Rifles.

Original.

CONFIDENTIAL

Army Form A. 45.

16 (A)

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at Military Hospital Winchester March 24 '41  
by order of Proctor of Lond Reg/2021 + CRSC 75287(m)  
for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of  
(Rank and Name) Lt J L Barwell (Corps) 16 Bn Lond Reg.  
Age 20 11/12 Service 1 7/12 Disability Neuroasthenia  
Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability Sept 25. 1915  
Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability \_\_\_\_\_

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

the heart's action is regular & easy. The  
knee jerks are normal, He states he has  
been doing route marches without any  
inconvenience. He is now fit for  
General Service.

The opinion of the Board upon the questions herein is as follows:—

- (1.) a. Is the officer fit for "General Service"? yes  
b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit? —  
(2.) a. If unfit for General Service, is he fit for service at home? —  
b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit for service at home? —  
(3.) Was the disability contracted in the service? yes  
(4.) Was it contracted under circumstances over which he had no control? yes  
(5.) Was it caused by military service? yes  
(6.) If caused by military service, to what specific conditions is it attributed? active service with 67

Noted on Cards  
MB MB  
AG 4024-3

24/3/41  
Signatures

Fred J Bailey Major General President.  
W Brownlee Capt R.A.M.C. Members.

CONFIDENTIAL

Army Form A. 40

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at Queen Alexandra Military Hospital. on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1916

by order of The General Officer Commanding, London District.

for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of

(Rank and Name) Lt. F.L. Barwell. (Corps) Queen's Westminster

Age 20. Service 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>12</sub>. Disability Influenza.

Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability 5 Feb. 1916

Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability \_\_\_\_\_

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

he has suffered from Influenza, & has now some cardiac instability.

CONFIDENTIAL

Army Form A. 40

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at Military Hospital, Reading on 28 December 1915

by order of Major General G. Administration, S.C.

for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of

(Rank and Name) Lt. F.L. Barwell. (Corps) 16<sup>th</sup> Batt London Regt

Age 20 Service 14 months Disability Neurasthenia

Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability Sept 25. 1915.

Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability \_\_\_\_\_ ✓

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

his heart's action has improved.

9/Nov 1915  
Army Form A. 45  
87

CONFIDENTIAL

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at Military Hospital, Reading on 27th Oct 1915  
 by order of The Major General i/c Administration DC.  
 for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of  
 (Rank and Name) Leut. J. L. Barwell (Corps) 16th London Regiment  
 Age 20 Service 11 mks Disability Neurasthenia  
 Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability Sept 25 1915  
 Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability ✓

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

*He has still a quivered heart action & the apex beat is displaced 1 inch outwards towards the right line: he has recommended him at least a fortnight rest in bed & to place himself in the hands of his Medical practitioner.*

Asst.

9/Nov 1915  
Army Form A. 45  
80644/m

CONFIDENTIAL

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at Military Hospital, Reading on 25th Sept 1915  
 by order of The Major General i/c Administration DC.  
 for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of  
 (Rank and Name) Leut. J. L. Barwell (Corps) 16th London Regt.  
 Age 20 Service 14 mks Disability Neurasthenia  
 Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability ✓

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

*He has a feverish pulse & is hot & has diarrhoea; Constipation & slight temperature, etc. & has been advised to have a fortnight leave: he has since developed papules of the throat & tonsillar hypertrophy & slight pneumonia. He is under treatment.*

Asst.

TELEPHONE No 272.

(18)

Lyndford House,  
Castle Street,  
Reading.

Aug 22. 15.

This is to certify that I have  
been attending Lt. F. Barwell  
I have seen him to-day, he  
requires about two more  
weeks rest & treatment before  
he will be quite fit &  
strong & able to return  
to his duties at the Front.

Percy Wm. Howze  
F.R.C. / Eng &c

44  
3

110344  
by (13)  
William  
TELEPHONE  
26 ASCOT.

THE TOWER,  
ASCOT.

Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1915.

Lieutenant Barwell  
still suffers from  
palpitation on making  
any sudden movement  
or taking other than the  
gentlest exercise.

Cecil G. Truitt  
M.B.

Coralie  
Bunningdale

5 March 19

TELEPHONE,  
96 ASCOT.

THE TOWER,  
ASCOT.

80644/M  
Lieut. F. Barwell  
has been confined to  
bed for 3 weeks from  
Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. He has  
not since been out of  
doors & is at present  
unable to travel to  
Reading.

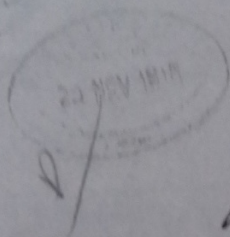
Edith. Trail M3  
Summingdale.

Commanding 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion. London  
Winchester has been requested

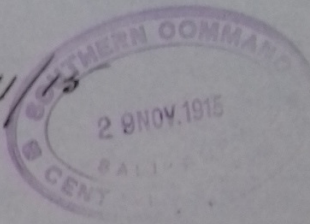
and request that the President of the  
re-examination of this officer on the 21<sup>st</sup>

TELEPHONE,  
26 ASCOT.

273 73/11 (9A)  
THE TOWER,  
ASCOT.



19/11/15



Dear Sir

I beg to report myself  
to you for the purpose of appearing  
before a medical board according to  
your instructions of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst.

Yours faithfully

F. L. Barwell

Lieut. Queen's Westminster Rifles

THE Honorary Secretary,

Staff Captain,  
for ~~the~~ General,  
Director of Personal Services, Staff Captain,  
in Charge of the  
Director of Personal Services.

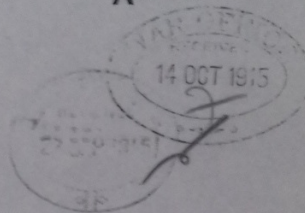
9/Lond R/2821

TELEPHONE,  
26 ASCOT.

THE TOWER,

ASCOT.

11/9/15



9  
LR  
2821 Dear Sir

Thinking that I was almost fit  
I asked to be permitted to appear before a board  
since then, however, a cold compelled me to call  
in the doctor who did not consider that I was  
at all fit to return to duty, and told me to  
send the enclosed. Since then I have not been  
at all right, and cannot even walk up stairs  
without feeling the effect of it.

Under these circumstances is it  
necessary that I should see a board

I await your instructions

Yours faithfully

F. L. Barwell

Lieut. Dennis Westminster Rifles

Staff Captain,

for Brigadier-General,

Director of Personal Services.

—Officers are invariably to deposit their certificates of leave of absence with the  
regimental agents, if drawing their pay through that channel.

TELEPHONE,  
26 ASCOT.



THE TOWER,

ASCOT.

16/9/15

5B

Dear Sir

I beg to report that I am now feeling much stronger, but can not say with honesty that I am fit to return to my duties at the front.

I should feel more satisfied if I were permitted to appear before a medical board before being granted more leave

Yours faithfully

F. R. Barwell

Respectfully

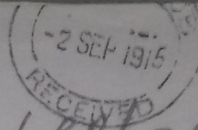
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Wesminster Rifles

Staff Captain  
for Brigadier-General  
in Director of Personnel Service

8.  
through  
extra  
by a  
ature.)

no 2.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>



9/L.R/2821

Dear Syvester.

Since writing my first of today I have heard that if you go yourself to the War office + take a letter from Lord's doctor saying that he comes home much run down after 10 months out <sup>here</sup> & that he really thinks that another week, or better still a fortnight, will absolutely put him right for the winter. you will be practically sure to get an extension of leave for him. As you know I think myself that he not only wants it but deserves it most thoroughly for all his good work out here - he is much too good an officer to lose for the want of a little extra rest.

You can take this letter with you, as it will at any rate show that I, the Corps Commanding Officer, realize the necessity of a rest in order to set him up again & also, as I now say, that I can at the present time do quite well without him, even if it is for another fortnight - indeed I much hope he will get another fortnight & will come back properly set up & like his old self - yrs always

W. Woodhead J. Col.

Cornwall/Queen's Westminster Rifles

Staff Captain,

Brigadier-General,

Director of Personal Services.

... their certificates of leave of absence with the

