

Harry Barker (1891 – 1950)

Harry Barker was born in Silsden and, together with his parents and elder brother, lived with his maternal grandmother and her second husband.

His father was a self-employed saddler and, as a young man, Harry worked for him.

Aged nineteen Harry married at Skipton Methodist Chapel and subsequently lived with his wife's family in Farnhill, where their first two children were born.

A member of Kildwick Brass Band, he served in France where, in 1918, he was wounded.

Harry Barker died in 1950 in Skipton. His wife survived him, living firstly with her son Harry, and then her other son Leonard until her death in 1955.

No Photo Available

Pre-war life

Harry Barker was born in on 6th November 1891, in Silsden, and baptised there on 3rd January 1892. He was the second child – and second son – of Tom and Harriet (nee Langdon). His father was a self-employed saddler. His older brother, Albert William, was born on 16th August 1889.

Note: There was a third child, who died before the 1911 census.

1892 Jan. 3 rd Nov. 6. 1891. No. 320	Harry	Tom & Harriet	Barker	Silsden	Saddler	J. Knowles. Vicar.
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Harry Barker's baptism
From St. James' Silsden baptismal records

In 1901 the family were recorded on the census as living with Harriet's mother and her second husband in Queen Street, Silsden; they were still living there in 1911, although Harriet's mother had died in 1910.

At the time of the 1911 census, taken on 2nd April, Harry was aged 19 and was employed by his father as a saddler. A few months later, on 14th August 1911, he married the 22 year-old Ethel Bulcock, the daughter of Peter and Isabella Bulcock, at Skipton Methodist Chapel. The wedding was witnessed by Ethel's brother, Thomas Bulcock, who would subsequently become one of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers.

1911. Marriage solemnized at Primitive Methodist Chapel, Kildwick
in the District of Kildwick in the County of York

Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
166	Fourteenth August 1911	Harry Barker	19 years	Bachelor	Ladler	3 Queen Street, Lilsden	Thomas Barker	Ladler
		Ethel Bulcock	22 years	Spinster	Cotton Weaver	19 Starkey Lane, Karkhill	Peter Bulcock Deceased	General Labourer

Married in the Primitive Methodist Chapel according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Primitive Methodists by Certificate by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Harry Barker in the Presence of us, Mrs. Bulcock Isabella Annie Carr James St. Hindle Minister M. L. Fleming Registrar

Barker – Bulcock wedding certificate
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Ethel gave her address on her marriage certificate as 19 Starkey Lane but the couple, if they ever lived there, must have soon moved to live with her mother and other members of her family at number 23.

Ethel's father had died in 1903 and her brother Thomas married and moved out in 1909, but the birth of Harry and Ethel's first two children, Leonard in 1912 and Dorothy in 1913, must have quickly filled the house again.

In February 1913 Harry was elected to the committee of Kildwick Brass Band.

KILDWICK.

Kildwick and District Prize Band.

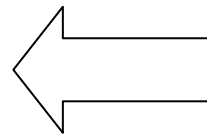
The annual meeting of the Kildwick Band was held on Thursday last week. There was a good attendance, and the chair was occupied by Mr. W. Greenwood, of Sutton Mill. The balance sheet showed a balance in hand. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. James Bairstow; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. A. Brigg, E. A. Matthews, Leolin Brigg, Capt. Bateman, Lieut. Chaffers, D. Horstall, N. Walker, J. A. Dixon, W. Brigg, J. Clough; committee—Messrs. M. Dawson, B. Hartley, Joe Smith, J. W. Hartley, H. Barker, J. Dobby, J. Greenwood, J. Walker, D. Barron, T. Birtwhistle, Geo. Inskip and B. Whitaker; bandmaster, Mr. J. Hopkinson; secretary, Mr. H. Dixon; treas., J. Hopkinson; librarian, Mr. J. W. Hartley.

Report of the Band's annual meeting (held 20/2/1913)
By kind permission of Craven Herald

WW1 service

It is not known exactly when Harry Barker's WW1 service started, but a newspaper report at Christmas 1915 named him as one of the members of the Brass Band who had "attested" but were not yet serving in France.

KILDWICK.
KILDWICK BAND'S DEPLETED MEMBERSHIP.—During the war the membership of the Kildwick and District Prize Band has suffered very much in number, and now, under Lord Derby's scheme, another batch has been attested, and will be called up in their class. Despite the fact that the membership of the band has been reduced the committee have decided to continue the custom of playing during Christmas and the New Year. The members who have joined the Colours are:—Messrs. J. Smith (killed), G. Inskip, C. Lee, J. Wellock, J. Tateham, H. Riddiough, F. Driver (discharged), Harry Pollard, and W. Ward. Attested: Messrs. W. Hopkinson, H. Walmsley, H. Barker, M. Dawson, R. Knight; rejected: Messrs. J. W. Hartley, H. Heaton, S. Lister.



From the West Yorkshire Pioneer, 24/12/1915
By kind permission of Craven Herald

Harry Barker served in France either with the Machine Gun Corps and later the 1st battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, or with the 6th battalion and later 7th battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. (Remarkably, there were two men called Harry Barker who served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and it has proved impossible, despite extensive research, to determine which of them was the Farnhill volunteer.)

All service battalions of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry were in action in the Spring of 1918, countering the last major German offensive of the war, the Spring Offensive or Kaiserschlacht, which began on March 21st, and it was during these actions that Harry Barker was wounded.

Farnhill Soldiers Wounded.
Mrs. E. Barker, of Starkey Lane, Farnhill, has received word that her husband, Pte. Harry Barker, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, is in the 72nd General Hospital at Trouville, with a slight contusion of the leg. Pte. H. Barker was a member of the Kildwick Brass Band.

From the West Yorkshire Pioneer, 26/4/1918
By kind permission of Craven Herald

In December 1919 Harry Barker received the British War Medal and Victory Medal that he was due for his war service.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
BARKER Harry		D. of Corn. L.I.	Pte.	31980
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	C/V101B	41		
BRITISH	- " -	"		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K 1380.

Harry Barker's WW1 Medal Card, showing his entitlement to a Victory Medal and British War Medal
Used under licence from the National Archive

Post-war life

The 1918 electoral roll shows Nellie Bulcock, Ethel's older sister, as the head of the household at 23 Starkey Lane. Ethel wasn't included on the roll but it is likely that she was living there throughout the war. Harry Barker was also listed as living there – although he is recorded as an "absent" voter.

When Harry returned, in time to be included on the 1919 electoral roll compiled towards the end of 1918, he and Ethel continued to live at 23 Starkey Lane for a while. They were certainly there when their third child, Harriet, was born there at the very end of 1919; but had moved by the time she was baptised at Kildwick Church on 29th August 1920.

The 1921 census shows Harry, Ethel and their three children living with Harry's parents at 3 Queen Street, Silsden. Harry gave his occupation as a Carter; working for John Green, a coal merchant.

Shortly after this the family set up their own home in Brown Bank Lane, Silsden, where they lived until 1928. They are thought to have been living there when their final child, Harry, was born in 1923.

In 1928 Harry and Ethel moved to Jacques Grove, Silsden, where they lived until 1932.

Thereafter, the family's movements were a little erratic.

	Harry & Ethel registered at	Others registered at this address
1933	14 Skipton Road, Silsden	None
1934	Hayhills Road, Silsden	None
1935	3 Queens Street, Silsden	Harriet (Harry's mother)
1936	3 Queens Street, Silsden	Harriet (Harry's mother)
1937	10 Russell Street, Skipton	None
1938	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
1939	Baxter House, Carleton	Harry (Harry & Ethel's son)
1940	Baxter House, Carleton	None
1945	11 Belmont Bridge, Skipton	Harriet Garnett (Harry & Ethel's married daughter)
1946	11 Belmont Bridge, Skipton	Harry (Harry & Ethel's son) and Jane (his wife)
1947	11 Belmont Bridge, Skipton	Harry (Harry & Ethel's son) and Jane (his wife)
1948	11 Belmont Bridge, Skipton	Harry (Harry & Ethel's son) and Jane (his wife)
1949	11 Belmont Bridge, Skipton	Harry (Harry & Ethel's son) and Jane (his wife)
1950	11 Belmont Bridge, Skipton	None

Harry Barker died, of heart disease, at 11 Belmont Bridge, Skipton, on 5th December 1950. He was aged 59. His death was reported by his eldest son, Leonard, who gave his address as number 15.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		STAINCLIFFE							
1950 DEATH in the Sub-district of Skipton		in the County of York (W.R.)							
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
343	Fifth December 1950 11 Belmont Bridge Skipton U.D.	HARRY BARKER	Male	59 years	A Saddler (Master)	Coronary occlusion due to Sclerosis of the Coronary Artery. Certified by Stephen F Brown Coroner for the Craven District of Yorkshire after Post Mortem without Inquest.	L. Barker Son in attendance 15 Belmont Bridge Skipton	Eighth December 1950	Allan I Hartley Registrar

Harry Barker's death certificate
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Postscript

After Harry died Ethel moved to 24 Broughton Grove, Skipton, to live with their son Harry and his family. (They had moved there in 1949 or 1950.)

She subsequently moved back to Belmont Bridge and lived at number 15 with son Leonard and his family for a couple of years, but was living back with Harry and his family again, by this time at 13 Greatwood Avenue, in 1955.

Ethel Barker died in Raikeswood Hospital, Skipton, on 19th March 1955. She was aged 66.

Harry Barker – a life in summary

Born: 6/11/1891, Silsden
Baptised: 3/1/1892, Silsden St. James
Died: 5/12/1950 **Aged:** 59
Home address: 11 Belmont Bridge, Skipton

Parents

Father: Tom; b. 1863, Hunmanby (nr. Filey); d. 7/2/1925, Silsden
Mother: Harriet (nee Langdon); b. 1868, Knaresborough;
died in Skipton; buried in Silsden 27/6/1940
Married: 1/12/1888, Silsden St. James

Siblings

Albert William; b. 16/8/1889, Silsden; m. Elizabeth Ann Walker, 1910, Keighley (Registration district);
d. 1948, Staincliffe (Registration district)

Relationship to other volunteers

Thomas Bulcock – brother-in-law (1911)

WW1 service

Service period: Attested before 24/12/1915; service ended after 26/4/1918
Regt./Unit: Private (no. 31980); 6th then 7th battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
Medals: British War Medal and Victory Medal
Home address: 23 Starkey Lane, Farnhill

Marriage

Wife: Ethel (nee Bulcock); b. 29/11/1888, Lothersdale; d. 19/3/1955, Skipton
Date: 14/8/1911, Skipton Primitive Methodist Chapel – witnessed by Thomas Bulcock

Children

Leonard, b. 2/7/1912; baptised at St. Andrew's Kildwick, 4/8/1912; m. Ada (b. 20/5/1912)
Dorothy, b. 27/9/1913; baptised at St. Andrew's Kildwick, 18/7/1915;
m(1). Herbert Steele, 26/12/1932, Silsden
m(2). Charles H Barrett, 1937, Skipton (Registration district)
Harriet, b. 30/12/1919; baptised at St. Andrew's Kildwick, 29/8/1920;
m. Donald K. Garnett, 1939, Keighley (Registration district)
Harry, b. 13/9/1923; Skipton (Registration district);
m. Jane I. Dryden, 1946, Keighley (Registration district)

