

SIR JAMES BARRETT

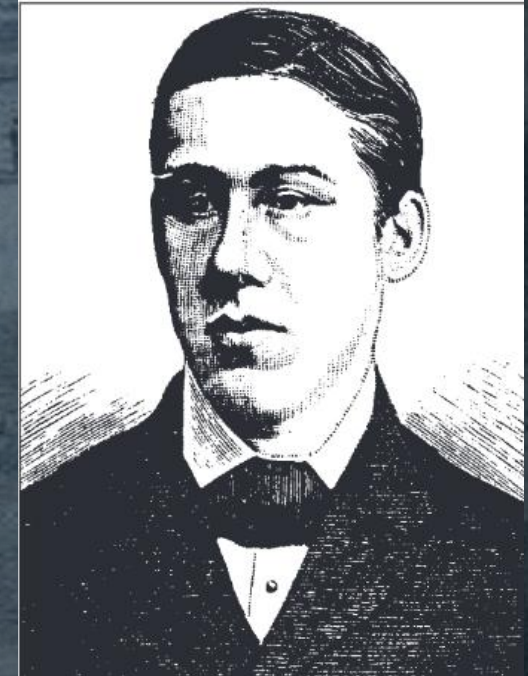
A Life of Service



K Morkos
DV Kaufman

EARLY LIFE

- Sir James Barrett was born in 1862 in South Melbourne.
- Matriculated age 15, Graduated (M.B., Ch.B.) in 1882.
- Worked as RMO at The Melbourne Hospital for 2 years.
- Travelled to London, attaining FRCS in 1887.



City of MELBOURNE from base of Emerald Hill 1855

THE WAR

- At the outbreak of WWI, Sir JWB enlisted and was deployed on board the *Kyarra*, arriving in Egypt in early 1915
- Sir JWB was posted at the 1st Australian General Hospital in Heliopolis as registrar and oculist.
- Sir JWB who was already secretary of the Australian Red cross, became executive officer of the region.
- By June 1915, he rose to ADMS of the Australian forces
- His close relationship with the DMS Major General Ford and irregular promotion to ADMS stirred controversy and jealousy.
- Diary entries correspondence from Argyle and Springthorpe instigated and investigation into operation of the 1st AGH.

61 A.G. N.C. C.M. Form A. 22 (Revised 1.1.14)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Application for a Commission in the A.M.C. *A.G.*

No.	Particulars
1. Surname ...	<i>BARRETT</i>
2. Other names (in full) ...	<i>James William</i>
3. Educational Qualifications ...	<i>Major in Medical Reserve A.M.C.</i>
4. Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for first appointment as ...	<i>1914</i>
5. Present Civil Employment ...	<i>1st Australian General Hospital Heliopolis</i>
6. Date of Birth, and Age ...	<i>Feb 27 1882 32 Years 8 Months</i>
7. If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject ...	<i>British</i>
8. Married or Single ...	<i>Married</i>
9. Postal Address ...	<i>185 Collins St Melbourne</i>
10. State of Kin ...	<i>Wife</i>

Date *19.10.1914* Signature of Applicant *James William Barrett*

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

In the name of the Candidate for Commission in the Permanent Forces, Possession of Medical Board, in accordance with instructions contained in "Medical Section for the Army Medical Service," will be maintained for the Candidate, each Board, however, will not be considered valid after the expiration of the period of validity of the certificate has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.

I, *Major General Ford*, do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not registered, has not been operated on for Heria, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height *5ft 2in* Weight *15 Stone*
Chest Measurement *41"* Eyeglasses *Yes*

Signature of the Examining Officer *Major General Ford*

RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I recommend that the candidate above named be appointed a *Major* in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—

1. That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment for the current year.

2. That the candidate is a British Subject, or a Naturalized British Subject, and is qualified to hold the position of *Major* in the Permanent Forces.

On appointment the candidate will be posted *1st Australian General Hospital Heliopolis*

Date *19.10.1914* Commanding Officer *Major General Ford*

RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT.

Recommended, candidate recommended.

Date _____ District Commandant _____

N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of Form.
Seniority of Candidates as determined by competitive examination to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same date.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. *800101* Name (Surname) *Barrett*
in full (Christian Name) *James William*
Unit *1st Aust Gen Hosp*
Joined on *Medical Officer*

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- What is your Name? ...
- In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of ... in the County of ...
- Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ...
- What is your Age? ...
- What is your Trade or Calling? ...
- Are you, or have you been, an Apprenticed? If so, whom, to whom, and for what period? ...
- Are you married? ...
- Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) ...
- What is your permanent address in Australia? ...
- Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marine, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge? ...
- Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ...
- Have you ever been registered as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ...
- For married men, declare with children, and declare who are the sole support of dependent relatives. Do you understand that no separation allowance will be granted to you unless you are the sole support of dependent relatives? ...
- Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ...

I, the undersigned, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date _____ Signature of person enlisting _____

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unaccompanied men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.
† This clause should be struck out in the case of married men or widowers with children under 16 years of age.

THE WAR

- The 1st AGH was relocated from Heliopolis and Sir JWB was recalled home.
- Instead he arranged to be invalided to London on two months of sick leave.
- Through his influence, he was redeployed as consultant aurist to the Egypt Expeditionary force and by 1917 became president of the invaliding and classification boards for most of Egypt
- Sir JWB became involved in the British Red Cross and YMCA locally.
- His son Captain Keith Barrett was killed on the western front in 1917.
- Barrett was awarded KBE, CB and Order of the Nile medal for his service.

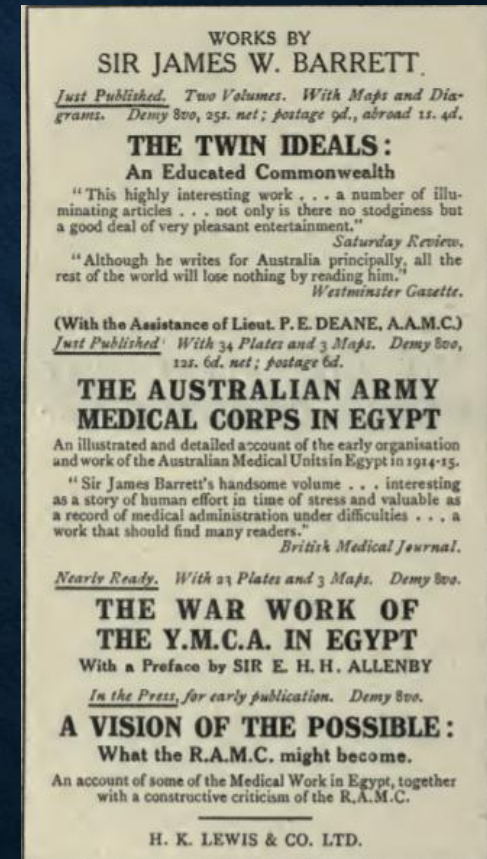
LATE CAPTAIN KEITH BARRETT.

The announcement of the death of Captain Barrett, son of Dr. J. W. Barrett, from wounds received in action, was published some weeks ago, when the news arrived by cable message. By the latest mail letters have now reached Melbourne from brother officers of Captain Barrett, which tell how he met his death, and bear testimony to the deep regard felt for him by the officers and men with whom he served. On April 13 he commanded a company supporting his battalion in an advance, and, although wounded early in the attack, he remained in command, and led the company through three hostile barrages, a distance of over 1,700 yards across the open. His wound was in the face, and, though unable to speak, he continued to issue his orders in writing. Colonel North, the commanding officer of the 4th Royal Fusiliers, wrote on April 20 to Captain Barrett's father:



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

- During his spell in London, Sir JWB published over 17 papers and contributed significantly to the understanding of the anatomy of the mammalian retina.
- Sir JWB published broadly and prolifically : “Typhoid fever in Victoria”, “Two Cases of Neurofibromata”, “Hydatid Disease in Victoria.”, “The cause of the first heart sound”, “The nature of the movement of the cardiac muscle”, “Liernur system of sewage”, “a new microtome”, “The velocity of accommodation” and “The use of homatropine”
- He is credited with co-authoring a paper alongside Lang on “Convergent Strabismus”, which predated Worth’s work by 15 years.



MEDICAL LEADERSHIP

- Sir JWB was the founding secretary of the Medical Student's Society in 1880
- Helped found the Royal Australasian College of surgeons in 1927
- Was elected President of the BMA Victorian chapter in 1901 and again in 1930.
- Was elected President of the BMA in 1936
- Founded the Ophthalmological Society of Australia and served as its first president in 1939
- Promoted chemical and physical prophylaxis of venereal disease despite some opposition .

BLINDNESS IN YOUNG GROWING

Society Told

Blindness in young people is increasing, according to the president of the Ophthalmological Society of Australia (Sir James Barrett) in an address today to the first annual meeting of the society.

SIR JAMES BARRETT HONOURED

PRESIDENT OF BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

LONDON, June 7.

Sir James Barrett, of Melbourne, was to-day elected by the council of the British Medical Association to be president of the association for 1925-26.

The Prophylaxis of Venereal Disease

A Reply to Sir James Barrett
BY
Mrs. James Booth

How oft the right of means to do ill deeds
makes ill deeds done.
—King John, act iv., sc. 2.

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE A.C.S.E.

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B.M.A. CONFERENCE

Honorary Degrees

**Sir James Barrett
Honoured**

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

- Sir JWB was appointed lecturer of physiology of the special senses in 1897
- Was elected to the university council in 1901
- Played a large role in the introduction of professional and vocational courses such as dentistry, engineering and agriculture
- Became vice-chancellor in 1931, deputy chancellor in 1934 and chancellor in 1935
- Oversaw the introduction of clinical chairs under the faculty of medicine

SIR JAMES BARRETT

New Chancellor of the
University

Sir John Latham Deputy

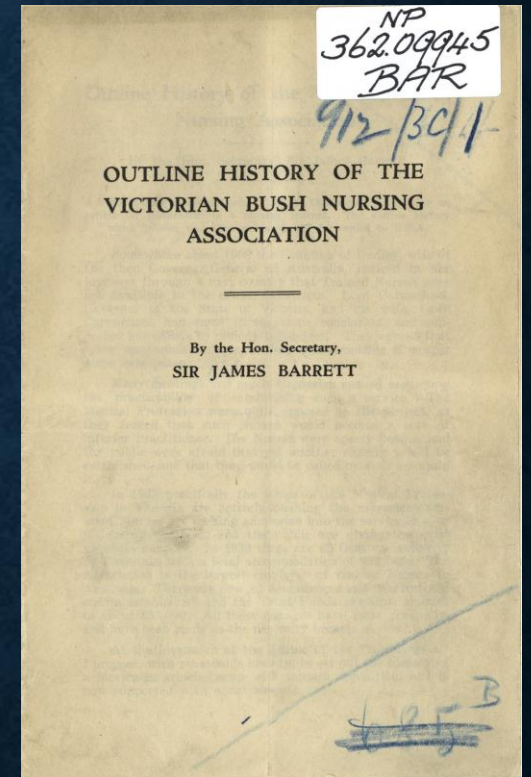
At a meeting of the University Council yesterday Sir James Barrett was appointed Chancellor of the University in succession to the late Sir John MacFarland. Sir James Barrett has held the positions of vice-chancellor and deputy chancellor.

The decision to appoint Sir James Barrett was unanimous, and was made on the motion of Mr. Frank Tate, seconded by



VICTORIAN BUSH NURSING ASSOCIATION

- Along with his sister Edith, Sir JWB helped found the Bush nursing association
- Provided nursing and midwifery services in rural communities then regarded as greater than 20 miles from the city.
- Over 12,500 people were treated at these centres in 1935, providing care at 1/5th of the cost of public hospitals.
- By 1945, there were sixty seven bush nursing hospitals and 15 nursing centres.
- A large proportion of regional and rural hospitals began as bush nursing hospitals.



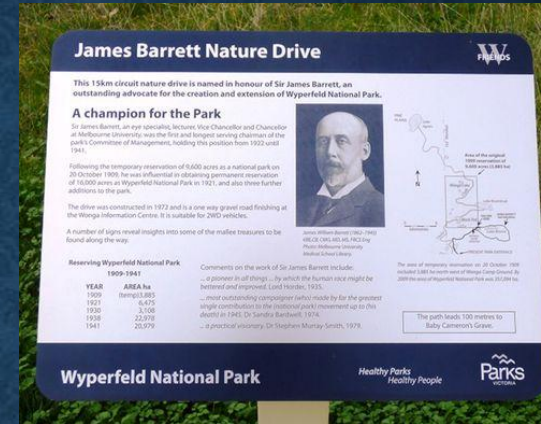
CULTURE AND POLITICS

- Upon return from the War in 1919, Sir Barrett ran for election in the Victorian parliament as a liberal in the seat of Toorak
- He was resoundingly defeated by Dr Argyle
- Barrett made major contributions in promoting Orchestra music in Melbourne
- Following the war, Sir Barrett helped form the University Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra.
- He later worked with Sir Heinze to merge into the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.



SOCIAL CAUSES

- Sir Barrett became a household name in Melbourne following the war.
- He gave several lectures to the public on various topics concerning the empire, the war and civic society.
- Regularly wrote opinion pieces in the *Argus*
- Sir JWB convened the National Parks association of Victoria in 1908, and was one of the earliest proponents of the protection of Wilson's promontory from cattle grazing.
- Sir JWB helped form the Victorian Town Planning and Parks Association and was its first president in 1914.
- Helped found the Flinders golf club



SIR JAMES BARRETT'S LECTURE.
The promised interesting and instructive lecture to be given by Sir James Barrett in the Assembly Hall on Wednesday evening, the 11th inst., upon certain impressions gained while with the Army Medical Corps of the A.I.F. in Egypt, Palestine, etc., should appeal to the majority. Medical and sanitation matters will no doubt occupy a chief place in the lecture. We are indebted to the President of the local Progress Association, Mr. T. K. Maltby, for the visit of this celebrated medical authority. The lecture will be given under the auspices of the Aid Association, and will be free to all residents of 16 years and upwards.

