BARKWILL, George 628471 Corporal 47th Bn B Coy

SECTION 1. Family

Grandmother: Hannah Barkwill, age 77 Born in Surrey, England (British Census1911)
Father: Daniel Robert Barkwill, age 55, Surrey, England. (British Census1911) Immigrated to Summerland 1920.
Mother: Mary Dorcas Barkwill, age 51, Surrey, England. (British Census1911) . Buried at St Stephen's Shottermill, England 15 Apr 1920.
Sisters: Hannah Mary Barkwill Age 23 Surrey, England (British 1911 Census) Immigrated to Summerland 1920.
Eva Rose Barkwill Age 19 Surrey, England (British 1911 Census) Immigrated to Summerland 1920.
Brothers: John Charman Barkwill Age 27 (1911 Census) During the war he served with the Royal Monmouth Reserce Bn, Royal Engineers. He immigrated to Summerland, BC in 1922.
Henry "Harry" Daniel Barkwill. Enlisted in the 102nd Bn, Served in France with the 47th Bn. Died on or since 26 August 1917. He is Commemorated at the Vimy Memorial, France.
Robert Henry Barkwill. Immigated to Canada 1907. Enlisted in the 172nd Bn, Served in France with the 47th Bn and the 4th Cdn Div Emp Coy. Demobilized, 20 Jun 1919.

SECTION 2. Military Service

REF: https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B0437-S045
Born 21 December 1890[sic] London England (1887?) See below reported age.
Trade: Carpenter. George is credited with building the Banks home on Solly Road, Summerland, when during renovation in 1990s, a board was discovered with his name written on it. Re: Summerland Remembers, 2007, by D, Gregory and S. Foster.
Previous service 12 months with BC Horse.
NoK W.R. [sic] Barkwill, Lion Lane, Haselmere, Surrey England. The incorrect first Initial for his father is due to George's poor handwriting.
Enlist: 5 August 1915, Vernon, BC, 47th Bn Age 28 yrs 7 months, Height 5 ft 8 ½ in
Complexion: Dark, Eyes: Blue, Hair: Black, Church of England.

1915

13 Nov: Embarked Canada (Montreal) RMS Missanabie
22 Nov: Disembarked England
6 Dec: Appointed Corporal, Bramshott
8 Dec: Attached to HQ Staff, for duty and pay (orderly) Bramshott

1916

8 Feb: Ceases attachment to HQ Staff
4-18 Apr: Takes a sniper Course at Aldershot and returns to unit 18 April
19 Apr: Confirmed in Rank of Corporal
22 Apr: Signs his will, effect to his mother (Mary Barkwill)
10 Aug: Proceeded for service overseas with B Coy 47th Bn
11 Aug: Arrived in France (Havre)

1917

23 Oct: Killed in Action (Not noted in 47th Bn War Diary, see below)

47th Bn War Diary for: Ref: LAC

Tuesday, October 23, 1917
Location: Support Line
Weather: Heavy rain
Map Reference:
Entry: Rain fell heavily all through the day, turning the ground into a sea of mud. The enemy's artillery was active at all times and "A" Company had several times to vacate its' HQ.
Provisional Orders issued to all companies as to the tactics to be adopted in case of attack.
Late in the evening, Lieutenant J. Scott ("C" Company) was wounded by shell splinters.

Circumstances of Death Card. Ref: LAC

Killed in Action 23 Oct 1917
Location: Passchendaele Area.
Location of Grave Sheet 28.d.17.a.o.6.

1920-22

Medals and Decorations (BWM, VM) and Cross of Sacrifice (Memorial Cross) to his Mother Mrs M.D. Barkwill 18 Fosters Field, Shottermill, Haslemere, England
Plaque and scroll to his Father: R.D. [sic] Barkwill address as above. (Note on many documents in Georges' file his Father's initials are W.R. [sic] but on Harry's file has Daniel Robert Barkwill which is correct.

Section 3. Newspaper Articles from the Summerland Review.
Source: British Columbia Regional Digitized History (BCRDH) https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/object/news%3Aroot
For Summerland Review: https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/object/news%3A261388
The Summerland Museum and Archives respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the unceded and ancestral territory of the Syilx Peoples.

Aug 14, 1914

Off To The War.

Six of Summerland's young men volunteered last night for service in the 30th B.C. Horse. These were Mark Fetherstonhaugh, the first to offer, George Barkwill and "Billy" Greenwood, from among those who met the Recruiting Officers Pyman and Parkinson at the Felix, and later James Forsyth, George Fisher and Joe Lintern, from those who awaited the arrival of the officers late last night at West Summerland.

Though the boys are hoping to be sent abroad no promises were made them. The colonel had offered his regiment for service where needed, which may for a time be in Canada. The volunteers will leave for Kelowna on Monday for examination, etc. It is probable that others may volunteer before that time, as particulars and instructions for obtaining transportation have been left with Messrs Cordy and Collas.

Note: 30th BC Horse was a militia unit with HQ in Vernon, BC.

April 30, 1915

Geo. Barkwill, who is still with the volunteers doing duty in the Vernon district, has been made a sergeant.

Aug 27 1915

George Barkwill who since joining the B.C. Horse at Vernon last fall has risen from the rank of trooper to that of sergt.-major, recently applied to be drafted into an overseas battalion, and this was granted with the proviso that he could not carry his rank through the transfer. He accepted this condition and is now Private Barkwill of the 47th.

Oct 01, 1915

Pte. Geo. Barkwill of the 47th is home on a furlough. He plans on leaving here on Monday to spend a day at Kelowna on his way back to camp. George is becoming rather tired of the stay at Vernon, and is looking forward impatiently to an early transfer overseas.

Dec 08, 1916

B.E.F., France
30th Oct. 1916.

Dear Mrs Hogg,

I wish to thank the ladies of Home Comforts for the parcel which arrived on Saturday. We had just come into billets after spending two weeks in trenches, when your parcel was given to me. I cannot tell you how much we appreciate these luxuries over here, especially after being in dugouts for a few days. Since coming to this part of France have met several old Summerland boys. Harry McLeod, J. Lintern, J. Forsyth, and B. Newton were the first. Finley McWilliams was with the machine guns. They must have gone away now, as I haven't seen them since. We see lots of life in this particular spot. Everything is moving, including the Huns, and they take good care not to leave anything behind for us. There is nothing more I can say this time. Hope to have luck enough to dodge a few more whizbangs, and look forward to the time when I can thank you personally for these kindnesses. With every good wish to the members of the Home Comfort Club from

Yours sincerely,
CORPL. G. BARKWILL.

Seaford Camp, Sussex.
Nov. 8th, 1916.

April 13 1917.

More Expression of Gratitude From Our Soldiers

George Barkwill—I must again thank you and the members of Home Comfort Club for parcel which arrived yesterday, the contents of which came in mighty handy, especially at this time of the year when the evenings are so long. We generally sit around in our dugout, and share out our parcels. I have a section to look after. We are Brigade Scouts, and it's our duty to find out all we can about Fritz. The section is made up of three scouts from each unit in the brigade, and they are a fine bunch of boys. Although I have not had the pleasure to stick a Hun yet, I am sure we have accounted for a good many in a different way.

If we are spared to the end of this struggle I will be able to thank you personally for all these kindnesses shown to us, and tell you a few of our experiences which it is impossible to write about. Cannot stay to write more this time, we are kept very busy these days. With best wishes to the members of the Home Comfort Club.

Nov 23, 1917

Letter to the Home Comfort Club.

France, 11-10-17.

Dear Mrs Hogg,

I am writing to thank the ladies of your club for the splendid parcel which you sent my brother, Harry. I am sorry to say Harry has been missing since August 18th, so Bob and myself shared the contents between us. Up to now we cannot find any trace of Harry. He was lost during one of our attacks. When last seen he was out beyond our objective, carrying some bombs. There is a slight chance of his being a prisoner. I am attached to brigade headquarters having a small section of my own, and it is most interesting work gathering Hun information. My address is Corpl. 628471, G. Barkwill, Headquarters, 10th Can. Infantry Brigade, B.E.F., France. Wishing your club the best of luck. I remain,

Yours truly,

G. BARKWILL, Corpl.

Cpl George Barkwill



Nov 30, 1917

George Barkwill Killed In Action

After serving many months in the firing line in France and Belgium George Barkwill was reported in last Friday's published casualty lists as killed in action. George was among the first to hear the call to arms, and has been at the front for a long time. Though experiencing many close calls he always seemed very confident that he would see the war through and return to Summerland. It was his conviction that the struggle would soon end, as, in a letter to friends here some time ago, he said that he expected to be home in time to eat Christmas dinner with them.

It was but a short time ago that we were required to chronicle the loss of his younger brother, Harry. Another brother, Robert, who also enlisted from here, is serving in France.

The nearest relatives are in England, but the three brothers have been citizens of Summerland for years, and George, as a carpenter and builder, was well known here. He was for years a member of the Summerland Civilian Rifle Association, and a crack shot.

Compiled by:
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