

MY MEMORIES OF MY FATHER – JACOBUS CHRISTIAAN BARNARD
(10th of June 1889 – 6th of December 1966)

My father told us many tales of his adventure, which he experienced after leaving his home in Holland at the age of seventeen, I am writing this as I remember his stories. Dates will be approximate only. His schooling and art studies were done in Holland, Den Haag, if I remember rightly. He left Holland after having represented his country in athletics and competed against Germany, it could have been at this time that he joined the Ringling Brothers Circus as an acrobat.

He travelled extensively and learnt several languages, seven in all, among these Mandarin, German, French, Malayan (different dialects), English and some Spanish. Dutch of course was his native tongue. He became a middleweight boxer while in the Circus and held the Middle East Middle Weight Championship. After leaving the circus he returned to Holland and joined the Dutch Royal Guard. Later he left his soldiering and went to Indonesia, I remember tales of Singapore, Java and Sumatra, particularly tales of the jungles, he loved the animals and it was there that he found a monkey, which became his pet, watchdog and companion. It was in this area that he minded for gold and staked a claim on an alluvial gold field. Nothing much came of this as I remember.

He met another Dutchman by the name of Billy Boss; they became very close friends and eventually went into business and invested in a Ford Agency. It must have been at this time that he studied and became a motor mechanic, a trade that was to stand him in good stead later on in life.

In 1918, during World War I, Holland was a neutral country and because things were becoming a little dangerous in Singapore, all those of Dutch origin were given orders to evacuate and were told their shop was in the docks and they had an hour to be on board. At this stage they were not told where they were going. The ship arrived in Perth, here my father disembarked (accompanied by his friend, the monkey). Much to Dad's dismay, he was not allowed to take the monkey into the community and so he had to part with a wonderful loyal friend, for the monkey had to be put into quarantine and then into the Perth Zoo.

The immigrants were taken on to Melbourne where they disembarked and were registered as aliens being made aware that they must report to their local police station each day. My father did, but decided to move to another boarding house in the next street. Because he did not make the authorities aware of this he was kept as a guest of His Majesty's pleasure overnight, much to his dismay. He did not think that moving into another street was of any great concern.

Eventually he found his way to Maitland in early 1920. Here he worked at whatever was available, work was not plentiful for foreigners in those days. It was here that he met and

married Nellie Violet Cribben, who had come out from England in 1919 with her family. She was a shorthand/typist bookkeeper for a large grocery business in Newcastle.

They met at the Congregational Church in Maitland and were married there on 10th of September 1921. This proved to be a very happy union; both were musicians and spent many happy hours sharing their talents with friends and the community in general. Their dispositions completed each other perfectly.

My father worked at his trade as a mechanic and made pocket money along the line with his music, as a flautist. Together with my mother and a friend they formed a small ensemble and played for any occasion where musicians were required. Dad also played the mandolin and trumpet; my mother was a pianist and violinist. They left Maitland and moved to Waratah where I arrived on 17th of April 1922, Born in Feticarin Private Hospital, Donald Street, Hamilton, Newcastle.

There were five children born to this union:	Johanna Christina	17/04/1922
	Frank (Ben) Leonard	12/06/1924
	Sydney Thomas	04/05/1928
	Bernice Jacqueline	21/08/1935
	John Robert	04/07/1940

No. 21.
25 447

NEW SOUTH



WALES.

N^o. 31

N^o. C 114833

IN MINISTER'S REGISTER.

SCHEDULE.

REGISTRAR'S No.

MARRIAGE ACT, No. 15, 1899.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Insert Christian and Surname in full of Minister or Registrar.

I, Martin L. Johnson, B.A. being

Insert Designation.

Minister of the Congregational Church at West Maitland

Place.

do hereby Certify that I have this day at the Congregational Church at West Maitland duly celebrated Marriage between

Insert Christian and Surname of Bridegroom as full length.

Jacobus Christiaan Barnard, Motor Mechanic

Insert Designation, Residence, and Condition of Bridegroom.

of West Maitland, Bachelor

Insert Christian and Surname of Bride as full length.

and Nellie Violet Cribbin, Bookkeeper & Typist

Insert Designation, Residence, and Condition of Bride.

of West Maitland, Spinster

after Declaration duly made before me as by law required.

N.B.—"Condition." Bachelor—Spinster, Widower—Widow, Divorced, or Divorced (Petitioner), as the case may be.

DATED this tenth day of September 19 21.

Martin L. Johnson, B.A. } Signature of Minister or Registrar.

J. Barnard (Bridegroom.)

Signatures of Parties to Marriage. } N. V. Cribbin (Bride.)

Signatures of Witnesses. } A. L. Partridge

E. Cribbin

File Sections 5, 23, and 24, Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899.

"The declaration on the back hereof must be duly made and signed, otherwise the parties and the officiating Minister or Registrar are liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf."



**Trouwfoto Jacobus Christiaan Barnard
(10 juni 1889)
en Nellie Violet Cribben
(10 september 1921 - Maitland, Australië)**

I, Johanna Christina, was named after my paternal grandmother, Johanna Christina Barnard, Bernice Jacqueline, named after my father's sister, Jacqueline. The family moved all over the different areas in Newcastle over the period of time and finally purchasing a waterfront cottage at Coal Point, Lake Macquarie, where they experienced a very happy relaxing retirement.

During the 1932 depression there was little work for motor mechanics and when Phillips opened the Electric Lamp Manufacturers of Australia (ELMA) my father applied for a position and became interpreter/gatekeeper. Later, he became the ambulance officer and Special Constable. Several qualified staff was imported from England and Holland for a period of twelve months to train Australia Employees, then they were returned to their respective homelands.

The factory was situated in Clyde Street, Hamilton North, Newcastle NSW. World War II broke out in 1939 and when the Netherlands became involved in the war my father enlisted in a garrison unit enlisting at Adamstown, Newcastle, as a first aid officer. His first posting was to Catherine, Northern Territory and was in charge of the Regimental Aid Post, was later sent to Darwin. It was there that he was thrown from the back of a utility truck and received severe head and leg injuries and spent some time in Concord Military Hospital in Sydney. He was later in charge of the R.A.P in Narellan than Chermside. On his discharge he returned to the Electric Lamp Manufacturers where he was reemployed as commissionaire. He remained with the Lamp Works until his retirement and settled at Coal Point ("his little piece of paradise"). After the accident in the army he was never very well, he had sustained a fractured skull, there was bone pressing on the brain, he refused the necessary trephine that would have alleviated his constant suffering of severe headaches, a large haematoma had been aspirated on the right thigh, but because this had not been attended to for sometime after the accident there was muscle damage and it would very often give to way at the most unexpected times.

During retirement he enjoyed his association with the various musical groups to which he had become attached during his lifetime, eg: Newcastle City Orchestra, Newcastle Gilbert Sullivan Society, Toronto Concert Orchestra. He worked hard for the local Progress Association and for the community in General and was always ready to be everybody's "fix-it" man. He became known as the "Jolly Dutchman" and was much loved by all who knew him.

His wife and children were his whole life, they brought much joy to him and he brought love and happiness to each and every member of the family. He passed his many skills on to his children and their children always taking the time to teach them what he knew, whether is was music, art or his knowledge of different trades and crafts.

Jacobus Christiaan was always a very heavy smoker, suffering constantly in later years from bronchitis. He passed away in December, 1966 at the age of 77 years; his demise was sudden, suffering from ruptured aorta.

Always a keen sportsman and with a love of children, he received his warrant for Scoutmaster for the First Waratah Scout Troop in May 1928, which he started and later on he became the Scoutmaster for the First Boolaroo Scout Troop which he also commenced.

He joined the Maitland Harriers and represented the group in javelin throwing, shot put and hop, skip & jump, and gained a state title in these events.

He was a keen tennis player and played A Grade Soccer until the age 51 years appearing to excel at any sport he undertook to play. His family were encouraged to play sport and to have a sportsmanlike attitude to life. He lived a healthy life style and made sure his family practised this also.

Dad died on the 6th of December 1966. He was cremated at Beresfield Crematorium and interred in the memorial wall for returned service man.

Commonwealth of Australia.

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION.

Virtue of the Nationality Act 1920-1925 of the said Commonwealth and the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Acts 1914 to 1922 of the United Kingdom, I, the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia, certify that I have received an application supported by a Statutory Declaration, from Jacobus Christiaan Barnard now residing at 16, Turner Street, Lambton, Via Newcastle, New South Wales hitherto a Dutch citizen whose description appears in the margin, and on the faith of the statements appearing therein, and having regard to the fact that the applicant has formally renounced his allegiance to the Queen of Holland and has sworn allegiance to His Majesty King George V., his heirs and successors, I, the said Governor-General, with the advice of The Federal Executive Council, grant to the said Jacobus Christiaan Barnard this Certificate of Naturalization whereby, subject to the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts, and of any other law affecting the rights of naturalized persons, the said Jacobus Christiaan Barnard becomes entitled to all POLITICAL and other RIGHTS, POWERS, and PRIVILEGES, and becomes subject to all OBLIGATIONS, DUTIES, and LIABILITIES to which a NATURAL-BORN BRITISH SUBJECT is entitled or subject and, as from the date of these presents, has to all intents and purposes the status of a NATURAL-BORN BRITISH SUBJECT.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia at BRISBANE the Sixth day of August One thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight

Stubbart

His Excellency's Command.



Australian Military Forces
Certificate of Discharge

Certificate No. 132812

This is to Certify that

N. 126109 Lance/Sergeant Jacobus Christiaan BARNARD.

24. Aust. L. of C. Signals.

who enlisted for the Garrison Battalion on the 15th day of Dec. 1941

and who served on Continuous Full Time War Service

in the Garrison Battalion & Citizen Military Forces.

for a Total Effective Period of One thousand two hundred and fifty-one Days

which included Active Service

In Australia for 1131 days

Outside Australia for days

is Discharged from Citizen Military Forces.

During that service, or by virtue of that service, the soldier was awarded, or became eligible for
Medals and Decorations War Badge

A. 72144

[Signature]
for Officer in Charge, *[Redacted]*
NSW Archives and Records *[Redacted]*

This Discharge takes effect on and from the eighteenth day of May One thousand nine hundred and forty five.

Place Sydney

Date 18th May, 1945

[Signature]
For Confirming Authority
CO RIF & GDD NSW L of C Area

*EFFECTIVE PERIOD MEANS THE PERIOD OF SERVICE, LESS ANY CONSECUTIVE 21 DAYS OR MORE FOR WHICH THE SOLDIER WAS NOT ENTITLED TO PAY
*AUSTRALIA MEANS THE MAINLAND OF AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA.



**Johan Albertus Barnard (1 September 1860)
and Christina Voorsmit**