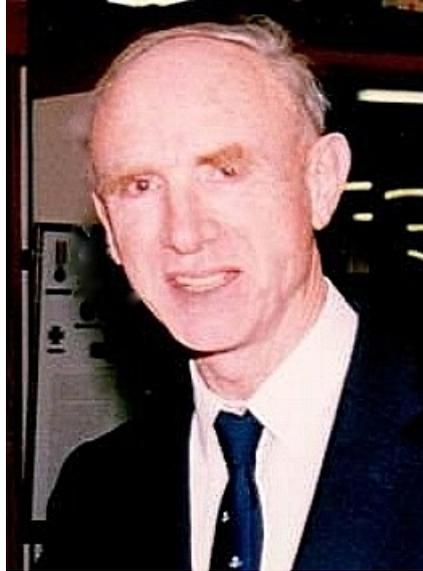


**DR. P. H. BARRY GP.
1923 - 2011**



Born 11th March 1923 in Reigate Surrey. Dr. Philip Hanbury Barry GP became the local GP for the East Brent and Brent Knoll areas of Somerset.

After his military service in World War Two he continued his medical studies to become a GP and took over his fathers Brent Knoll and East Brent General Practice when his father retired. He was a popular and well respected doctor who knew most of his patients by their first name.

During WW2 Philip was wounded during the ill fated "Market Garden" Battle at Arnhem and taken prisoner by the Germans.



Phillip's father was Dr. James Harding Barry 1888 - 1963.

During WW1 James served on the front line as a Captain in the RAMC attached to the London Regiment as a physician. In 1917 he was awarded the DSO and Military Cross for bravery.

The citation for his award reads.. *"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed the upmost coolness and bravery in going out under heavy machine gun fire and assisting to bring in and attend wounded men. Under very heavy shell fire he dug out five men who were buried , and amputated two men's legs on the spot. Showing utter disregard for any personal risk"*

In 1919, after returning from the First World war, James Barry married Violet Ruth Hanbury in Kensington London. Violet was born in Trull Somerset in

1894. The daughter of brewer Albert and Helen Hanbury. In 1911 She was a student at Cheltenham Ladies College. At the outbreak of war in 1914 she served at the Ascot Military Hospital as a VAD nurse (Voluntary Aid Detachment) for the duration of WW1. Which is where they probably met? They had a son Philip and a daughter Mary.

By 1939, Dr James Barry and the family had moved from Riegate to 'The Grove', Burnham on Sea, where James Barry was listed as a Physician. He also became a General Practitioner for the Brent Knoll and East Brent areas. At this time his son Philip was studying medicine at Ampleforth College in York.

Dr Philip H Barry.

After his military service in WW2, Phillip Barry continued his medical studies at Bristol University where he received his degree in General Medicine and midwifery in 1949. He would later take over his father James' GP Practice in Brent Knoll. He lived in the family house in Burnham on sea. His early surgery was behind the Post Office and store near the corner of Station Road and Burton Row, Brent Knoll. Phillip and his wife and four children later came to live at 'The Hays' in Brent Street, Brent Knoll. where he also held his GP Surgery until his retirement.

He died peacefully but unexpectedly at his home on October 4th 2011 and was buried in St Michaels church Brent Knoll.



WW2 Military Service

After enrolling aged just 18 In 1941 he became a Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment. The Para's were a newly formed elite Infantry Regiment formed to be dropped behind enemy lines and trained to survive mostly with just the equipment they landed with and without backup. The 2nd Battalion first saw service in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

In 1944 the Battalion took part in the failed operation 'Market Garden at Arnhem in Holland, during which Lt Barry and his No 9 platoon of 'C' company were tasked with the taking of the railway bridge over the river Nr. Elderveld near Arnhem. It was during this failed attempt to take a vital

railway bridge against overwhelming odds against an unexpected elite German Panzer group and an SS division. Lt 'Pete' Barry was wounded when the Germans blew the bridge up, and most of the platoon were taken prisoner. *From: 'A Bridge too far'. By Cornenius Ryan.*



Lt Phillip Barry 'Pete' to his men. Seen here seated centre with the men of his platoon before setting off for Holland and the failed

operation 'Market Garden'. Lt. Barry's batman, 20 year old Pte. Sadler, 'far right front' as killed while trying to deliver an order to retreat from the bridge.

Most of the platoon were taken prisoner during the battle at Arnhem. The wounded Lt Barry was first taken to a German military hospital Obirmasfeld, Mainingen on 17/10/1944. He was then taken and held in Oflag 9 A/Z, a POW camp for officers. (An old castle high in the mountains between Hannover and Frankfurt). NCO's and other ranks were held in the nearby Stalag 9 A/H By the end of March 1945 the Germans were retreating. The POW's were harshly treated and forced marched from the two camps eastward away from the advancing allies. US troops liberated the survivors while they were still in the column travelling eastwards on Friday 13 April at Wimmelburg. They were flown to Belgium by the Americans.

During Operation Market Garden,

C Coy's Platoon Officer Lt. Pete Barry was wounded at the railway bridge as the 2nd Para Bn advanced to Arnhem Bridge. Sgt Barnbrook carried him off the bridge and left him in the care of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Lt Barry and Sgt Barnbrook were reunited at the Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot, 43 years after Operation Market Garden on 17 February 1988.



Source: Airborne Assault Archives

On Sunday, 17 September the men of 9 Platoon, C Company with Lieutenant Phillip ‘Peter’ Barry, in command boarded a Dakota at Barkston Heath airfield for Operation Market Garden and flew to Drop Zone X near Heesum in Holland.

From there they advanced along the river road, and 9 Platoon peeled off from the battalion column to attack and capture the railway bridge. Led by Lieutenant Barry. The lead section moved onto the bridge itself, but it was blown-up before they could cross to the other side. During the withdrawal Lieutenant Barry was wounded by a sniper. An extract from his own account reads:

“I was in front and the next thing I knew a bullet smashed into my right arm. It made a small hole in front and a large gash coming out. Of course I know today it fractured the humerus. I had no idea what it had done then, but my arm suddenly began going round and round in a circle. I wondered what the devil was causing it to do that. At any rate, we couldn’t afford to remain where we were much longer. I stood up and shouted that we were going back and we retreated back across the bridge. Near the first pillar was a small ladder going down the side to the river. We went down that and I set the section to firing on the opposite bank. We still couldn’t see anything, but apparently, we could still be seen. One of the section; Pte Sadler was killed. About that time, a runner came up and told me we were ordered to move back. I was carried back on a stretcher, with

my arm strapped to my side, and taken to a house in Oosterbeek [Breman house?], while the rest of the Company went on into Arnhem”.

Company Commander, Major Victor Dover

“9 Platoon continued its advance of the escarpment of the railway bridge without trouble until they reached the foot of the escarpment of the railway track itself. Here it came under heavy fire from a machine-gun and from snipers on the far side of the river. The remainder of the Company took up covering fire positions in the area of the wrecked buildings. Lieut. Peter Barry, the Platoon Commander, deployed two sections on the ground to give close covering fire while he with the third section climbed up to the bridge under cover of smoke. It was a model attack and all seemed to be going well. Our covering fire silenced the opposition on the far bank. Peter with his assaulting section reached the first span of the bridge and started to cross. When they were a third of the way over there was a yellow flash and a tremendous explosion. The Spreng-Kommando and his henchmen could be seen running from the far side of the bridge, and they only just made it before the centre span sank into the river with the railway lines draping down like reeds into the water. From my position at Company HQ I could see Peter’s men on the bridge running back, dragging two of the section with them. There was no wireless communication, so I had to go forward on foot with my batman to find out how badly the section had been hit and if there was any chance of crossing the river by other means than the bridge. As we arrived at the escarpment, Private Sadler of 9 Platoon came down the embankment towards us. He did not deliver his message: he dropped dead from a sniper’s bullet before he reached us.”



Lt. Phillip Barry's batman Pte Sadler, was the only member of Lt Barry's 9 Platoon killed.

During the battle, C Company had 7 killed. 2 Para had 61 killed, and a total of 210 wounded. Only 17 soldiers in the entire 2nd Para Battalion escaped. Pte Sadler died on the bridge aged 20 years and has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands.

Philip 'Pete' Hanbury Barry
Service: British Army. Parachute Regiment
2nd Battalion
1st Airborne Division
Archive Reference:
WO344/9021
Seniority Date:
03/11/1941

Rank: Lieutenant
Service Number: 240444
Profession: Student
Duty Location: Arnheim

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