

Ernest John Barker, Station Road

Ernest John Barker came from a Bentley farming family stretching back many generations. He was born on 30 June **1897** to Ernest John Barker (senior) and Mary Ann Taylor, and was baptised in Bentley on 22 August **1897**. He had one older brother, Thomas. His ancestors were agricultural labourers on Glade Farm and Grovelands Farm.

At the start of the war, on the **1939** census, Ernest was working as a Builders Lorry Driver and living in Station Road with his wife, Rose, his son Eric, and his nephew Sidney Thomas.

Ernest was married to Rose in **1922**. He was probably introduced to Rose by his brother Thomas, who had married one of Rose's sisters, Mabel, in **1911**.

Rank	Corporal T/131648
Regiment	Royal Army Service Corps
Date of death	25 th January 1942
Died	Western Desert, North Africa
Age at death	44
Marital status	Married to Rose
Address	1 Station Road, Bentley



Ernest was in the Royal Army Service Corps. This unit was responsible for keeping the British Army supplied with provisions, petrol and lubricants, fuel and light, hospital supplies and disinfectants. It was also responsible for the conveyance of the above supplies, together with ammunition, engineer stores, ordnance stores and post to all units of a field force.



Royal Army Service Corps in the Western Desert in Egypt.

Ernest was killed on 25th January **1942** in the Western Desert. He is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial in Egypt which forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery. The memorial commemorates nearly 12,000 servicemen of the British Empire who died in the Western Desert campaigns of the Second World War including the Battle of El Alamein.

From Bentley Parish Magazine Easter 1942

“Ernest Barker, one of our ringers, was most popular throughout the district. There was a large attendance at his memorial service on March 2nd. I commend these brave men, and those who mourn them, to your sympathy and your prayers.”

