

Jack was born John Reginald Hanlon Bartlett in 1893 at Cowra, the son of Reginald Hugh Bartlett and Lucinda Bartlett, nee Hanlon. He married Louisa Marie Leeanne Hassell at St Andrew's Cathedral on 24th Feb 1914.

Jack enlisted in H Company 1914, stating that he was an analyst and gave his wife at 106 Victoria St Darlinghurst as his next of kin. There is a lack of information on his AN&MEF service, at one stage the authorities believing he never boarded the BERRIMA and was never in New Guinea. They went so far as to, at one stage, request him to return his 1914/15 Star. However it was subsequently accepted that he "... was one of eight men from "H" Company who left Rabaul in November under Lieut. B. Sherbon, s escort to German prisoners of war, to Sydney and then was discharged at Brisbane on the return voyage to Rabaul." It is believed he was formally discharged on 29th December 1914. Whilst he was on board the Berrima en-route to Rabaul, his wife, on 7 September 1914, gave birth to their daughter who was aptly named Lillace Berrima.

After the war Jack continued his work as a chemist and went to India and became noteworthy for his dealing with illicit liquor trading.

"MAN WHO SMASHED ILLICIT TRADE IN LIQUOR

SYDNEY, Saturday.

One of the principals in the famous 'Calcutta Excise Case,' — Mr. J. R. H. Bartlett, industrial and analytical chemist — arrived at Sydney yesterday by the steamer Narbada.

Mr. Bartlett said that his evidence formed the key to the prosecution by the authorities which led to the Imprisonment of 36 Indian Jews. The case was concluded shortly before he sailed, appeals by the men convicted having been dismissed. Mr. Bartlett explained that the court hearing revealed that the gang had imported ethyl alcohol from Java, made it into whisky, gin and rum, and was re-exporting the liquor without paying duty. Then the authorities received a whisper of what was happening, so the gang built a distillery in one of Calcutta's better-class suburbs. They erected five stills and 37 vats and were making 1000 gallons of alcohol a month.

They were exporting to Japan and most of the Far East, and even to France, and were using well-known brands. 'I had to identify the alcohol from this distillery, though it had been colored and distributed widely,' said Mr. Bartlett. 'I succeeded in doing this, and at the hearing I was under cross examination for 21 months. 'The case depended upon whether they could shake my evidence, and they imported highly-paid counsel to defend them.' Mr. Bartlett is on his way to New Zealand for a brief holiday, and will return to Sydney later. A native of Sydney, he left here in 1919 to set up business in Calcutta and Bombay."

In 1923 Jack divorced Louisa on the grounds of desertion. He died in Tuncurry in 1977.