Blacket, Alan Russell

Rank: Lieutenant

Unit: 19th Battalion

Date of death: 16 August 1916

Cause of death: Died of wounds

Cemetery or memorial details: Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France


ASC 1905-12

Photo “Bathurstian” circa 1916.

Athletics Gold Medal 1910, 1912

Noted Batsman
CHARACTER OF THE TEAM.

A. R. Blacket—captain, the mainstay of the team, sets a splendid example in every department of the game. Excellent field, can get wickets and make runs in any company. His one weak stroke is a forward push, due to over carefulness at the beginning of an innings. Manages his bowling well.

Blackett, Rugby Captain 1910. Beside him (L) is Kendall who died of illness contracted at Anzac.

Of the boys who have left since last issue, A. R. Blacket is reading law in chambers, attending evening lectures at the University, and playing for the Second XV. for the University, sometimes as wing three-quarter and sometimes behind the scrum. We were delighted to see him in his old position against St. Leonard’s on June 7th.
ALL SAINTS' BOYS.

Two old boys from All Saints' College are leaving for the front. Alan R. Blacket, a son of Mr. J. E. Blacket surveyor, who lived in Bathurst for 25 years, went into camp yesterday morning. He was in his third year's course of Law at the Sydney University.

The other All Saints' boy is Archie Macfarlane who goes into camp in about a week's time.
Application for a Commission in the A.I.E.F.

Particulars.  Adjutant  C.G.F.  20/160

Surname ...  ...  }  ...  ...  To be in block letters.
Other names (in full)  }  ...  ...

Educational Qualifications ...
(Certificate to be attached for notation at District Head-quarters.)

Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated)
(Attention is directed to third sub-para. of C.M. Regulation 65. Present rank and corps to be stated.)

Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for

CROSSED OFF ROLL.  Trfd to Depot Training School 3rd Bn. 7th Rfts. No. 2447, 1/7/15
Embarked at Sydney on H.M.A.T. A29 "Suevic" 20/12/15
28/7/16 Wounded in action, France.
16/8/16 Died of wounds received in action, at 7th Stf Hpl
Boulogne.
15/7/16 Absorbed on strength of 19th Bn ex Rfts.
BURIED Boulogne Cemetery Grave No. 3766. Reported
by Graves Registration Commission.
29.7.16 Admt to 3rd Cas. Clearing Station. G.S.W (1)
(States Lieut.)
12.8.16 Admt to 7th Stat Hosp.
19.5.16 T.O.S. 7th Rfts. 19th Bn.

*BLACKET, ALAN RUSSELL.*

Law III: Lieutenant, 19th Bn., A.I.F., France.

Enlisting in June, 1915, and sailing 21st December, joined battn. in Egypt and, crossing to France, served at Armentières and Pozières where wounded by shellburst 30th July, 1916, a few days after taking up duty.

Died of Wounds, Boulogne Hospital, 16th August, 1916, and was buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

Early education at All Saints’ College, Bathurst.
BLACKET, Alan Russell
DOW 16/8/1916; 19th Battalion; Pozieres.
3rd year law student, University of Sydney. Parents James & Isobel, Gladstone Avenue, Mosman. Descendant of Edmund Thomas Blacket, distinguished Architect, who designed the Great Hall of the University of Sydney, St Andrews Cathedral and many other prominent buildings in NSW.

“... He proved himself a very brave little fellow.”

"Their Name Liveth for Evermore Mosman's Dead in the Great War 1914-1918 – George Franki.

Extract from notes from Australian War Memorial:

Battle of Pozières

23 July 1916 - 07 August 1916

Pozières, a small village in the Somme valley in France, was the scene of bitter and costly fighting for the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions in mid 1916.

The village was captured initially by the 1st Division on 23 July 1916. The division clung to its gains despite almost continuous artillery fire and repeated German counter-attacks but suffered heavily. By the time it was relieved on 27 July it had suffered 5,285 casualties.

The 2nd Division took over from the 1st and mounted two further attacks - the first, on 29 July, was a costly failure;* the second, on 2 August, resulted in the seizure of further German positions beyond the village. Again, the Australians suffered heavily from retaliatory bombardments. They were relieved on 6 August, having suffered 6,848 casualties.

(Note, Blackett mortally wounded the next day)

Saturday 29 July 1916 at Pozières. 4:45 am - Enemy shelling continuous but light. Short intense bursts near the 19th Battalion Headquarters at 12 noon. 10:20 pm - Heavy shelling on front line. Second Lieutenant Alan Russell BLACKET wounded. An estimated 50 Other Ranks were killed, wounded or are missing in action.

Boldly and Faithfully-The Journal.

Both Bean and this writer, were short of details on this battalion? A reason may be, due to a lack of details copy from the unit’s “War Diary” which was not maintained for some months. See below, “No Diaries.”
Red Cross Bureau Reports

19th Batta.,
A. I. F.

Died of Wounds.

"The number of his grave is 3746 A., Boulogne Cemetery."

Ref.: Ext. from Lt. from C. C. Aldred,
Ch. of E. Chaplain,
7th St. H., Boulogne, B. E. F.
12-9-16.
Lt. Blackett was very severely wounded in the chest and his lungs were also damaged. He was quite unconscious for three days before he died, so did not really suffer any pain towards the last.

About five days before his death a friend came to see him and he was able to talk a little to him. We do not know the name of the friend but he said he was an "Old friend of the family"

"Aron will have a photo taken of the Cemetery where he is buried and sent to you as soon as possible. All his belongings are sent in the usual way through the War Office to his nearest relations, but I believe I can take sometime in forwarding them.

Extract from letter of G.St.J.Horne, (Sister for Station)
7th Stationary Unit

London
12/9/16

19th Australian Imperial Force
Blackett, 2nd Lieut.,
(Died of W. Aug. 16/6 Details D. & E)

Informant states that Lieut. Blacket died just before he got to the dressing station; he had been badly wounded by a shell. (Dressing Station the other side of Pozieres.)

Reference: R.H. Wilson, 2860,
19th A.I.F.,
King's 4th London Gen. Hospital,
Denmark Hill.

Home Address:
West Street, Mortdale, Sydney, N.S. Wales.

11th September, 1916.
E. Bridgeman.
Informant states that on 20th July 1916 at Pozieres Lieut Blacket was killed by shell fire. Buried between Pozieres and the Ridge where he fell. He was not buried in the Australian Cemetery at Pozieres. From Informant's Diary.

Reference: Pte W.T. Pryce, 60,
19th A. I. F.,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth, S.W.

Home address:
Horseferry Road.

21st Sept. 1916.
Jessie Perrin.

References Pte F.W. Thomson 2022 B;Co.
" W Hall. 2494. B;Co.

L.H.G. School Le Touquet 6.9.16.
Died of gunshot wound to chest - at 7th Stationary Hospital, Boulogne 16/8/16.


On the 28th July at Pozieres he was shot in the chest and we carried him in and he stayed in the dug-out all night, as he was pretty well unconscious was taken away to Dressing Room 2nd Corps. Simmons said he died on the way he was a fine fellow without a doubt. Very well liked, very brave young chap.


He was in an advanced trench as Pozieres, that was being shelled. Sergt. Grant was with him at the time, he was running down to the dug out and told us about Lieut. Blackett being wounded. Sergt. Grant was hit with the same shell. L/Opl. Sutherland and L/Opl. A. Gibson went out for Lieut. Blackett and carried him in on a stretcher, someone gave Lieut. Blackett morphia, he was kept in dug out all night and was unconscious. Taken to dressing station next day, and Sutherland, informer, heard he died on the way to the hospital. "He proved himself a very brave young chap and cool headed."

Reference: L/Opl. Sutherland 333, 19th Batt, Base Sec'y 57, Ward 37, Horsefield Hospital.
D/F. 16.8.16.

His name is Blackett. Sgt. Burke of his platoon, D.A.I.F. told me Mr. Blackett had been killed by shell fire in the trenches at Somerset, about 28.7.16. Lt. Blicher, formerly Sgt. could probably give details.

Reference: Sgt. A.C. Bird, 183.A.
E.A.D.B.R.
Staples. 9.9.16.
13th September, 1916.

The Matron,
7th Stationary Hospital,
B. F. F.,
Boulogne. France.

Dear Madam,

We would be so grateful if you could find time to send us some details of the illness and last hours of 2/Lieut. A.B. Blacket, 19th Battn. A.I.F., who is reported to have died in your hospital on 16.8.16. We know how busy you must be, and are loath to trouble you, but these things mean so much to the soldiers' people at home.
Note the above reference to “tetanus.”

BLACKET. Lieutenant Alan Russell Blacket died a Soldier's death in France on the 16th August, 1916 this formal tribute to his memory is by those who were nearest to him, and therefore loved him best.

SMH 16/8/17 P.8

DIED OF WOUNDS.

LIEUT. A. R. BLACKET.
Lieutenant Alan Russell Blacket, who died in a London Base Hospital on August 15, had been wounded in action in France on July 30. He was educated at All Saints' College, Bathurst, and at the time of enlisting was reading for his LL.B. examination, and acting as Associate to His Honor Mr. Justice Street.

SMH 29/8/16 P.6

Lieutenant Alan Russell Blacket died of wounds in France in July, 1916, after considerable service. Before enlisting he was in his third year Law at the University of Sydney.

Bathurstian circa 1919

“In 1916, on the day on which news arrived that Alan Blacket was killed at the front in the Great War, the School played St Stanislaus the last game for fourteen years and won. In 1912 Alan Blacket himself had captained the last team to beat St Stanislaus at football.”

School History 1963 ed. P.129

DEATH OF LT. ALAN BLACKET
BISHOP LONG’S TRIBUTE.

During his sermon upon "Underneath are the Everlasting Arms" at All Saints' cathedral last night the Bishop made reference to the death of Lieut. Alan Blacket, of which news came to hand yesterday. The Bishop spoke of his career at All Saints' College, where he had given promise of a life likely to be fruitful in character and achievement. Proficient in sports, keen in intellect, with a gift for winning strong friendships and of fine manly character, he had promise of a big career in the profession of law when the call of the war came in response to which he has paid the supreme sacrifice.

The Bathurst Times 8/8/16 P.3
The writer visited Mosman to gain details of an Old Boy, K.L. Scott. Whose name, as highlighted below, is on this war memorial? It was only sometime later that another of the Bathurst Diggers; Blackett, was also found to be also so listed. Photo Tony Cable 2012

Mosman War Memorial. Alan Border Oval.

THEY ARE NOT DEAD FOR ALL THEY HAD TO GIVE
THEY SACRIFICED FOR LOVE THAT BIDS THEM LIVE.

Blackett A.R.         Scott K.L.
The University of Sydney
WAR SERVICE RECORD

SURNAME: BLACKET
Other Names: Alan Russell
Rank: 2nd Lieutenant
Unit: 7th Australian Infantry Battalion
Date and Place of Enlistment: June 1915 at Sydney
Date of Embarkation and Name of Transport: April 21st, 1915, S.S. Suevic

Date of Return to Australia and Name of Transport:
Place, date and nature of Casualty (if any): At Brieux on 30th July 1916

Some months were occupied for drill and preparation in Egypt and then he was with his battalion on its advance near Brieux; but his actual front line service was a matter of days only.

Decorations (if any): None

Full details and remarks as to service:

School or Schools attended before entrance to University: All Saints College, Bathurst
Period of attendance at University: April 1913 to April 1915
Faculty and Degrees: Bachelor of Arts. Passed first and second year

Signature: [Signature]
Preseant Address: 27 Prince Albert St, Mosman, N.S.W.