

## **Roll of Honour-Alan Russell Blacket**

**Rank:** Lieutenant

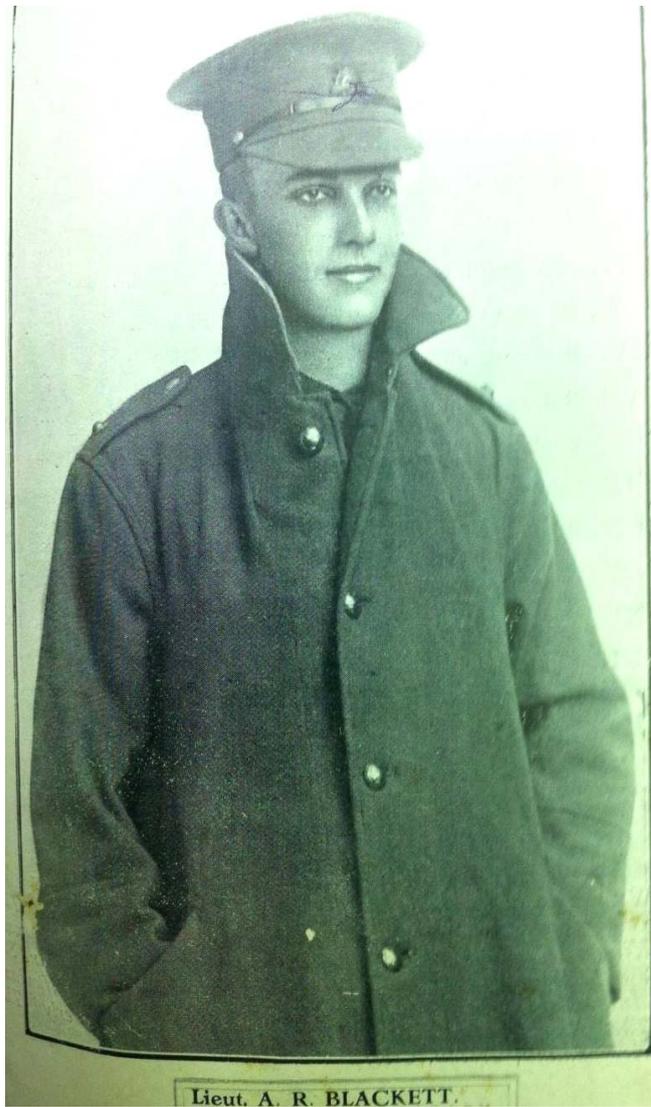
**Unit:** 19th Battalion

**Date of death:** 16 August 1916

**Cause of death:** Died of wounds

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

**War Grave Register notes:** BLACKET, Lt. Alan Russell. 19<sup>th</sup> Bn. Died of wounds 16th Aug. 1916. Son of James Russell Blacket and Isabel Blacket, of Collooney, Gladstone Ave., Mosman. Native of Bathurst.



**Photo "Bathurstian" circa 1916.**

**Student at All Saints' College, Bathurst. 1905-1912**

**Athletics Gold Medal 1910, 1912**

**Noted Batsman**



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

**“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.”**

Australian



Military Forces.

C.M. Form A. 22

(Revised 1.7.14)

100/1/1182  
A. I. F.

Application for a Commission in the A. I. E. F.

|  |  |                     |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Particulars. <i>Region C. of F.</i>  |  | <i>2060</i>         |
| 1. Surname ...   | } To be in block letters.  | <b>BLACKET</b>      |
| Other names (in full)  |  | <b>ALAN RUSSELL</b> |
| 2. Educational Qualifications ...<br><small>(Certificate to be attached for notation at District Head-quarters.)</small>   | <i>Junior Uni 1910 Senior Uni 1912 (with second class honours) Intermediate L. C. with Wigram Allen scholarship</i>                            |                     |
| 3. Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated!)<br><small>(Attention is directed to third sub-para. of C.M. Regulation 66. Present rank and corps to be stated.)</small> | <i>4 1/2 yrs All saints College cadets Bathurst<br/>6 months militia force Bathurst<br/>2 1/2 years Sydney Unit Scouts<br/>6 months A.I.F.</i> |                     |
| 4. Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for  | <i>May 1915 Sydney Uni scouts</i>  |                     |

|  |              |                |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| <b>BLACKET</b>   | Alan Russell | 2nd Lieut      |
| Surname.   | Other Names. | Regimental No. |
| PURPORT.   |              |                |
| 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 Sty Hpl. Boulogne.                 |              |                |
| 15/7/16 Absorbed on strength of 19th Bn ex Rfts.                                     |              |                |
| BURIED Boulogne Cemetary Grave No. 3766. Reported by Graves Registration Commission. |              |                |
| 29.7.16 Admt to 3rd Cas. Clearing Station. G.S.W (M (States Lieut.)                  |              |                |
| 12.8.16 Admt to 7th Stat Hosp. (I  |              |                |
| 19.5.16 T.O.S. 7th Rfts. 19th Btn. II  |              |                |

University of Sydney Roll of service

†**BLACKET, ALAN RUSSELL.**

Law III: Lieutenant, 19th Battn., 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.

## IN MEMORIAM.

ALAN RUSSELL BLACKET.

Popularity carries with it serious responsibilities, and frequently proves a dangerous possession; and more particularly does this hold in the case of a boy, just because he is a boy and lacks the discretion and sense of proportion that should come with more mature years. Seldom perhaps has a boy come through this ordeal more unspoiled than did Alan Blacket.

It is difficult to write down one's estimate of his character, because it is so easy to let one's appreciation of him lead one beyond the severe limit that his own modesty would have set.

As we knew him at school, he was no Sir Galahad, but a vigorous, human boy, with a disposition saturated with sunshine, with a high sense of honour, a perfect straightness, a keen appreciation of manly pleasures—in fact, just such a boyish boy as one would like one's own son to be. In school he found his difficulties, and overcame them by application and sound common sense rather than by marked ability; he

passed his various examinations satisfactorily, and was going through the University in the same solid fashion. Out of school he was keen and capable in his games; in football his pluck and skill made him prominent, even though he lacked the accidental aid of weight; in cricket he was conspicuous in every department, and his consistent batting—frequently on rough wickets, and against men well seasoned in the bowler's art—gained him his place in the district team.

He enlisted last year, and he had not been long at the front when his call came to make the one supreme sacrifice; and we who knew him best need no testimony to convince us that he faced death with all the old pluck, and even with that half smile which he used to wear when fighting desperately for victory for A.S.C. on the cricket or football field.

And now, sadly but very proudly, we see his name written in our Roll of Honour, and on the lengthening list of those who have died gloriously for King and Country—one whose memory the College delights to honour, one well worthy of being enrolled in Britain's "deathless army."

—ANON.

Extract from Bathurstian

## **BLACKET, Alan Russell**

22; 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**

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**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, Blakett mortally wounded the next day)

Both Bean and this writer were short of details on this battalion? As illustrated with following, the “War Diary” was not maintained for some months:

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Summary of Events and Information

| Place | Date | Hour |   |
|-------|------|------|---|
|       |      |      | <p>1916. <i>March</i><br/><i>April</i><br/><i>May</i><br/><i>June</i><br/><i>July</i></p> <p>} No Diaries</p> |

Red Cross Bureau Reports

A.I.F. 19.

BLACKETT 2 Lt. RR

D/E. 16.8.16.

His name is Blackett. Sgt. Burko of his platoon, D.XIV, told me Mr. Blackett had been killed by shell fire in the trenches at Rosieres, about 28.7.16. Lt. Balchov, formerly Sgt. could probably give details.

Reference: Sgt. A.C. Bird, 183.A.  
E A.D.B.D.

S<sub>d</sub>

ESG.

Staples. 9.9.16.

19th Battn.,  
A. I. F.

Blacket  
BLOCHETT,  
Lieut. R.  
A

Died of Wounds.

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

Ref:- Ext. from Ltr. from C.C. Aldred,  
Ch. of E. Chaplain,  
7th Staty. Hosp. Boulogne, B.E.F.  
12-9-16.

S.

London,  
20-9-16.

19th Australian Imperial Force

Blacket, 2nd Lieut.,

(Died of W. Aug. 16/6 Details D. & B.)

Informant stated 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.  
K. Bridgman.

S  
cd

19th A. I. F.

Blacket, 2nd Lieut A.R.

(D. of W. Aug. 16th/16. Details D & B)

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.

S  
Ed

21st Sept. 1916.  
Jessie Perrin.

A.I.F. 19

BLACKET, 2 Lt.

D. of W. Aug 16 /16 Det.

He was wounded in the Batt H.Q. dug-out at Pozieres about the middle of August. We saw him there in a badly wounded condition. He was sent to hospital. Word came back soon afterwards that he had died of wounds. Later, however, report came to the Batt. that he is in one of the Staples Hospitals, and is doing all right.

S

References Pte F.W. Thomsen 2022 B; Co.  
" R.C. Watts. 1336. D.Co.  
" W Hall. 2494. B.Co.

L.H.G. School Le Touquet 6.9.16.

19th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Blacket,  
2/Lieut.

W. recently:

Died of gunshot wound to chest - at 7th Stationary Hospital,  
Beaulogne 16/8/16.

Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Rd.  
23/8/16.

London,  
23/8/16.

S.

19th Battn.  
A.I.F.,

Blacket,  
2/Lieut. A.I.F.

"Died of wounds 16-8-16."

Was in an advanced trench at Bosieres, that was being shelled. Sergt. Cratt was with him at the time, he came running down to the dug out and told us about Lieut. Blacket being wounded, Sergt. Cratt was hit with the same shell. L/Cpl. Sutherland and L/Cpl. A. Gibson went out for Lieut. Blacket and carried him in on a stretcher, someone gave Lieut. Blacket morphia, he was kept in dug out all night and was unconscious. Taken to dressing station next day, and Sutherland, (informant) heard he died on the way to the hospital. "He proved himself a very brave little chap and cool headed."

Reference:- L/Cpl. Sutherland 333.  
19th Battn. M.G. Section.  
Ward 37.  
Barefield Hospital.

London  
18/9/16

S.

19th Battn.,  
A. I. F.

BLACKETT  
A  
BLOCHETT,  
Lieut. R.R.  
A

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 Staty. Hosp. Boulogne, B.E.F.  
12-9-16.

S.

London,  
20-9-16.

13th September, 1916.

The Matron,  
7th Stationary Hospital,  
B. E. 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.R. Blackett, 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.

Yours truly,

19th Pattn.  
A.I.F.,

Blackett,  
2nd.Lt. A.

"Died of Wounds."

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"

Sister Forlatron will have a photo taken of the Cemetery where he is buried and send it 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 they will take some time in forwarding them.

Extract from letter of G.St.G.Horne, (Sister Forlatron)  
7th Stationary Hospit.  
Doulogne.. 10-9-16.

London  
12/9/16

S.

**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.6

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



. **St Alban's Anglican Church** Cnr. Lindfield Ave & Tryon St, Lindfield

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.

### Mosman War Memorial



Above photo, Tony Cable 2012

Alan Border Oval

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

|                   |                       |                       |                     |                               |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| ALFORD G.<br>B.   | CORBITT E. H.         | GRIFFITHS P. O.       | Mc SHANE T.<br>G.   | ROWLANDS<br>H. F.             |
| ALLDRITT<br>R.    | COUTTS J. W.          | HAIG-PHILP R.<br>M.   | MADDOCKS<br>C. F.   | RYAN D. J.                    |
| ALLEN C. F.       | CROSS J. S.           | HANSON G. B.          | MAKEIG W. C.        | SACLIER F.<br>D.              |
| ALLEN R. S.       | CROSSMAN<br>W. J. B.  | HART W. B.            | MALE W.             | SAUNDERS<br>F. E. R.          |
| ANDERSON<br>D. S. | CUNNINGHAM<br>J.      | HEALEY R. A. C.       | MASSEY T. A.        | SCOTT K. L.                   |
| ANGLES J.<br>N.   | DARCAN W. R.          | HENLEY A. W.          | MENDELSON<br>B. L.  | SCOTT L. B.                   |
| ARNOLD B.<br>S.   | DAVIS R.              | HILLMAN E. M.         | MERRETT C.<br>H. E. | SEMPLE F.<br>H.               |
| ASHDOWN<br>C. P.  | DEDDEN N.             | HILLYAR A. U.         | MILLER G. C.<br>S.  | SENIOR S.<br>G.               |
| ASHDOWN<br>E. A.  | DICKSON F. K.         | HILLYAR H. U.         | MITCHELL A.         | SHEARD S.<br>W.               |
| BARTON H.<br>F.   | DICKINSON R.<br>(NSE) | HOGUE O.              | MOORE C. J.         | SMITH J. R.                   |
| BASS C. E.        | DOHERTY F. J.         | HOLLINGWORTH<br>R. E. | MOORE L. P.         | SMITH R. G.                   |
| BEGG C. E.        | DONALDSON<br>J. K.    | HOLMES E. C.          | MOORS E. H.         | SPRING H.<br>K.               |
| BENNETT E.<br>A.  | DORNBUSH E.<br>C.     | HOLROYD L. P.         | MORRISON D.         | SPRING W.                     |
| BISHOP E.<br>E.   | DOWDING A.            | HOOKMAN J. A.         | MOUNTAIN L.<br>S.   | S <sup>T</sup> CLAIR P.<br>A. |
| BISHOP J.         | DOYLE W. S.<br>H.     | HUNT A. S.            | NALDER G. F.        | STEWART<br>D.                 |
| BLACKET<br>A. R.  | DUFAUR-<br>CLARK H.   | HUNT G. B. F.         | NALDER R. A.        | STEWART<br>D. E.              |
| BLAKEMAN<br>P. A. | DUNKINSON<br>R. V.    | HUTCHINSON E.<br>O.   | NOBLE E. L.         | STEWART J.<br>W.              |

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