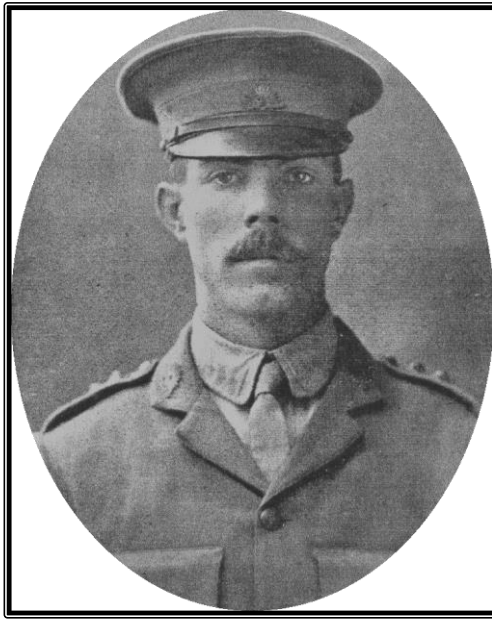




Capt. John Wesley Blacket



4th July 1916



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1912 - 14 (A Grade - Captain & Coach)

(Intervarsity 1908, 1910-12, 1914)

Cricket Club: 1908/09 - 1913/14 (A & B Grade)

Double Blue (Football 1912, Cricket 1915)

Arts Student (1906 - 1913) & Teacher - PAC (1906 - 1914)

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.

On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.

The following documentation relates to the life of John Wesley Blacket. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project




John Wesley BLACKET

Place of birth	Gumeracha, South Australia
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Teacher
Address	Norwood, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	28
Next of kin	Father, Rev J Blacket, 17 Sydenham Road, Norwood, South Australia
Enlistment date	16 February 1915
Rank on enlistment	Lieutenant Adjutant
Unit name	27th Battalion, A Company
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/44/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A2 <i>Geelong</i> on 31 May 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	7th Infantry Brigade Headquarters
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Mention in Despatches 'For conspicuous good work with his Bn and while acting as Bde Major from March to June 1916 when he was killed.' Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 29890, 2 January 1917; 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 103, 29 June 1917. Recommendation date: 17 September 1916
Date of death	4 July 1916
Age at death from cemetery records	30
Place of burial	La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery (Plot I, Row B, Grave No. 9), Ploegsteert, Belgium
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	109
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Commemorated in Payneham Cemetery, South Australia. Parents: John (d. 7 June 1935, aged 79; bu. Payneham) and Martha J. (d. 7 December 1926, aged 62; bu. Payneham) BLACKET, Salisbury, South Australia. Native of Gumeracha, South Australia
Family/military connections	Brother: [1667] Lt Joseph Arnold BLACKET, 27th Bn, killed in action, 10 June 1918.
Other details	War service: Egypt, Gallipoli, Western Front Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Service Record

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3088135>

4th MILITARY DISTRICT.		C.M. Form A. 22. (Revised 1.7.14.)	
A.G. 42/395 AUSTRALIAN		MILITARY FORCES.	
Application for a Commission in the <i>Australian Imperial Force</i>			
No.	Particulars.		
1.	Surname ... BLACKET Other names (in full) ... JOHN WESLEY <small>To be in block letters.</small>		
2.	Educational Qualifications... <small>(Certificate to be attached for notation at District Head-quarters.)</small> <i>Upper Sixth Form at Prince Alfred College Attended Adelaide University Master at Prince Alfred College for 10 years.</i>		
3.	Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated) <small>(Attention is directed to third sub-para. of C.M. Regulation 65.) Present rank and corps to be stated.</small> <i>Captain 78th Batt. 16. 9 years service 3 months as Area Officer of Area 78B</i>		
4.	Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for first appointment as 2nd Lieutenant (U.T. Regulation 132) ... GAZETTED G.O.A. GAZETTE 13/8.20/2.15		
5.	Present Civil Employment ... <i>Schoolmaster</i>		
6.	Date of Birth, and Age ... <small>(Certificate of Birth or Statutory Declaration to be attached for notation at District Head-quarters.)</small> <i>July 20th, 1886</i> 28 Years. 6 Months.		
7.	If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject ... <small>(In the case of the latter, date and place of Naturalization to be stated.)</small> <i>British Subject.</i>		
8.	Married or Single ... <i>Single</i>		
9.	Postal Address ... <i>17 Sydenham Road Norwood, South Aus.</i>		
10.	Next of Kin ... <i>Rev. John Blacket (father)</i>		
Date <i>Jan. 30th, 1915</i> (Signature of Applicant) <i>J.W. Blacket.</i>			
<p>NOTE.—Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces are required to attach a satisfactory certificate of moral character, or, if they are serving in the Permanent or Citizen Forces, to be recommended by their Commanding Officer. They are also to state on the back of this form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II., and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificates.</p>			
<p align="center">MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.</p> <p>In the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces, Proceedings of Medical Board, in accordance with instructions contained in "Standing Orders for the Army Medical Services," will be substituted for this Certificate; such Board, however, will not be assembled until after the nomination of the Candidate to undergo examination has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.</p> <p>I, <i>John Christian Mayo</i> do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, has not been operated on for Hernia, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.</p> <p>Height <i>5' 10 1/2"</i> Weight <i>154 lbs</i> Chest Measurement <i>38</i> Eyesight <i>R V = 5/6 L V = 5/6</i></p> <p align="center"><small>Signature of the Examining Medical Officer</small> <i>J.C. Mayo Capt. A.M.C.</i></p>			
<p align="center">RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER. <small>(Not required in the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces.)</small></p> <p>I recommend that the candidate above named be appointed a <i>Captain</i> in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—</p> <p>1. That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment for the current year. 2. (a) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 33 have been fully complied with, or (b) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 132 have been fully complied with, or (c) That all candidates higher in order of merit, by competitive examination, have been absorbed.</p> <p>On appointment the candidate will be posted to <i>4th Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c.</i> <i>27th Infantry</i></p> <p align="right">Date _____ Commanding _____ Regt. or Corps.</p>			
<p align="center">RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT. <small>Recommended, candidate considered suitable.</small></p> <p align="right"><i>Colonel</i> Commandant 4th Military District.</p>			
<p align="center">†Sub-para. not applicable to be struck out.</p> <p align="center">N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of Form. Seniority of Candidates as determined by competitive examination to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same date.</p>			

Published Biography

Norwood Football Club, South Australia

http://www.redlegsmuseum.com.au/ON_FIELD/PLAYERS/BLACKET_John.aspx

PLAYERS - BLACKET, John

John Wesley BLACKET

STATISTICS

Guernsey Number:

Career: 1907 to 1909

NFC Games: 11

NFC Goals: 1

Debut: v North Adelaide (Adelaide) 4th May 1907

Finale: v North Adelaide (Norwood) 8th May 1909



John Wesley Blacket was born on the 20th July 1886 in Gumeracha. He was the eldest of fourteen children born to the Reverend John and Martha Jane (nee Fidler) Blacket. Blacket attended Prince Alfred College from 1891 and later studied at Adelaide University. After university he taught at Prince Alfred College for 10 years before enlisting in the army at the outbreak of World War I.

He played nine games for the very strong Norwood side in 1907, although he did not feature in either the Premiership or the Champions of Australia teams for that year. He does not appear to have played any league games in 1908 although he was named in a representative Norwood side that played against the Gawler Association at Gawler in August. He also played a game for Prince Alfred Old Collegians against St Peters Old Collegians and another for Adelaide University against Melbourne University in 1908. His final appearances for Norwood were two games in 1909.

After 1909, newspaper reports indicate that John Blacket continued playing football for St Bartholomew in the local Association and was also selected for Adelaide University in the Amateur League. An all round sportsman, Blacket was also wicketkeeper for Adelaide University in the A Grade District competition.

John Blacket applied for a commission in the Australian Imperial Forces on the 30th January 1915. He was first appointed to the 10th Battalion before being transferred to the 24th and later the 27th Battalion where he remained. His initial rank was Adjutant Lieutenant but he was later appointed as Captain. He joined the expeditionary forces at Gallipoli in September 1915 and was wounded just two weeks later. After recovering in England and a brief assignment with the British Expeditionary Force, he rejoined his battalion at the front line trenches in Belgium in May 1916. John Blacket was killed in action near Messines on 4 July 1916 during a heavy artillery bombardment.

He was mentioned in a despatch from General Sir Douglas Haig, dated 13th November 1916, for gallant and distinguished service in the field.

John Blacket's brother Joseph also played for Norwood in 1915 and served in the 27th Battalion. He was killed in action in France on 10 June 1918. Two other Blacket brothers, Maurice Newton and Samuel Bertram enlisted in 1916 and both survived the war.

W Heading Mar 2014

Note – Jack commenced at PAC in 1901.

Biography

Early Life

John Wesley Blacket was born on the 20th July 1886, the eldest of fifteen children born to Rev John Blacket and his wife Martha Jane (Pattie) Fidler. Jack was born at Gumeracha, SA. John was known as Wes within his family but his friends called him Jack.

Jack's siblings were Phoebe Matilda (b 1887), Caleb Edward (b 1889), Leonard Whitefield (b 1888), Hilda Kathleen (b 1891), Ruth Fidler (b 1892), Maurice Newton (b 1893), Joseph Arnold (b 1894), Samuel Bertram (b 1895), Minnie Constance (b 1897), Florence Martha (b 1898), Harry (b & D 1899)¹ Arthur Howard (b 1901), Cyril Augustine (b 1904) and Kenneth Bernard (b 1906).

Jack's father, Rev John Blacket, was a minister in the Methodist Church and he went on to serve in thirteen Methodist circuits in South Australia, most of them in the country. His biography can be read on the Australian Dictionary of Biography at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/blacket-john-5259>. He wrote eight books of philosophy and history, most famously "History of South Australia" about the first thirty years of South Australian settlement.

1910 – The Blacket Family



JW Blacket – Back Row – Third from Right

Back Row: Caleb, Maury (Maurice), John (Father), Wes (John Wesley), Len (Leonard) and Joe (Joseph Arnold)
Middle: Hilda, Minnie, Ruth, Cyril, Martha (Mother) with Bern (Kenneth Bernard aka Bernie), Phoebe and Florence
Bert (Samuel Bertram), Arthur and Mick (the dog)

Photograph supplied by:

Michael Blacket son of Graham Blacket (the third of four children of Bernie and Edna Blacket)

Names provided by Gladys Edna Blacket (Michael's grandmother)

¹ Neither the birth nor the death of Harry appears in South Australian Births, Deaths and Marriages records. This was common for still births or for children who died soon after birth. Information supplied from Blacket family history by Michael Blacket.

Schooling

While one newspaper report at Jack's passing suggests that Jack commenced school at Prince Alfred College in 1891 this is not correct. Jack may have commenced his schooling at Petersburg (now Peterborough) where his father was the minister from 1888 to April 1891. Rev John Blacket was then at Yorketown, Gumeracha, Koolunga (mid North), Melrose and Angaston.

Jack passed his Preliminary Examinations in September 1900 however the newspaper reports relating to the results did not include the schools. It was when the Rev John Blacket was based at Angaston in 1901 that Jack commenced at PAC; he was then aged 14 years.

Jack completed his Junior (Latin, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and inorganic Chemistry), Senior (German, Arithmetic and Algebra, Geometry (credit), Chemistry and Trigonometry) and Higher Public Examinations (German) from 1901 - 1904 at Prince Alfred College.

Jack passed Latin in the Special Senior Examinations in March 1906 under the tutorship of Mr DH Hollidge. He was awarded an evening scholarship at the University of Adelaide in April 1906.

Now 18 years of age, he was an emergency for the 1904 Inter-collegiate football match against St Peter's College. It appears that Jack replaced Shearer in the team line up as he appears in the 1904 Inter-collegiate team photograph below. Jack was not in the 1st XI cricket team for PAC. This belies his later success as a league footballer for Norwood and an A Grade cricketer for Adelaide University.

Jack played football for the College in at least one match in 1905 when the College played Gawler Central at Gawler in June 1905. Jack was head of the Boarding School in 1905.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912) /
Fri 8 Jul 1904

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

The great school match of the year will be played to-morrow on the Adelaide Oval. The game will start at 2.45 p.m., and intense interest is being manifested on both sides in the struggle. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Le Hunte will be present. The teams are:—

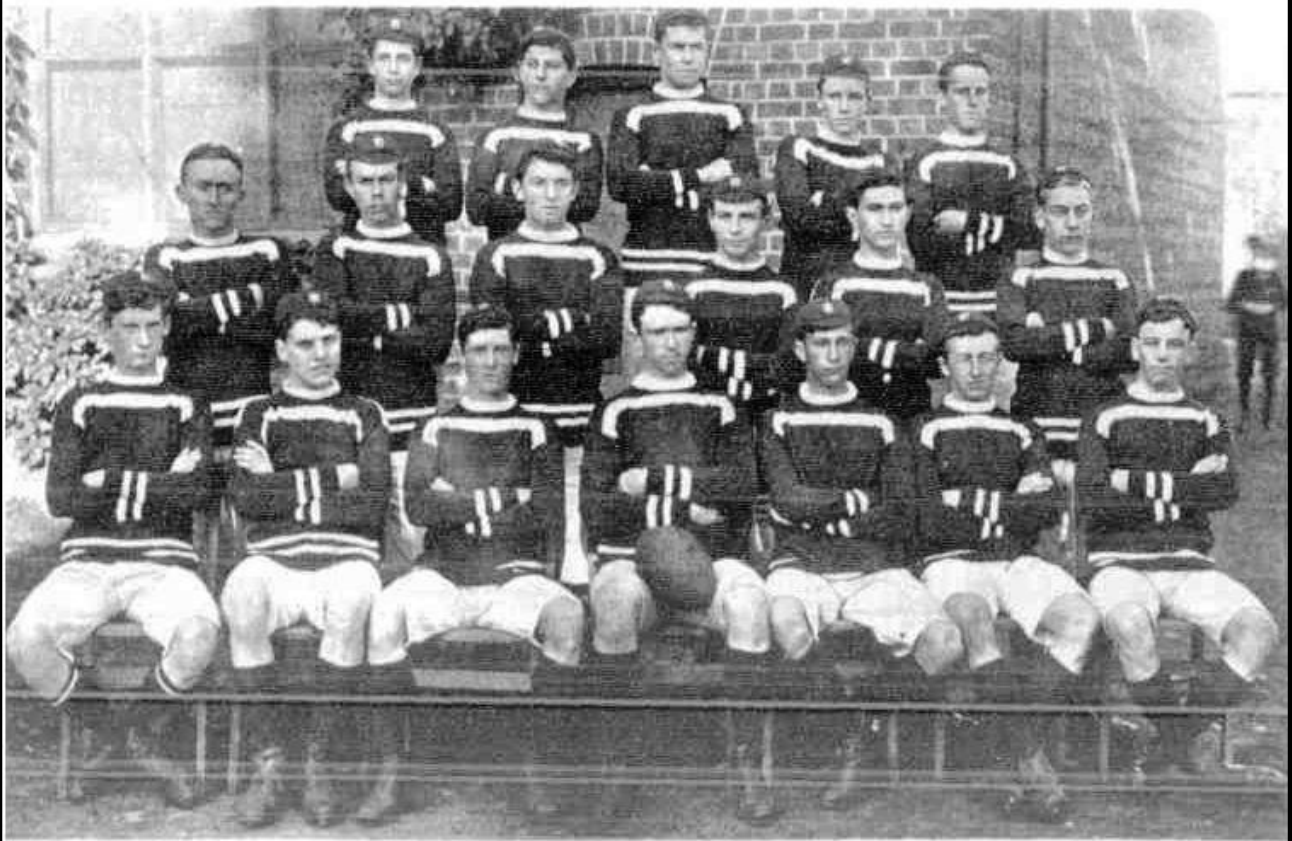
Prince Alfred—E. A. H. Russell, G. Bateman, S. Jeffers, H. Pope, H. W. D. Stoddart (captain), A. Shearer, J. L. Davidson, L. W. Davies, C. E. Dolling, N. E. Senpelt, N. R. Campbell, A. C. Walton, A. V. King, R. Middleton, C. F. Drew, G. P. Goode (vice-captain), S. W. C. Parnell, and W. B. Reid. Emergencies—J. W. Blacket, E. Lloyd, and D. Goode.

St. Peter's—A. J. S. Lindsay, W. R. Warren, G. G. Hawkes, L. W. Gill, V. Crestee, H. J. Webb, A. E. Ross, W. H. Stevenson (vice-captain), E. P. Turner, H. B. James, A. V. Stephen, L. B. Dean, M. G. D. Murray, H. P. Pincombe, M. H. Moves, I. A. Lewis (captain), J. Forrest, and C. R. Wallmann. Emergency—W. Russell.

Mr. Phil Kneebone will officiate as field umpire.

1904 – Prince Alfred College Football Team

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904) / Sat 16 Jul 1904 / Page 25 / INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL.



THE PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE TEAM.

Front Row (from left to right)—S. Jefferis, A. C. Wilton, G. P. Goode (vice-captain), H. W. D. Stoddart (captain), E. A. H. Russell, J. L. Davidson, and W. B. Reid.

Middle Row—C. E. Dolling, J. W. Blackett, H. Pope, S. W. G. Parnell, L. W. Davies, and R. Middleton.

Back Row—C. F. Drew, G. Bateman, N. Seppelt, N. R. Campbell, and A. V. King.

JW Blacket – Middle Row – Second from Left

"P.A.C. VERSUS GAWLER CENTRAL."

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) 6 June 1905

P.A.C. VERSUS GAWLER CENTRAL.

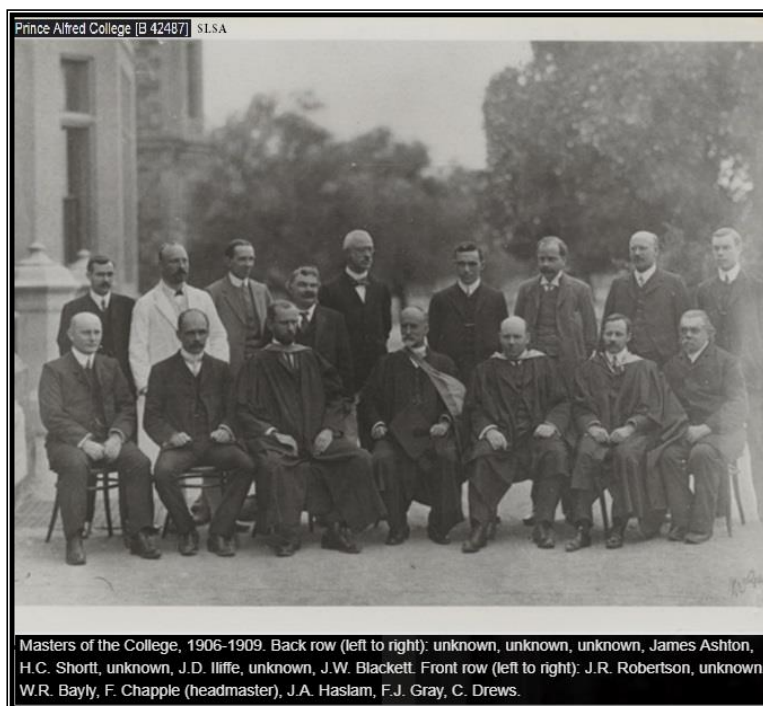
A match between Prince Alfred College and Gawler Central was played at Gawler on Monday afternoon, and resulted in an easy victory for the local team. The college was represented by H. W. D. Stoddart (captain), G. P. Goode (vice-captain), G. Bateman, Blacket, J. L. Davidson, E. W. Parnell, A. V. King, R. F. Middleton, C. E. Dolling, C. F. Drew, A. E. Grant, E. F. Richardson, J. Jona, E. Lloyd, H. Willmore, W. Fletcher, H. Harris, and W. B. Reid. The Gawler men led throughout the game. Their most prominent players were Beadnall (2), Fergusson (2), Thomson (2), Rebbeck, Roas, Gartrell, Lamb, and Ayling, while Middleton, Goode, Stoddart, Davidson, Grant, and Dolling were conspicuous among the ranks of P.A.C. The goalkeepers were—Gawler, S. Beadnall (4), G. Crump (3), A. Thomson (3), R. Beadnall, D. Fergusson, and W. Ayling; P.A.C., Fletcher, Blacket, and Middleton. The final scores were—

Gawler Central, 13 goals 10 behinds.
P.A.C., 3 goals 5 behinds.

Career

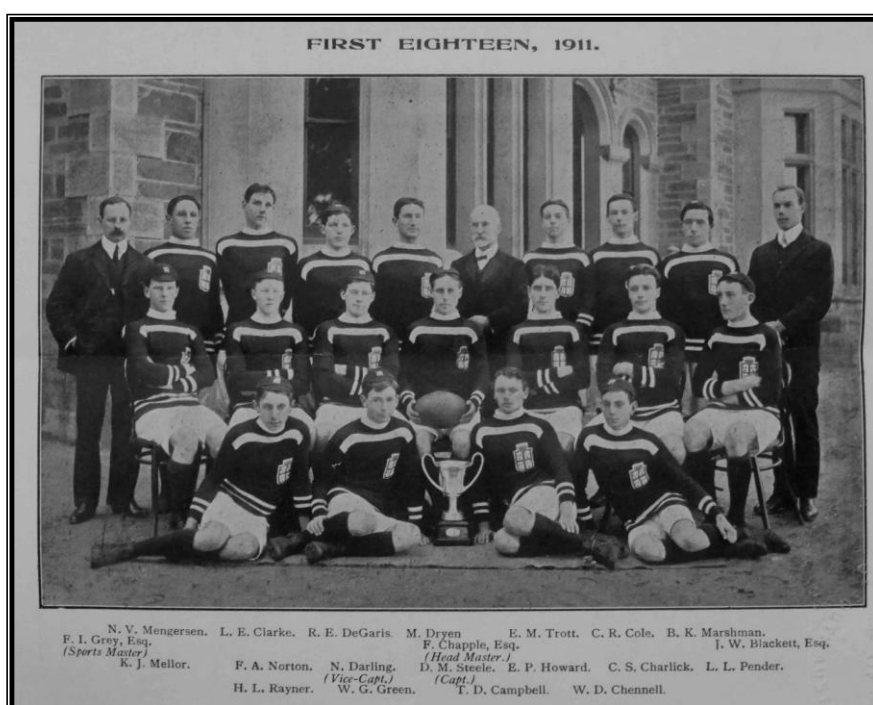
After completing his secondary schooling Jack was appointed to the teaching staff of Prince Alfred College. In addition to his teaching role, Jack studied part time at the University of Adelaide. Jack was actively involved in all aspects of the school in particular the Army Cadets and Football. He was on the committee that organised the PAC Sports and acted as a judge/starter and timekeeper at the event. Jack was on the committee of the PAC Old Scholars Association and he regularly competed in Past v Present and Old Scholars football and cricket matches. Under his leadership the PAC Cadet Team were State Champions in 1914.

Masters of Prince Alfred College (Approx 1906-09)



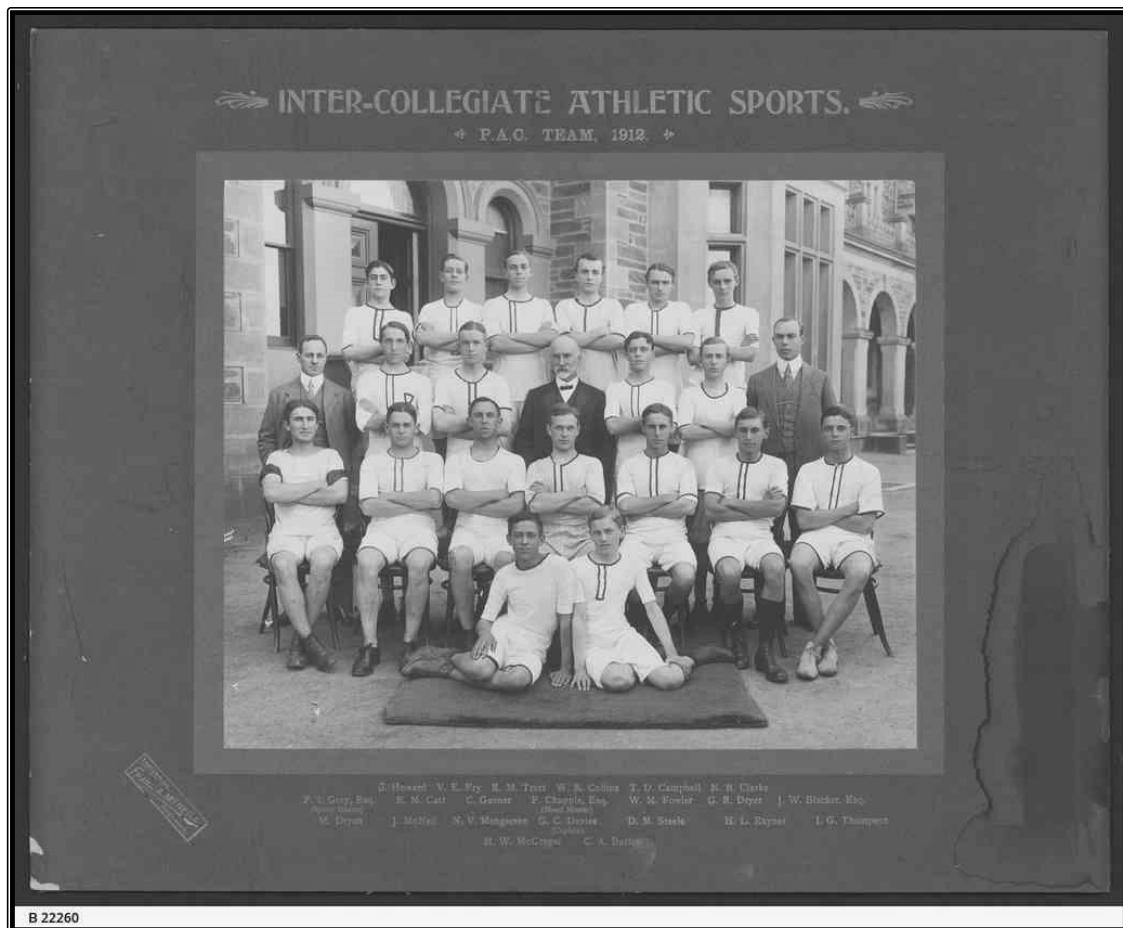
JW Blacket – Back Row – Far Right

1911 - Prince Alfred College Football Team



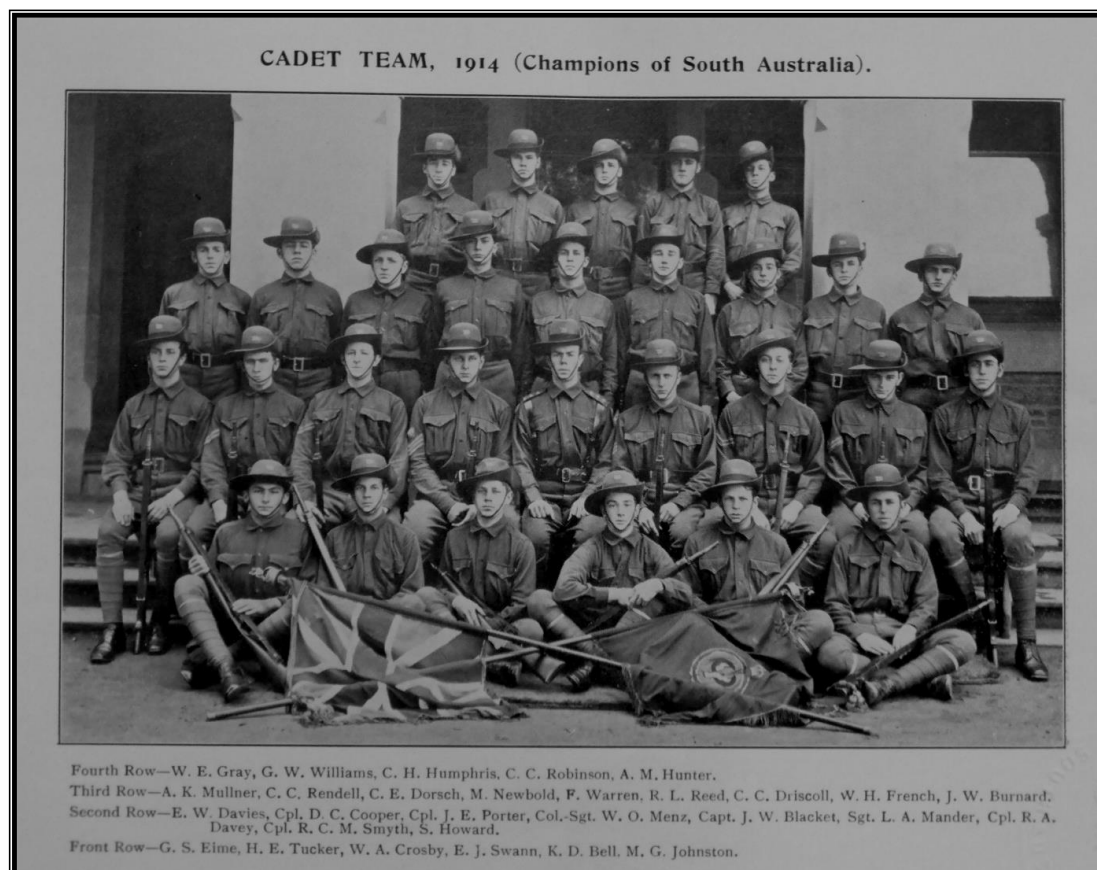
JW Blacket – Back Row – Far Right

1912 - Prince Alfred College – Intercollegiate Athletic Sports Team



J.W. Blacket Middle row far right

1914 Prince Alfred College Cadets



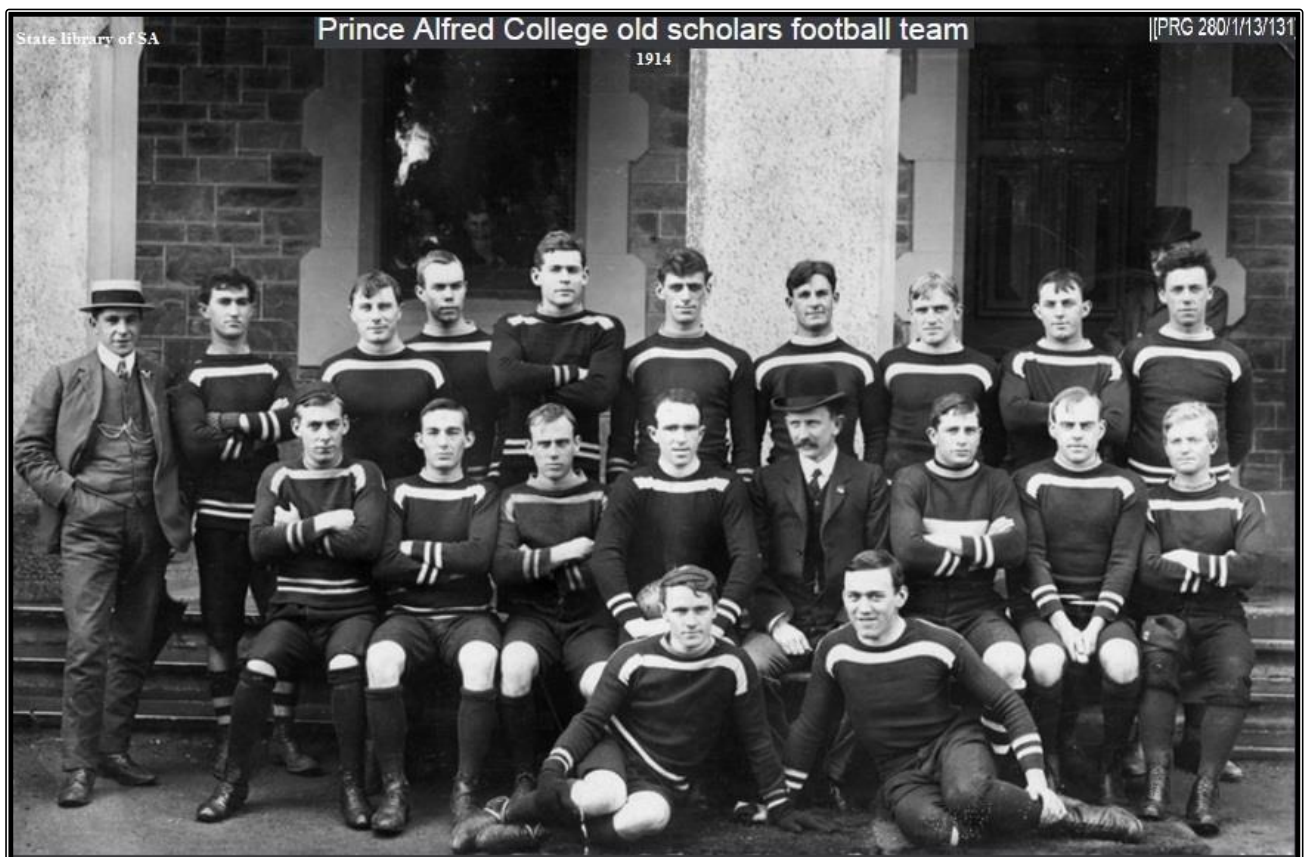
Capt. J.W. Blacket - seated centre (PAC Master & Captain of the Cadets)

1913 - Prince Alfred College – Old Scholars Football Team



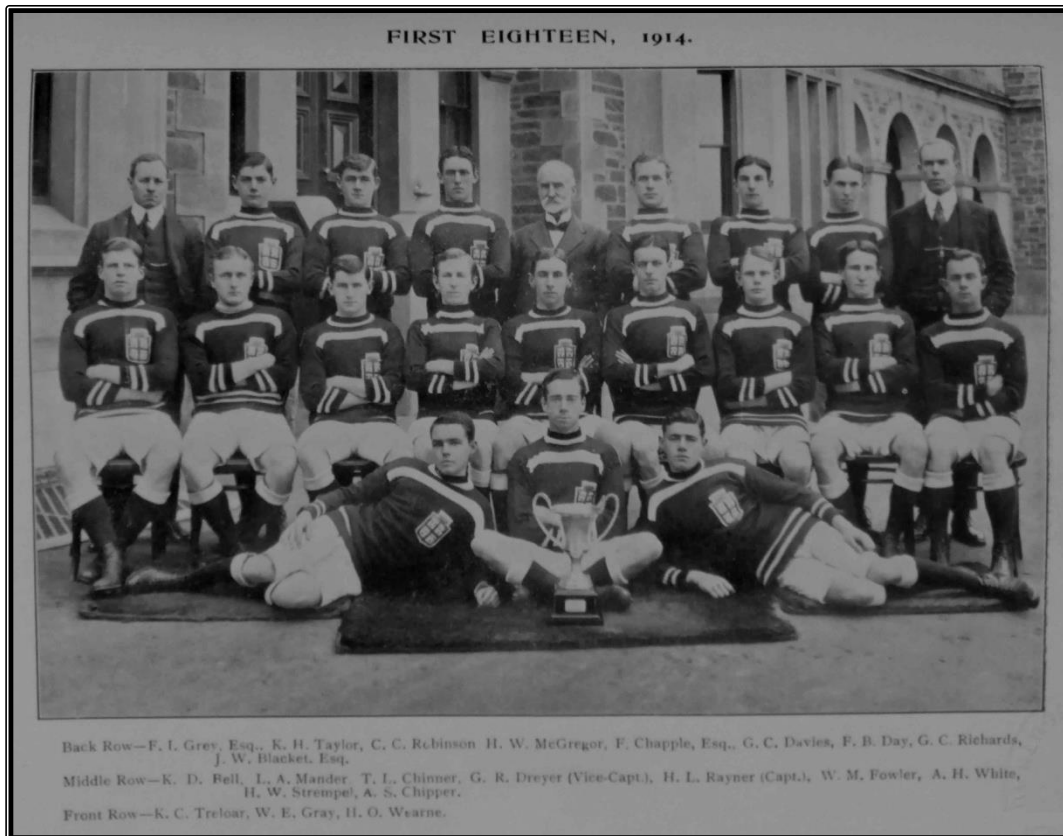
J.W. Blacket - Middle row – Fourth from Left

1914 - Prince Alfred College – Old Scholars Football Team



J.W. Blacket - Standing -4th from left

1914 - Prince Alfred College Football Team



J.W. Blacket - Standing -Back Row - Far Right

University

Jack commenced studying toward his Bachelor of Arts and Adelaide University in 1906. He was awarded Evening Scholarships in March 1906, March 1907 and May 1908. He passed first year German in November 1907 and first year Mathematics in November 1912. Jack was still studying toward his BA when he enlisted for WWI.

Adelaide University Student Card

NAME AND ADDRESS		Blacket, John Wesley, P.A.C., Kent Town					REGISTER NO.		1832		
COURSE	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF MATRICULATION	ON WAR MEMORIAL					GRADE		Grad	
SENIOR		1903 Gen, Arith & Al, Geom, Chem;									
		1904 Ling; M. 1906 Latin. HIGHER 1904 German.									
STATUS GRANTED											
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS	
1909	Latin II 2 nd time	B342	7/-								
1910	Latin II 2 nd time	B2386	7/-			B3426	7/-	B3713 1/4	N.10 F		
	Latin I							1/4	N.10 F		
1911	Latin I							B5606 1/4	N.11 F		
	Latin II							1/4	N.11 F		
1912	Pure Maths I	B6642	14/-	B7039	14/-	B8067	14/-	B7779 1/4	N.12 P II		
1913	Pure Maths II	B8814	14/-	B9048	14/-						
		Died - Great War 1914-1918 (H.A.M.)							Enlisted. — Died.		

Sport

Cricket

Jack commenced playing cricket for the University of Adelaide in the 1908/09 season. He played in at least one game in his first season and was a regular in the team in the SACA B Grade competition in the 1909/10, 1910/11 and 1911/12 seasons. Jack was a member of the side when University was defeated by East Torrens for the SACA B Grade premiership in May 1911. Jack's statistics for the 1911 season were 14 innings, 203 runs with a high score of 55 not out and an average of 16.6.

"UNIVERSITY." *Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931)* 6 May 1911

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article164723505>

UNIVERSITY.				
Played 11 matches; won 7, lost 4.				
—Batting—				
	Inn.	R.	H.S.	Avg.
H. C. Nott	4	216	110	54.5
K. Goode	7	243	102	31.8
L. G. W. Caust .. 12	335	81	27.9	
H. W. D. Stoddart .. 8	291	71*	23.8	
J. S. Blackburn .. 14	301	76	21.5	
H. Powell	7	146	92	20.8
R. R. Pavia	14	239	43	17.0
J. W. Blacket 14	223	55*	16.6	
G. Fisher	9	116	44	12.8
A. C. V. Melbourne .. 8	102	37	12.7	
J. Londrigan 7	88	44	12.5	
O. J. Murphy 6	70	27*	11.6	
G. M. Potts	11	102	39*	9.2
A. L. Pinch	9	64	39	7.1

Jack then played with University in the SACA A Grade competition in the 1912/13 and 1913/14 seasons. In his first season in the SACA A grade Jack statistics were 10 innings, 3 not out, 58 runs, highest score 27 and an average of 7.37. Jack was the A Grade wicketkeeper. He was awarded a Blue for Cricket in 1915 making him a Double Blue.

"UNIVERSITY." *The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923)* 21 April 1913

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article200873313>

UNIVERSITY.					
—Batting (24).—					
	In.	N.O.	Runs.	H.S.	Avg.
Don Steele	4	—	292	51	50.5
A. G. Moyes	6	—	275	158	45.83
H. B. Willmore .. 12	2	454	87	45.40	
C. R. Davies	9	1	296	106	37.00
C. E. Pellew	4	—	144	85	36.00
F. N. Le Messurier .. 6	2	131	37*	32.75	
A. C. Wilton	6	—	111	54	23.50
W. J. Price	7	1	81	47*	14.00
R. H. Berriman .. 4	1	34	21*	11.33	
K. N. Steele	8	—	89	42	11.12
I. B. Jose	9	1	78	19	9.75
J. W. Blacket 10	3	58	27	7.37	
I. E. Ashby	8	2	45	25	7.50
K. B. Goode	4	—	30	12	5.00
B. T. Taylor	6	—	19	8	3.16
Also batted:—L. G. Caust, 0; H. J. Penny, 3, 9, 1; L. W. Davies, 6; H. C. Thruah, 3, 3; E. P. Howard, 0; C. Richards, 0; R. R. Pavia, 4; A. Moulden, 7, 10; H. H. Swift, 0.					

In March 1913, under Jack's management, the University team made an enjoyable trip to the Barossa Valley in the Easter holidays. The team played a match against Angaston.

"CRICKET." *Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954)* 29 March 1913

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article88733762>

CRICKET.

UNIVERSITY ON TOUR.

During the Easter holidays a University team, under the management of J. Blacket, made an enjoyable trip in the Barossa district. On Saturday a match was played against Angaston at the beautiful park, presented to the township by the late Mr. J. H. Angus. The local team had first use of the wicket and put together the substantial total of 224. N. Radford briskly ran up 54 before Davies scattered his stumps with a swinging yorker. C. M. Hurn gave a delightful exhibition in making 60 not out, mainly through forceful driving and neat glancing. The wickets were evenly distributed, Willmore securing three. With under two hours in which to bat the 'Varsity gave the spectators an exhibition of fearless hitting. Pellew led the way with 95. He treated the bowling with scant respect, and seven times the ball was lifted out of the playing space. Hurley 38, Jose 30, and Moyes 25 were the other scorers in the total of 100 runs for seven wickets. Nettell secured four wickets, but proved expensive. On Easter Monday, at the Gawler Oval, a picked team from the Gawler Association notched 247 runs. C. B. Wasley secured 91 by hard driving and beautiful cutting. He is undoubtedly a fine batsman, and would be a credit to any A grade team. May, with some fine off strokes, ran to 26, and Beadnell made 32 not out. Jose, Harden, and Pinch secured most of the wickets. University again went in for free batting, and totalled 160 runs for four wickets. C. R. Davies put plenty of force into a well-compiled innings of 68. Pinch secured 23, and Colley remained not out with 33. Rudall secured two of the wickets. Heavy showers began to fall, and stumps were drawn, thus leaving the match unfinished. While in Angaston the team, in conjunction with the Coromandel Valley cricketers, were entertained at a smoke social by the Angaston club, at which Mr. W. Hague, M.P., presided. A visit was paid to the well-known Yalumba winery, where the visitors were conducted over the premises by Mr. H. Yates, who during the stay in Angaston spared no effort to make it a pleasurable outing. At Gawler the visitors were entertained at dinner by the Gawler Association, and received a warm welcome from Mr. Rudall, jun. The following made the trip:—C. R. Davies, M. Fisher, V. Gent, H. J. Harden, L. Hurley, I. B. Jose, A. Q. Moyes, C. E. Pellew, A. L. Pinch, K. N. Steele, R. T. Taylor, H. B. Willmore, and J. W. Blacket.

Angaston versus Coromandel Valley.—Good Friday. Angaston, 96: F. Chinner 31, E. Thamm 30; W. Cutler six wickets for 25, C. Nettell three wickets for 21. Coromandel Valley, 88; Hewett 21, Adey 18, Wicker 16; James three for 34, Wicker five for 46.

Angaston versus University A.—Easter Saturday. Angaston, 224: N. Radford 54, G. Chinner 23, Yates 28, Thamm 19, Hurn 60 not out; Nettell four for 83, Chinner 72. 'Varsity, seven for 100; Pellew 61, J. Moyes 21, Hurley 31; Harden two for 33, Willmore three for 43, Moyes one for 16, Pellew two for 14, Jose one for 4.

Jack was no longer eligible to play for AUCC in the 1914/15 season and it was suggested he would be playing for East Torrens for whom he was residentially bound. He does not appear to have played at East Torrens owing to his commitments with the Citizens Forces and his enlistment for WWI. The unavailability of other University players due to military service resulted in the cancellation of the 1915 Inter-'Varsity contest against Melbourne.

Referee (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939) 11 August 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article129355091>

Touching on this matter, Mr. A. G. Moyes, the brilliant young South Australian batsman, who is hon. secretary of the Adelaide University C.C., writes me from the Officers' School, Mitcham Camp:—"Re our desire to establish the inter-'Varsity match this year, or at least the attempts to secure one. The idea is now impossible. Out of last year's team we have J. W. Blacket, K. N. Steele, W. O. Jose, R. G. Horwood, and F. W. Le Messurier at the front, C. E. Pellew and myself are in camp, and D. M. Steele and I. B. Jose will be in camp in about six weeks. So you see nine of our eleven are off to fight for their country. Of the interstate team, G. C. Campbell, H. P. James, C. E. Pellow, W. S. Stirling, and yours truly have enlisted, and D. M. Steele and W. D. Price will be along shortly. Besides, K. N. Steele, E. Kitson, G. S. Down, C. Backman, C. F. Drew, all of whom have represented the State during my time, are at the front. Six second-grade players have gone, too. It seems to me that South Australia leads the way. I may not be able to be in Sydney before leaving for the front, so will wish you and the 'Ref.' good luck, and hope to once again play cricket on the dear old Sydney ground."

Football

Jack played football for the Norwood Football Club in the South Australian Football League during 1907-1909 seasons. He played nine A Grade games in 1907 and two in 1909. Jack also represented Norwood at a match against the Gawler Association in August 1908. In a trial game before the 1909 season he was described as a sturdy fellow.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912) 21 August 1908

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article208639607>

Saturday's Matches.

NORWOOD V. GAWLER ASSOCIATION

A match between members of the Norwood Club and the Gawler Association will be played at Gawler to-morrow afternoon. The red and blues will leave Adelaide by a special train at 1.30 p.m., and will be represented by eighteen of the following:—C. and L. Chamberlain, L. L. and L. R. Hill, Harvey, Hunt, Hutton, McGavish, Murphy, Jona, Plunkett, Robin, Gibbons, Padman, Searey, Mitchell, Blacket, Morrison, and Miller.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931) 1 May 1909

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article164679814>

Those who went to the Kensington Oval expecting to see the full Norwood team pitted against St. Bartholomew were disappointed, because only seven of the old red-and-blues took the field. These were Stoddart, Padman, Bahr, L. Hill, McGavish, Plunkett, and Murphy. The remainder of the eighteen comprised juniors, and new men. The most likely of the former are Cope and Campbell, while Copeland, Thomas, Taylor, and F. Leahy should constitute a resourceful reserve. Cope, who is a good mark, and quick on his feet, somewhat resembles McGavish, the fleet red-and-blue wingman. Campbell is more nuggety, and apparently full of grit. It is pleasing to hear that J. Blacket—the sturdy built fellow whose shooting for goal in 1907 reminded many of Dean Dawson's familiar style—will probably be included in the forward division.

In 1909 and 1911, Jack played football for the St Bartholomew's Football Team and he was the team's Vice Captain in the first year of the Amateur League competition in 1911. He represented the Amateur League at a match against the Gawler Association in July 1911. He scored 12 goals for St Bartholomew's in the 1911 season.

"FOOTBALL. AMATEUR LEAGUE'S GAWLER TRIP."

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924) 25 July 1911

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article105325059>

FOOTBALL.

AMATEUR LEAGUE'S GAWLER TRIP.

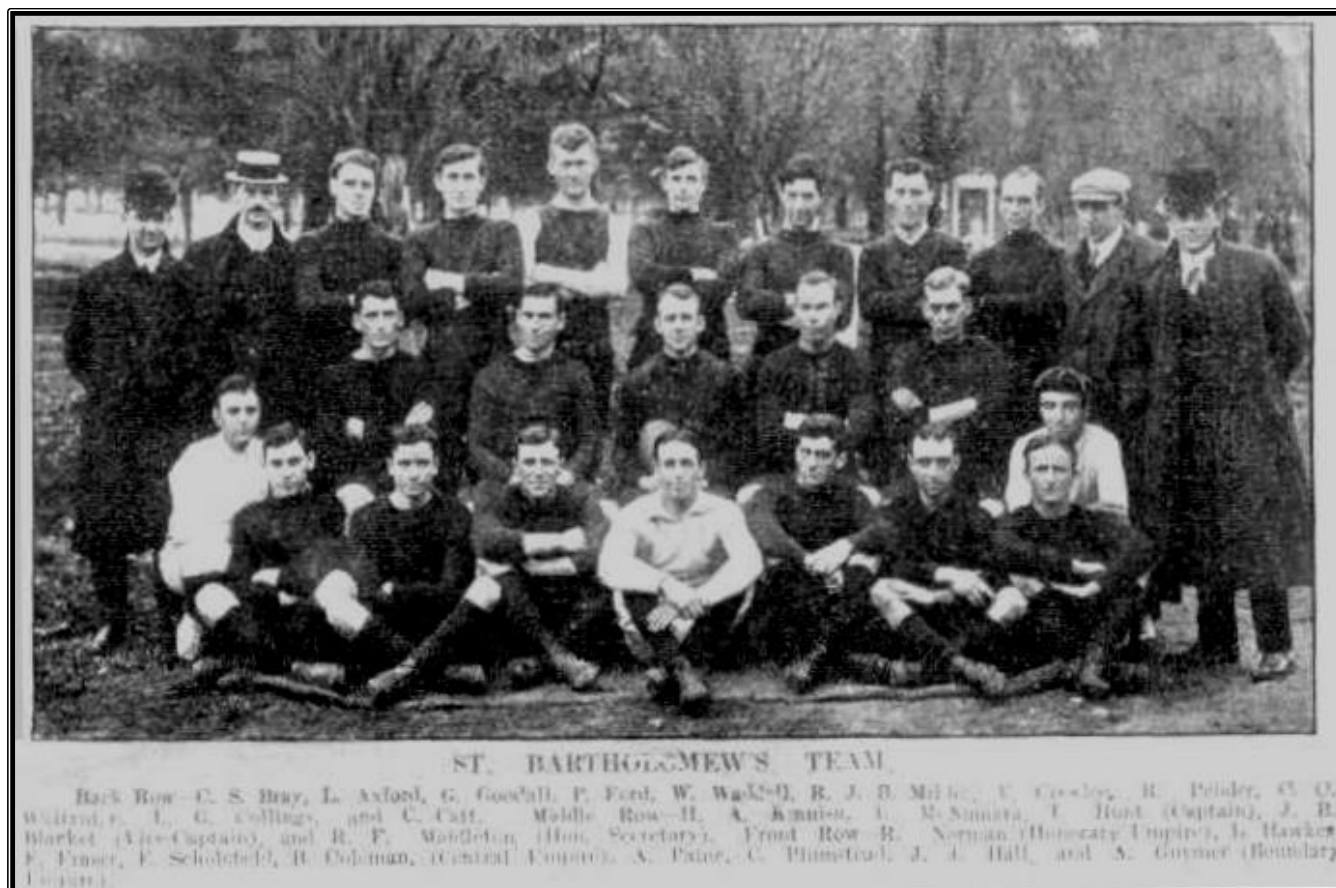
The following team has been chosen to represent the Amateur League in the match with the Gawler Association at Gawler on Saturday next:—C. F. Drew (captain), F. Le Messurier, E. Jones, J. Londrigan, K. Steele, H. Willamore, Seymour Smith (University Club), D. Giles, G. Taylor, W. Jervois, H. Burford (Glanferrie Club), J. Blacket, R. F. Middleton, and H. A. Kinnish (St. Bartholomew's Club). B. J. Kisen, J. Conlin, T. Tymons (vice-captain, St. Francis Xavier), H. W. Granly (Mariborough); emergency, B. Taylor (St. Francis Xavier). As Conlin has injured his knee since the selection of the team his place will be taken by Taylor.

1911 - St Bartholomew's Team

"AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE."

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954) 30 September 1911

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article88738721>



JW Blacket – Middle Row (Seated) – Second from Left

Jack first represented Adelaide University in the IntersVarsity match played against Melbourne University in 1908. He played in five IntersVarsity matches (1908, 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1914). There was no IntersVarsity in 1909 and Jack was injured in 1913. He was awarded a Blue for Football in 1912 and was the captain of the 1914 IntersVarsity team that defeated Melbourne for the first time. Jack also represented the University in matches against PAC in 1911, and St Peter's College in 1912 and 1913.

1908 Adelaide University IntersVarsity Team



J.W. Blacket – Front Row – Far Left

Back row: G. Earle (boundary umpire), B. Hand (Hon. Sec.), H.V. Lampe, W.J. Ford (boundary umpire).

3rd row: H. Humphries, R.H. Begg, S.W. Jeffries, H.S. Annells, V. Cresdee, W.W. Cooper, W.B. Angwin.

2nd row: J. Jona, C.F. Drew, D.R.W. Cowan, H.W.D. Stoddart (Captain), W.A.V. Drew, A.C. Wilton, E. Holder.

Front row: J.W. Blacket, R.A. Goode, H.R. Reynolds (Central umpire), L.H. Haslam, O.J. Murphy.

1910 INTER-VARSITY TEAM



BACK ROW: Boundary Umpire, H.B. Willsmore, S.W. Matters, S.W. Jeffries, J.W. Blacket, L.A. Hayward, A.C. Wilton, L.H. Haslam, Boundary Umpire.
MIDDLE ROW: L.W. Davies, O.J. Murphy, E.B. Jones (Vice-Captain), H.W.D. Stoddart (Captain), J.W. Londrigan, C.F. Drew, W.W. Cooper.
FRONT ROW: K.A. McCarthy, F.S. Smith, W. Plunkett (Central Umpire), F.N. Le Messurier, K.N. Steele.

JW Blacket – Back Row – Fifth from Right

1914 IntersVarsity Team



BACK ROW: T.B. Sard, W.J. Phillips, A.E. Williams, J.B. Laurie, C.R. Cole, W.J. Price, A.H. Limb, E.G. Dorsch.
L. Carthew, J.D. Northley, C. Gurner.
MIDDLE ROW: N.V. Mengerson, C.E. Pellew, L.A. Hayward (Vice-Captain), J.W. Blacket (Captain), D.M. Steele, W.A. Rollison.
FRONT ROW: L.G. Holmes, F.E. Williams, H.C. Thrush, W.O. Jose.

JW Blacket – Middle Row – Third from Right

Jack played for the AUFC team in Amateur League competition from 1912-1914. He was the club Coach in 1913 and 1914 and A Grade Captain in 1914.

Adelaide University Football Club

75th Anniversary 1906-1981

J.W. Blacket



John was involved with football at the University over a seven year period from 1908 to 1914. He played Inter-Varsity football in 1908 and 1910 (there was no match in 1909) during the time that the Club had no regular team and called on League players and others to make up the side. He also played eleven games for Norwood during the period 1907-1909.

He became a regular member of the Club upon the formation of Amateur League in 1911 and went on to captain the side in 1913 and 1914. He also played Inter-Varsity in these years except 1913 which he missed due to injury, was awarded a Blue in 1912 and was wicket keeper for the University Eleven.

In his capacity as a teacher at PAC, John coached the school football team in 1913 and 1914 and also coached the school cadet side to the State Championship of 1913.

John was also interested in administration and was on the Committee of the PAC Old Scholars from 1913 to 1915, and became Chairman of the South Australian Amateur Football League in 1914.

At the outbreak of World War I he enlisted and reached the rank of Brigadier Major at the age of thirty. He was killed in action in France on July 4, 1916.

World War I

Jack was on the committee which organise a function at the Town Hall in October 1914 to farewell Old Collegians of St Peter's and PAC who had joined the Australian Expeditionary Forces.

"FAREWELL TO OLD COLLEGIANS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE."

Australian Christian Commonwealth (SA : 1901 - 1940) 18 September 1914

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article214055888>

Mr. W. R. Pybus (city organist) presided at the organ, and the success of the gathering was in a measure due to the committee, Messrs. A. E. H. Evans, C. R. Chambers, H. W. A. Miller, J. W. Blacket, and L. Shuttleworth. The Old Boys (numbering nearly 200) will worthily represent their colleges in upholding the best traditions of the Empire.

By the end of December 1914 it had been reported in the South Australian newspapers that Jack had volunteered for the Third Expeditionary Force and had been granted an extended leave of absence from PAC. Jack, as a member of the Citizens Forces was already involved in training recruits in camp and had organised the military sports at the Oaklands camp in December 1914.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 30 December 1914

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59937296>

Mr. J. W. Blacket, who was for some years on the teaching staff of Prince Alfred College, has volunteered for the Third Expeditionary Force, and has been granted by the college committee extended leave of absence.

Jack applied for a commission in the AIF on the 30th January 1915. He was 5'10½" tall and weighed 154 lbs. Jack had been a Captain in the 78th Battalion Senior Cadets for 9 years and had served as Area Officer for 78B for three months prior to his application.

He was appointed a Lieutenant in the 10th Battalion on the 10th February 1915. Jack was transferred to the 24th Battalion on the 16th March 1915 but was subsequently changed to the 27th Battalion.

Jack was a judge at the PAC Sports on the 10th April 1915.

He was also present at farewells given by the Cheer Up Society and the PAC Old Scholars Association in May 1915.

"27 TH INFANTRY BATTALION."

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 24 April 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60744344>

27TH INFANTRY BATTALION.

The Full Roll.

The following are the officers and men (with their regimental numbers) comprising the 27th Infantry Battalion, encamped at Mitcham. With the exception of possible slight changes, the list below is complete:—

—Headquarters.—

C.O. Lieut.-Col. W. Dollman, V.D.
Adjutant-Lieut. J. W. Blacket.
Q.M. Lieut. S. A. Uffindell.
T.O. Lieut. T. H. Lonnen.
M.G.S. Lieut. H. E. Malpas.
Signr. Off. Lieut. C. H. Bath.
M.O. Capt. C. Marshall.

"TO THE FRONT."

The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954) 8 May 1915: 6 (SATURDAY'S NEWS SECTION)

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59301050>

The Cheer-up Society has richly earned its title, and once again this afternoon its members proved what real friends they are to the soldiers. The main hall and both annexes of the Exhibition Building were wholly occupied with tables laden with delicious eatables. Under the able direction of the secretary (Mrs. C. Seager), complete arrangements were made for the providing of dinner, and the men appreciated this kindness to the full. To Mesdames G. Webb, George McEwin, and Temple special thanks are due for the manner the tables were arranged, under their direction. They were assisted by over 100 members of the society, and the ladies experienced a very busy time indeed.

The top table was decorated with scarlet flowers in honour of the departing troops. Mr. W. J. Sowden (President of the Society) occupied the chair, and was supported by His Excellency the Governor, the Attorney-General (Hon. J. H. Vaughan), Lieut.-Col. Dollman, Bishop Thomas, Rep. Glynn, Capt E. C. Padman, Lieut. J. W. Blacket, and Chaplain Capt. G. T. Walden.

"OLD P.A.C. BOYS ENTERTAINED."

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) 28 May 1915: 4 (SPECIAL WAR EDITION <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article209988086>

Lieutenant J. W. Blacket, who on rising was accorded an ovation, said he appreciated the invitation to the school to be present on an occasion of that kind. He was looking forward with great hopes, and expected to embark in a few days. A lot of hard training would have to be faced before the cadet corps would be ready for actual service. (Cheers.)

Jack's unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A2 *Geelong* on 31 May 1915. The 27th arrived in Egypt and Jack was present at an Old Reds' Smoke Social held in Cairo on the 16th July 1915.

PAC Chronicle - 1915

Old Reds' Smoke Social in Cairo.

Twenty-five Old Reds who are members of the expeditionary forces in Egypt assembled in the Heliopolis Hotel, at Cairo, on July 16, to celebrate Old Scholars' Week. The evening took the form of a smoke social. Captain Padman was elected chairman. After the loyal toast had been honoured, Captain Padman said that the occasion was a unique one. Never before had a number of Old Princes gathered under similar circumstances. He referred to the red-and-white band he was wearing, and which is the badge of the military police, and said that the grand old colours to-night signified that he was on duty as captain of the Cairo Guard. This would necessitate his early departure from the meeting, but he trusted that all would enjoy a pleasant evening, and he was glad of the opportunity of being present, if only for a little while, at this unique gathering.

After Captain Padman had retired, the chair was taken by Lieut. Blacket, and the proceedings took the form of a social chat. Stories of school days and comments on the work of the morrow were exchanged, and refreshments were handed round.

Jack was promoted to the rank of Captain on the 20th August 1915. On the 4th September 1915 he left with the 27th from Alexandrina, Egypt onboard the HT 'Ivernia'. Prior to arrival at Gallipoli Jack had been the battalions Adjutant but due to a Major Padman being unfit, he was appointed to the command of 'C' Company of the 27th on the 10th September 1915. He was a member of the 27th Battalion which landed at Gallipoli on 13th September 2015.

The battalion took over from the New Zealanders on Cheshire ridge and the trenches needed improving and it was during this that Jack was slightly wounded on 24th September 2015. He was the first officer from the 27th wounded at Gallipoli. He was wounded more seriously the next day by a bomb. His first wound was treated by the 7th Field Ambulance and the second by the 16th Casualty Clearing Station.

On the 25th September 1915 he was transferred to the Hospital Ship "Grampion" and on the 28th September 1915 the 'Grampion' departed from Mudros (a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos) bound for England.

Jack's younger brother Joseph enlisted on the 17th May 1915 and his unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAA A61 'Kanowna' on 23 June 1915. Joe was a Corporal in the 27th Battalion and was at Gallipoli by the time Jack was wounded. Both the Blacket boys wrote to their parents in August 1915 (see below).

"LETTERS FROM THE FRONT."

Australian Christian Commonwealth (SA : 1901 - 1940) 22 October 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article214059169>

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

By the last mail the Rev. J. Blacket received letters from his sons at the front, from which the following are extracts:—

Corporal J. A. Blacket, writing on August 31, says:—"We received orders yesterday to be ready to move in a day or two. It came out in orders that Thursday was the day. We will be landing somewhere in Gallipoli. Still send your letters to the same address. Whatever happens, so long as I do my share, I shall feel perfectly satisfied."

On August 28, Captain J. W. Blacket writes:—"In this war there seems to be a great number of casualties, and one never knows whose turn it will be to go next." After an injunction not to worry on his account, the writer says:—"I only want to have the satisfaction of knowing that I am doing my job, and doing it satisfactorily. I should never have been satisfied to stop out of this, and to know that many another was losing his life for me. I am quite satisfied that I have done right, and I am contented and happy. I trust that God will bless all my dear ones at home, and my many other friends in South Australia."

Since the above was written the Rev. J. Blacket has received information from the Defence authorities that his son, Captain Blacket, was wounded, and on Sunday last a cable was received from London stating that he was not wounded seriously and was doing well.

"LETTERS FROM THE FRONT."

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) 13 November 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8655519>

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN J. W. BLACKET.

By the last mail the Rev. J. Blacket received letters from his son (Captain J. W. Blacket), describing his experiences and the landing of the 27th Battalion at Gallipoli. He states that it was marvellous how the original historic landing was effected in face of the difficulties by which the men were confronted. The casualties in the 27th Battalion, at the time of writing, had not been many. A constant source of danger was the snipers. It was to one of these that he fell a victim. In his letter he says:—"I had been supervising some of my men who were engaged in constructing defences just in rear of my company's portion of the firing line. We had just about finished the work, and were standing up talking, when one of my lance-corporals and myself were both hit in the back by rifle bullets coming from snipers. Unfortunately I expect the corporal is dead by now, as the bullet, I believe, went right through him. He was badly wounded. Mine got me in the slant, just behind the right shoulder blade, and the bullet is still lodged in the flesh of the back somewhere. A couple of my lads tied me up with a first field dressing, and took me to our regimental doctor. I was then carried two miles round the beach, placed on a lighter, and eventually put on a hospital ship. I can walk all over the ship and eat anything, but it is not very nice to know that you are leaving all the other boys, and have hardly done any fighting yourself. . . . By the time this reaches you I hope I shall have rejoined. I don't like parting from my boys, and want to be back again." A letter received from J. A. Blacket, describing how his brother (the captain) was wounded, states that the lance-corporal, who was struck at the same time, died half-an-hour later.

On the 11th October 1915 Jack was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital, England. When he has sufficiently recovered he was billeted at the home of Mrs Webb, Church St, Leatherhead, Surrey. Jack was eager to rejoin his battalion and wrote the War Office stating that he did not require leave.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)

31 December 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59985117>

BIOGRAPHICAL.

CAPT. J. W. BLACKET.

The Rev. J. Blacket has received a letter from his son (Capt. J. W. Blacket) stating that he has recovered from his wound. He adds:—"I have written to the War Office, stating that I am quite fit, and do not require my leave." Since the receipt of this letter the following official communication has come to hand:—"I beg to advise you that Capt. J. W. Blacket has returned to duty. In the event of any further reports being received concerning the above soldier you will be immediately notified."

On the 19th December 1915 Jack left England for Egypt onboard the HT 'Ionic' and arrived at Alexandrina, Egypt on the 2nd January 1916. He rejoined his battalion on the 11th January 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt. Later in January he was appointed Adjutant and attached to the 7th Infantry Brigade Headquarters, Ismalia.

On the return trip from England to Egypt, the HT 'Ionic' was somewhere Crete when it was narrowly missed by a torpedo fired from a submarine.

"Missed by Torpedo."

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) - 11 February 1916

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59799224>

Missed by Torpedo.

The Rev. J. Blacket has received from his son, Capt. J. W. Blacket, a letter which describes a narrow escape from a torpedo. Having recovered from his wound received at Gallipoli, Capt. Blacket, in company with English and Australian officers and troops, was on his way from England to —, and had spent a happy Christmas on board. The letter, dated "Mediterranean, December 31," says:—"We have just had another trying experience; but, owing to the kindness of Providence, we escaped. I was having a 'haircut' in the barber shop, when the alarm was sounded. Going on deck, I saw a long white streak running parallel with our course. This turned out to be a torpedo, which had been fired at us by a submarine. She missed us by a few yards, and we immediately turned end on to her, and went at full steam, so that she is not likely to worry us again. Several of us saw the wake of the torpedo, and two saw the periscope of the submarine. She did not come to the surface, so that we could not get a shot at her. This happened near Crete, somewhere nigh the place where the Ville de la Ciotat was torpedoed on Christmas Eve."

On the 14th March 1916, Jack left Egypt via Alexandrina. He disembarked at Marseilles', France on the 19th March. He was detached temporarily to act as RTO until the 4th April 1916 when he rejoined the 27th. He was reattached to the 7th Brigade Headquarters from the 13th to the 20th May 1916. Jack then rejoined the 27th Battalion.

Death

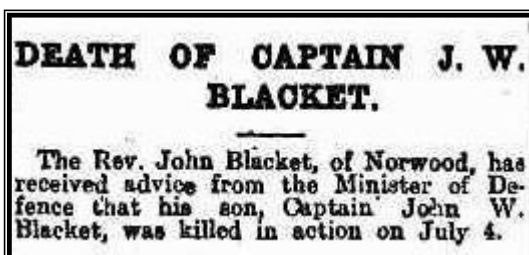
On 4 July 1916, whilst the 27th were in the trenches opposite Messines (West Flanders, Belgium), 'A' Company under Captain JW Blacket held the right of the 27th's position. The Germans opened up a bombardment on the positions. At 11.00 am on returning to his headquarters after inspecting the line with a Lt Hosking, he and Hosking stopped to talk to a Lt Walker. A high explosive shell exploded near them and killed Blacket and Hosking and seriously wounded Walker. The sad thing is that they were meant to be relieved at midnight that night.

Jack was buried in a cemetery near La petit Douve Farm. It was mentioned in the battalion history that the way to the cemetery was 'swept with machine gun fire'. Senior Chaplain Crookston officiated at the service.

"DEATH OF CAPTAIN J. W. BLACKET."

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) 21 July 1916: 1 (SPECIAL WAR EDITION)

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article210625186>



Jack was also Mentioned in Dispatches "For conspicuous good work with his Battalion and while acting as Brigade Major from March to June 1916, when he was killed." Date of recommendation 17 September 1916.

Schedule No.		Unit	Regt. No.	Rank and Name	Action for which commended	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(to be left blank)
7th Aust. Infantry		27th Bn. A.I.F.		Major Trevor Russell CUNNINGHAM. (Killed)	For gallant conduct and useful work in the action of POZIERES RIDGE on 4/5th August 1916. He led his men across from a communication trench in the attack which was successful, though he was killed in the attempt.	J. W. Blacket	Mention in Despatches	
				Captain John Wesley BLACKET. (Killed)	For conspicuous good work with his Battalion and while acting as Brigade Major from March to June 1916, when he was killed.		do.	
				Lieut. R.H. BOONES. (Died of Wounds)	Displayed conspicuous gallantry in the operations on POZIERES RIDGE 4/5th August 1916. Was severely wounded and has since died of wounds.		do.	

Three days before his death, Jack had written a letter to his parents. A portion of Jack's letter and the accompanying letter from Jack's CO were published in August 1916.

"THE LATE CAPT. BLACKET." *The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)* 23 August 1916

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60615683>

THE LATE CAPT. BLACKET.

By the mail just to hand the Rev. J. Blacket received his son's last letter, also letters from officers of the battalion describing the circumstances under which Capt. J. W. Blacket fell. In the letter to his parents, he says:—"We have had a lot of casualties, and I have lost some good men. Two jolly fine boys, whom I used to teach (in another company), were killed the other day—George Davies (son of Dr. Davies), and a lad named Godfrey. Davies had already been recommended for a decoration for bringing in wounded; and Godfrey, when killed, was digging out a comrade who had been buried by a shell. However, these deeds live, and add lustre to the regiment's name. The trouble is that so many are hit through going to the assistance of others when under fire. This is strictly against orders, but the spirit of these lads is such that it cannot be suppressed." The letter from which the above extract is taken was written on July 1. Three days later Capt. Blacket was killed by a shell. Writing to his parents, the Commanding Officer of the Battalion says:—"His passing away is a heavy blow to every one in the battalion. I personally feel the loss very keenly. He was closely associated with me in the formation of the battalion, and his work was worthy of him. I deeply sympathize with you in his death, and can assure you his place can never be adequately filled." Another officer writes from the front as follows:—"I feel I must write to tell you how I sympathize with you in your great trouble. Ever since I joined the regiment as a stranger to my brother-officers, Jack, by his unfailing courtesy and friendly manner, made me feel as if I were among friends instead of strangers. . . . We were both holding our line, he on the right, with his company, and I on the left with mine, and although close to one another we could not see each other's trench. When the news came along of Capt. Blacket's death it fell to my lot to tell young Joe (his brother), and my heart went out to him. . . . As one who knows this regiment, let me say that one and all of us mourn your loss. You have lost a dear son; we have lost a brave and fearless soldier, a great friend." The Senior Chaplain, in a letter says:—"Our men had a pretty rough time, and it was on the morning of the day that they left the trenches for a rest that your son was killed. Lieut. Hosking was killed at the same time, also Cpl. Foord, and Lieut. Walker was much shattered. Only a couple of minutes before your son's death he gave his steel helmet to a private, who had been almost covered with earth thrown up by a shell. It was an act that became the man, and was in keeping with the reputation he had among the officers and men."

Many moving tributes to Jack were published in the South Australian papers. A memorial service was held at the Wesley Church, Norwood in August 1916 and a memorial photograph was later unveiled at the Sydenham Road Methodist Church.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 22 July 1916

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60611017>

CHEER-UP SOCIETY.

The organizer of the Cheer-up Society writes:— General regret is felt at the news "killed in action" of one of our best friends, Major J. W. Blacket. In the early days of the society, Major (then Lieut.) Blacket rendered splendid assistance, and the programme of military sports held at Oaklands Camp on Christmas Day, 1914, was arranged by him.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 21 July 1916

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60614482>

News has been received in Adelaide that Capt. John Wesley Blackett has been killed in action. Capt. Blacket, who left Adelaide as adjutant to the 27th Battalion, under Col. Dollman, was an officer esteemed by all ranks on account of his soldierly qualities. He especially endeared himself to the hearts of all those who served under him at Gallipoli. The eldest son of the Rev. J. Blacket, of Sydenham road, Norwood, the late Capt. Blacket would have been 32 years of age on Thursday. He went to Prince Alfred College in 1901, and after a successful career, both in the classrooms and the sports field, joined the teaching staff, on which he remained until the time of his enlistment. While teaching at the college he threw himself very heartily into cadet work, and took the winning team of cadets from this State to Brisbane two or three years ago. He succeeded Major Oldham, who was killed in the first landing at Gallipoli, as area officer for the area 78B. After having been on Gallipoli for about a fortnight, he was wounded and taken to London, where in hospital he occupied the next bed to that of Lieut. Throssell, V.C., an old schoolmate of his. When he had recovered from his wound he was sent back to Egypt, and later left again for the firing line. The late Capt. Blacket was a member of the Norwood football team for three or four seasons, and was a strong back man and follower. He was also associated with the St. Bartholomew's and University teams, and was captain of the latter club. He was a delegate to the Amateur Football League. He had numerous friends in Adelaide, and great sympathy is felt for his relatives. The Rev. J. Blacket has another son serving with the 27th Battalion.

BIOGRAPHICAL PARTICULARS

THE LATE CAPTAIN J. W. BLACKET.

The Rev. John Blacket, of Norwood, on July 29 received advice from the Minister of Defence that his son, Captain John W. Blacket, was killed in action on July 4. The deceased officer, who enlisted in Adelaide, left as adjutant to the 27th Battalion under Colonel Dollman, and he was widely esteemed. He went to Prince Alfred College in 1891, and afterwards joined the teaching staff at the college, where he remained until he enlisted. He was an enthusiastic worker among the cadets at the college, and he succeeded



The late Captain Blacket.

Major Oldham (killed in the landing at Gallipoli) as area officer for the 73B district. Lieutenant Blacket spent a fortnight with the troops on Gallipoli, and after being wounded was taken to England. On leaving the hospital he returned to Egypt, and later on left again for the front. He was a prominent athlete, and for several years was wicket keeper in the University A grade cricket team. He was a prominent member of the Norwood football team for three seasons. He was also captain of the University team in the Amateur Football League, and was a delegate to that body. Captain Blacket was in his 30th year. The Rev. J. Blacket has another son serving with the 27th Battalion.



"THE LATE CAPTAIN J. W. BLACKET AND LIEUTENANT W. W. HOSKING."

The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) 10 August 1916: 2 (SPECIAL WAR EDITION).

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article209692284>

THE LATE CAPTAIN J. W. BLACKET
AND LIEUTENANT W. W. HOSKING.
A mournful interest is attached to the last letter received from Captain J. W. Blacket. Speaking of the officers in his company, he says:—"I have Paterson, John, W. W. Hosking, and Walker with me, and they are a jolly fine hard-working team. In fact, I could not wish to have better fellows, and they are asked to do some pretty hard and wearisome jobs at times." Both Captain Blacket and his lieutenant (W. W. Hosking, of the Semaphore) fell on the same day, July 4.

"RELIGIOUS NOTES." *The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)* 12 August 1916

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60612666>

—The Late Capt. J. W. Blacket:—
University students, particularly, will regret to hear of the death of Capt. John Wesley Blacket, who was killed in action at the front. In 1902 "Layman" sat in the same form with that fine young officer at Prince Alfred College, and the happy memories that followed in later years are still firmly impressed upon the writer's mind. Capt. Blacket developed into a manly broad-minded student and a sportsman, and those who accompanied him on cricketing tours to the country found in the young officer, who has paid the price of Empire, all the assets of a gentleman. He was the son of the Rev. John Blacket, of Norwood, a scholarly Methodist clergyman. A memorial service will be held at Wesley Church, Norwood, to-morrow evening. Chaplain-Capt. W. Jeffries, Rev. S. Kessell and Mr. W. R. Bayly, B.A., B.Sc. (head master of Prince Alfred College), will be the speakers. The central portion of the church will be reserved for Prince Alfred old collegians.

"PERSONAL NEWS." *The Express and Telegraph* (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922)

8 November 1916: 1 (SPECIAL WAR EDITION)

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article210630099>



Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924) - 14 August 1916

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article105361741>

It must have been a crumb of comfort for the bereaved Blacket family to have seen last evening the sympathy which was felt for them in the loss of their son (Captain Blacket), who was killed recently. A memorial service was held in the Wesley Church, Norwood, and the place was packed to the doors, hundreds of people being turned away. Rev. John and Mrs. Blacket (parents), the fallen soldier's brothers (including two who are leaving for the front shortly), and sisters were present. A large number of the boys from Prince Alfred College, where Captain Blacket was a master when he enlisted, were in attendance and the military forces were also represented. Mr. Bayly (headmaster of Prince Alfred College) paid a singularly eloquent tribute to the man, his character and work. Chaplain-Captain W. Jeffries was the preacher for the evening. He took his text from 1 Corinthians xvi, 13: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." That, he said, was his ideal of the Christian warrior, and when they saw that text they saw Captain Blacket. The choir rendered the anthems "Crossing the Bar" and "Who are these that are Arrayed in White Robes?" The service, which was most impressive throughout, concluded with one of Captain Blacket's favorite hymns, "Peace, Perfect Peace." Rev. S. Kessell assisted in the service.



Capt. J.W. Blacket

Who will readily forget the noon of Thursday, July 20? For then we received the sad news that the Great Reaper had called to the Hall of heroes the brave soul of John Wesley Blacket. Who can depict the grief and shock which came upon all of us? For a moment, it seemed, things stood still. Nothing could be more impressive than the poignant grief – suppressed yet unconcealed – of masters and boys, when at a special assembly the Head Master announced that Capt. Blacket had been “killed in action on France on July 4th.” He has fallen on the field of battle, charging, no doubt, amid the reek of war. And this is as we, who knew him best, would have it: for John, as he was affectionately called by all, was the highest type of British valour – dogged, indomitable. He entered Prince Alfred in 1901, at the age of fourteen, and 1905 found him at the head of the boarding school. He then joined the teaching staff, and gave ten of his best years up to the interests of his old school. With him the college ranked first, and no more loyal supporter could be found. As a member of the committee of the Old Scholars’ Association from 1913-15 he did much to further the interests of the Association. As a member of the staff, he was especially interested in the cadets and football. In 1913 and 1914 he coached our football team, and he trained the cadet team when it won the state championship in 1913. His work and manly qualities were also recognised outside his school. He was chairman of the South Australian Amateur Football League, captain of the university football team, as well as wicketkeeper for the University eleven. Both on and off the field, his cheery disposition gained him hosts of friends, and he always played the game. In his military work he was a soldier in every sense of the word. When the call for men came, he resigned his position as area officer and pursued the game of war with that keenness and wholeheartedness that characterised him in his work and sport. As an officer, he was severe but fair, and his men speak in the highest terms of his leadership; they would follow him anywhere. He left as adjutant of the Battalion. While in charge of a company at Gallipoli, he was shot through the shoulder by a sniper. On returning to duty, he was appointed to headquarters staff as Brigadier Major when the forces were reconstructed in Egypt, and while acting in that capacity he had sole charge of the disembarkation of 6,000 troops at Marseilles. This class of work did not suit his daring spirit, and he was not happy until he was again appointed to a company. And now he has gone? The sting is with us who are left behind – the victory is his.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article214061630>

SC Mugford (Captain Chaplin S Clark Mugford) wrote home "Captain J.W. Blacket's death is a tremendous blow to the brigade. He was regarded as one of the most competent and bravest of soldiers and Officers. He was a favourite with all, from the general to the humblest soldier".

now. Our A.I.F. lads are in the thick of things, and are winning favour all along the line. We have, of course, lost some splendid officers and men. Captain J. W. Blacket's death is a tremendous blow to our brigade. He was regarded as one of the most competent and bravest of soldiers and officers. He was a favourite with all, from the general to the humblest soldier. He was killed outright, with Lieutenant Hoskins and a corporal at the same time. Lieutenant Walker in the same explosion had both legs broken. All was caused by a shrapnel lobbing right in their midst in a trench. The tragedy cast a gloom over the whole of our troops. His O.C. was much cut up. Blacket was buried at midnight, owing to the dangerous position of the cemetery for daylight operations. The service was conducted by the chaplain of the battalion, Colonel Crookston, Presbyterian minister, of Bendigo, with whom I am living at present. We are getting a good training in hasty moves. Have already had seventeen shifts since leaving Australia. Can assure you we don't carry more luggage than is really necessary.

In a letter to the University of Adelaide, Jack's father recorded the words of Lieut. Colonel Dollman who wrote " His passing away is a very heavy blow to everyone in the Battalion. I personally feel the loss very keenly. He was closely associated with me in the formation of the Battalion, and his work was worthy of him. I deeply sympathise with you in his death, and can assure you his place can never be adequately filled".

Captain J. W. Blacket.

His commanding officer (Lieut. Colonel Dollman) writes, as follows
--"His passing away is a very heavy blow to every one in the Battalion.
I personally feel the loss very keenly. He was closely associated with
me in the formation of the Battalion, and his work was worthy of him.
I deeply sympathise with you in his death, and can assure you his
place can never be adequately filled."

If the above is of any service to you please use it. My boy
was killed by a shell in the trenches when in charge of A Company who
were being bombarded by the Germans, on July 4, 1916.

Kind regards,
JOHN BLACKET.

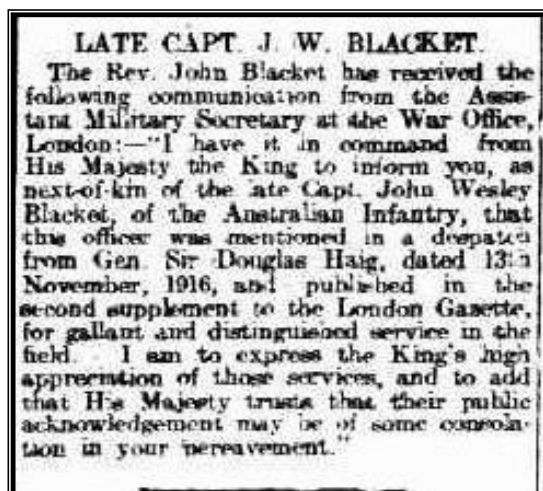
*If you should be publishing photos
of men do not copy the one on newspaper
cutting. I have a better photo than that.*

The Blacket family did not receive the news that Jack had been mentioned in despatches from Gen. Sir Douglas Haig until March 1917.

"LATE CAPT. J. W. BLACKET." *The Journal* (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923)

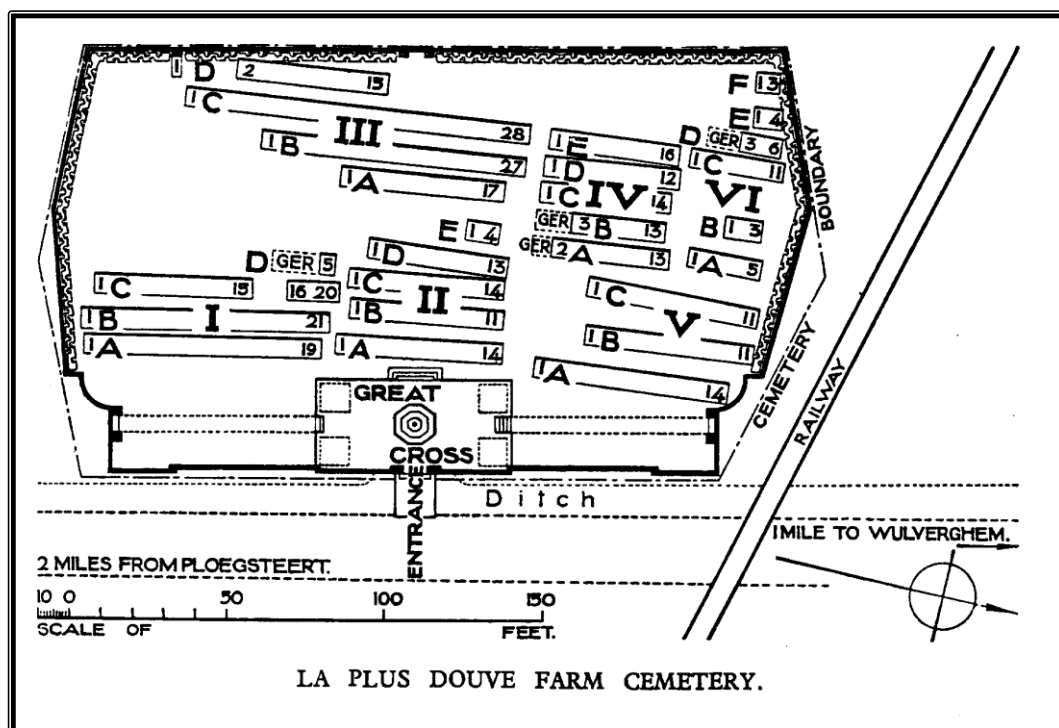
21 March 1917: 1 (5 P.M. EDITION).

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article204693579>



Jack was buried at a cemetery near La Petit Douve Farm, now known as the La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery, Plot I B 9, Hainaut, Belgium. Jack's grave bears the inscription:

**"EVEN SO FATHER FOR SO IT SEEMED GOOD IN THY SIGHT
DUTY NOBLY DONE"**



La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery



Graves of Lieut. W.W. Hosking (left), Capt. J.W. Blacket (centre) and Pte. C.D. Cottle

Such was the respect for Jack Blacket and Walter Hosking of the 27th, that a remembrance to them was published on the 20th anniversary of their deaths by HB Walker (Lieut. Horace Briggs Walker, 27th Battalion, SN 239, who was wounded by the blast which killed Blacket and Hosking).

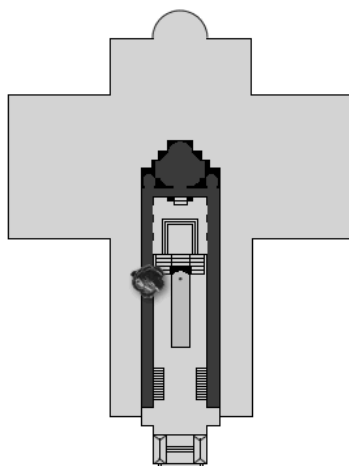
The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954) 4 July 1936

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48158878>

In remembrance of my old comrades, Captain Jack Blacket and Lieutenant Walter Hosking, 27th Battalion, A.I.F., killed Messines 4th July, 1916. "To live in the hearts of those they left behind is not to die."—Inserted by H. B. Walker.

Australian War Memorial - Canberra

John Wesley Blacket's name is located at panel **109** in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).



Brothers

On the 6th April 1916, Maurice Newton Blacket, aged 23, and Samuel Bertram Blacket, aged 21 enlisted. They were both in the 5th Pioneer Battalion and they embarked together from Outer Harbour on the 14th August 1916, just days after the memorial service held in Jack's honour. Pte Samuel Blacket received a gunshot wound on the 18th May 1917, he returned to Australia on the 25th March 1919. Cpl Maurice Blacket returned to Australia on the 21st May 1919.



Cpl. M.N. Blacket



Pte. S.B. Blacket

Leonard Whitefield Blacket enlisted on the 23rd January 1917, aged 29. He undertook some training in camp but was declared medically unfit as he suffered from petit mal seizures. He was discharged on the 28th February 1917.

Joseph Arnold Blacket who served with Jack in the 27th Battalion and became a Lieutenant, was killed in the advance on Morlancourt on 10th June 1918. His unit had captured a German officer and Joseph did not like the way he was acting so he ordered that he should be taken to the rear immediately. The German drew a revolver and shot him point blank. He died instantly. The German was so far behind because he was apparently "riddled with bayonet thrusts from furious men".

BLACKET, Joseph Arnold



Lieutenant
27th Battalion



Born 28 August 1894 at Koolunga, SA
Son of John BLACKET and Martha Jane nee FIDLER
Of Sydenham Road, Norwood, SA
Occupation prior to enlistment School Teacher
Enlisted 17 May 1915 at Keswick, SA
Served in Gallipoli, Belgium and France
Killed in action in France 01 June 1918
Aged 23 years and 9 months
Buried Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension I F 6

Courtesy of Guy Dollman

Tragically for the Blacket family, war was not the only cause of grief during the period 1914-18 as their second son, Caleb Edward Blacket passed away after a short illness with pneumonia on the 18th August 1918. Caleb and many of the other members of the Blacket family are buried or commemorated at the Payneham Cemetery, South Australia.

"A GRIEF-STRIKEN FAMILY" *Leader* (Angaston, SA : 1918 - 1954)

21 August 1918

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article171072401>

A GRIEF-STRIKEN FAMILY

The Rev. John Blacket, who was for ten or twelve years Methodist Minister at Angaston, and is now at Salisbury, has indeed received more than his share of this life's sorrows, and the people of Angaston will join in sympathising with him and Mrs. Blacket in the loss of their son Caleb, who passed away at Miss Lawrence's private hospital, Wakefield street, after a short illness with pneumonia. It is not so long ago that the family were plunged into grief by the news of the death in action of Captain John Wesley Blacket, and this blow was followed by another tragic one shortly after, when Lieutenant Joe Blacket was killed. He had taken an enemy prisoner, and was turning round when the German shot him in the back with fatal results. This third loss, therefore, will indeed be hard to bear.

Sources and Acknowledgements:

The AIF Project [https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/
https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=24064](https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=24064)

Virtual War Memorial Australia <https://vwma.org.au/>

John <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/86275>

Joseph <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/181005>

Maurice <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/215110>

Samuel <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/261015>

The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

John <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3088135>

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Leonard <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3088139>

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The National Library of Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – JW Blacket)

SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>

Ancestry.com.au

For more details on John, Joseph, Maurice and Samuel see:

Grave Secrets <http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/bi-bl.html>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/444628/blacket,-john-wesley/>

Wikimedia

https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:La_Plus_Douve_Farm_Cemetery#/media/File%3ALa_Plus_Douve_Farm_Cemetery-7.JPG

In Memory by Pierre Vandervelden

<http://www.inmemories.com/Cemeteries/laplusdouve.htm>

Billion Graves <https://billiongraves.com/grave/John-Wesley-BLACKET/13586648>

Prince Alfred College Old Collegians' Association - Prince Alfred College Chronicle Archive

http://paoca.com/ocd.aspx?action=check_bulletin&menuitem=PAC+Chronicles&bulletin_name=archives_&category=&privacy=&code

Rob O'Shannassy, Janne Filmer & Kym Beilby (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee)