



# **Lieut. Joseph Arnold Blacket**



**10th June 1918**



**27<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

**AIF**

## The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=24063>



### Joseph Arnold BLACKET

Regimental number	1667
Date of birth	--/08/1894
Place of birth	Goolunga, South Australia
School	Adelaide High School, SA
Other training	University Training College, SA
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	School teacher
Address	Sydenham Road, Norwood, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Martha Blacket, Sydenham Road, Norwood, South Australia
Previous military service	Served in the Citizen Military Forces, SA.
Enlistment date	17 May 1915
Rank on enlistment	Corporal
Unit name	27th Battalion, 2nd Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/44/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A61 <i>Kanowna</i> on 23 June 1915
Regimental number from Nominal Roll	Commissioned
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	27th Battalion
Promotions	2nd Lieutenant
	Unit: INF27
	Promotion date: 29 July 1916
Other details from Roll of Honour Circular	He was killed by a German officer who had been taken prisoner. The officer pulled out a pistol, shot Blacket, and ran towards the German lines; he (the officer) was shot and killed.

Fate	Killed in Action 10 June 1918
Place of death or wounding	Morlancourt, France
Date of death	10 June 1918
Age at death	23.9
Age at death from cemetery records	23
Place of burial	Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension (Plot I, Row F, Grave No. 6), France
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	109
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Parents: John and Martha J. BLACKET, Sailsbury, South Australia. Native of Koolunga, South Australia
Family/military connections	Brother: Captain John Wesley BLACKET, 27th Bn, Mentioned in Despatches; killed in action, Messines, 4 July 1916

Note – Joseph was born at Koolunga, SA not Goolunga

## Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3088137>

27/2/15

**OFFICER** **7 2230** **ALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**

No. 1669 Name BLACKET Joseph Arnold  
Unit 8 Group Base Infantry  
Joined on 17.5.15

**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

1. What is your Name? ... Joseph Arnold Blacket
2. In the Parish of ... in or  
near the Town of Koolunga  
in the County of South Aust
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... N.B.
4. What is your age? ... 20 yrs
5. What is your trade or calling? ... School-Teacher
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... (Mother) Mrs Martha Blacket  
Sydenham Road  
Nowwood South Aust
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... 179th 2 years still serving
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—  
Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? ... Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... Yes

Joseph Arnold Blacket do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife \* †  
and children.

Date May 17<sup>th</sup> 15 J. A. Blacket.  
Signature of person enlisted.

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.  
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

1. 27/1.15.—C. 602.

## Virtual War Memorial Australia

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/181005>

### BLACKET, Joseph Arnold



#### Personal Details

#### Service History

#### Personal Stories

**Service Number:** 1667

**Enlisted:** 17 May 1915, Keswick, South Australia

**Last Rank:** Lieutenant

**Last Unit:** 27th Infantry Battalion

**Born:** Koolunga, South Australia, 28 August 1894

**Home Town:** Norwood, South Australia

**Schooling:** Adelaide High School and University of Adelaide

**Occupation:** School Teacher

**Died:** Killed in Action, Morlancourt, France, 10 June 1918, aged 23 years

**Cemetery:** Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension  
I.F.6.

**Memorials:** Angaston Methodist Honour Board WW1, Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour, National War Memorial (South Australia), Norwood M The Fallen of WW1 & II Kensington & Norwood District\*, University of Adelaide WW1 Honour Roll Mitchell Bldg\*

Correction to the Virtual War Memorial Biography below.

Unfortunately the information that Joe played football for Adelaide University in the Amateur League is incorrect.

Joe's brother John Wesley (Jack) Blacket played for both Norwood and Adelaide University but all evidence located to date shows that Joe only played for the Norwood Football Club.

## Biography - Virtual War Memorial Australia

Brother of [Capt. John Wesley Blacket](/explore/people/86275) (/explore/people/86275) who was killed in action in Belgium on 04 Jul 1916.

Joseph Arnold Blacket was born on 28 August 1897 in Koolunga, South Australia. His parents were Reverend John and Martha Jane Blacket. His religion was Methodist and he lived on Sydenham Road, Norwood, South Australia. He received an education at Adelaide High School and Adelaide University. He worked as a school teacher and played two games for the Norwood Redlegs before he went to war. These 2 games were played on May 1 and May 15 and were against North Adelaide and Sturt. Blacket was particularly sporty as he played footy at Adelaide University in the Amateur League and played cricket as well. He studied at Adelaide High School and was attending university when he enlisted. He was not only a member of the Norwood Redlegs but he was also part of the choir at the Norwood Methodist Church. On May 17 1915, he enlisted for WW1 and was a member of the 27th Infantry Battalion. He was 20 years 9 months old when he enlisted. His height was 5 feet 14 inches and his weight was 150 pounds. He had fair complexion and hair with grey eyes. Additionally, he had a chest measurement of 32.5 - 35.5 inches. Prior to enlistment, he had sufficient military experience to go to WW1 and attended the Mitcham Training Camp.

After enlisting, he embarked on the HMAT Kanowna A61 on 23 June 1915 with his battalion. He arrived in Alexandria on September 4 1915 as a Corporal and had a service number of 1667. Blacket was promoted to Sergeant on December 12 1915. Unfortunately, during that month, his battalion was evacuated due to approximately 218 deaths and 75 missing soldiers. He proceeded to join the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on March 16 1916. He disembarked Maxilla 5 days later after fighting for the B.E.F. Blacket was promoted again to Sergeant Major on May 9 1916. On May 5 1917, Blacket was wounded in action and suffered from a fractured clavicle. He was transported from France to Rouen where he spent a week in hospital. Then, Blacket was transferred to England to another hospital in Wandsworth. He was discharged shortly after and on July 22 1917, he went to Pham Downs and posted for the 7th Battalion. He fought in Pham Downs from July to November 1917. On December 1 1917, Blacket was transferred back to the 27th Battalion and fought in France and Belgium. On June 11 1918, he was killed in action in France. He was shot by a German officer who was being taken prisoner. Blacket spent all of the war on the Western Front except when he was recovering in hospital.

Blacket was buried at the Franvillers Communal Cemetery and Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension in France. He has a memorial at the Adelaide HR1 University of Adelaide Mitchell Building and the Angaston Methodist Honour Board WW1. There is also a monument where the Mitcham Training Camp was held in honour of all the people who fought for Australia in WW1. Blacket and all Australian soldiers will be remembered for their service in the war and their dedication to fighting for their country.

Blacket's service in the war was excellent since he contributed over a period of 3 years. His family has a history of serving in the war. His brother served in WW1 and was killed in action in Messines on July 4 1916. Additionally, he had two other brothers who were Maurice Newton and Samuel Bertram Blacket who both survived the war. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. Blacket, being an ANZAC soldier, reflected the ANZAC spirit in serving in the war for his country. He fought for different troops and survived for most of the war, and showed true courage during battle. His service and dedication during the war positively reflected the ANZAC spirit. His family should also be honoured as they have fought for Australia as well.



## Early Life

Joseph Arnold (Joe) Blacket was born on the 28th October 1894, the eighth of fifteen children born to Rev John Blacket and his wife Martha Jane (Pattie) Fidler. Joe was born at Koolunga, SA.

Joe's siblings were John Wesley (b 1886), Phoebe Matilda (b 1887), Caleb Edward (b 1889), Leonard Whitefield (b 1888), Hilda Kathleen (b 1891), Ruth Fidler (b 1892), Maurice Newton (b 1893), Samuel Bertram (b 1895), Minnie Constance (b 1897), Florence Martha (b 1898), Harry (b & D 1899)<sup>1</sup> Arthur Howard (b 1901), Cyril Augustine (b 1904) and Kenneth Bernard (b 1906).

Joe'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



JA Blacket – Back Row – Far 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)

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<sup>1</sup> 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

Joe Blacket along with many of his brothers and sisters entered their school work into the Northern Agricultural Society Show at Auburn. Joe was awarded various prizes for his school work in 1906-1908.

By December 1908 Joe was at school at Hindmarsh, SA when he passed the Education Department Monitors Examination. (Class II, Division B). Joe was appointed an unpaid monitor at the Hindmarsh School for 1909.

In July 1909, Joe represented the Hindmarsh School in a football match against Flinders Street School to be the curtain raiser for the West Torrens II and prospect match. Joe was named among the best players for Hindmarsh School who easily won the match.

### ***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912) - 16 July 1909***



In August 1909 Joe scored two of the six goals accumulated by Hindmarsh School when they defeated North Adelaide School.

Joe was appointed an unpaid monitor at the Hindmarsh School for 1910 and he passed the Pupil Teachers Entrance Examinations in December 1910.

From 1911 Joe attended Adelaide High School. He passed the School of Arts Examination in First Grade Plane Geometry in June 1911 and Intermediate Solid Geometry in December 1911. Joe passed six subjects (English Literature, English History, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Physics) in the Junior Public Examinations in December 1911.

Joe became a member of the AHS Cricket team in 1911 and the football team in 1912. He played in the Past versus Present scholars football match in August 1912.

In addition to his studies Joe was a teacher at the Bowden Sunday School in 1912.

Joe passed four subjects (English Literature, Modern History, Arithmetic and Algebra) in the Senior Public Examinations in December 1912.

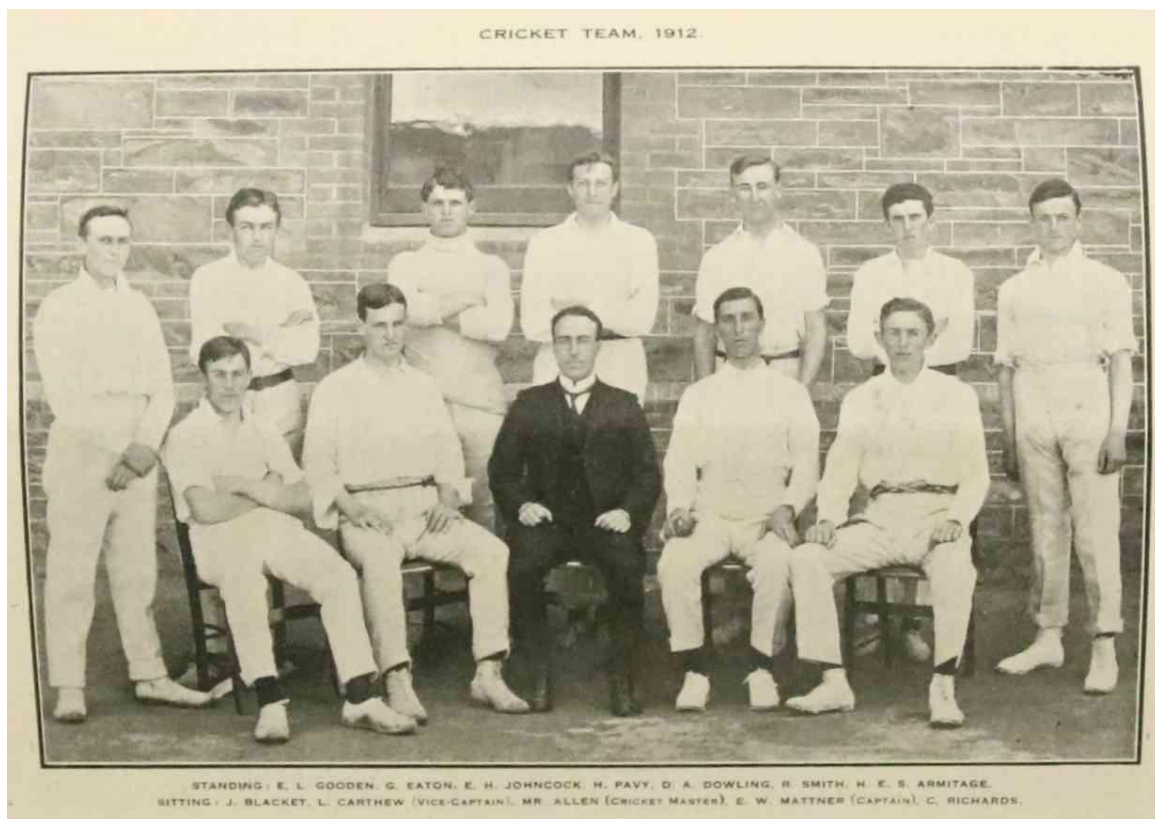


## 1911 – Adelaide High School – Cricket Team



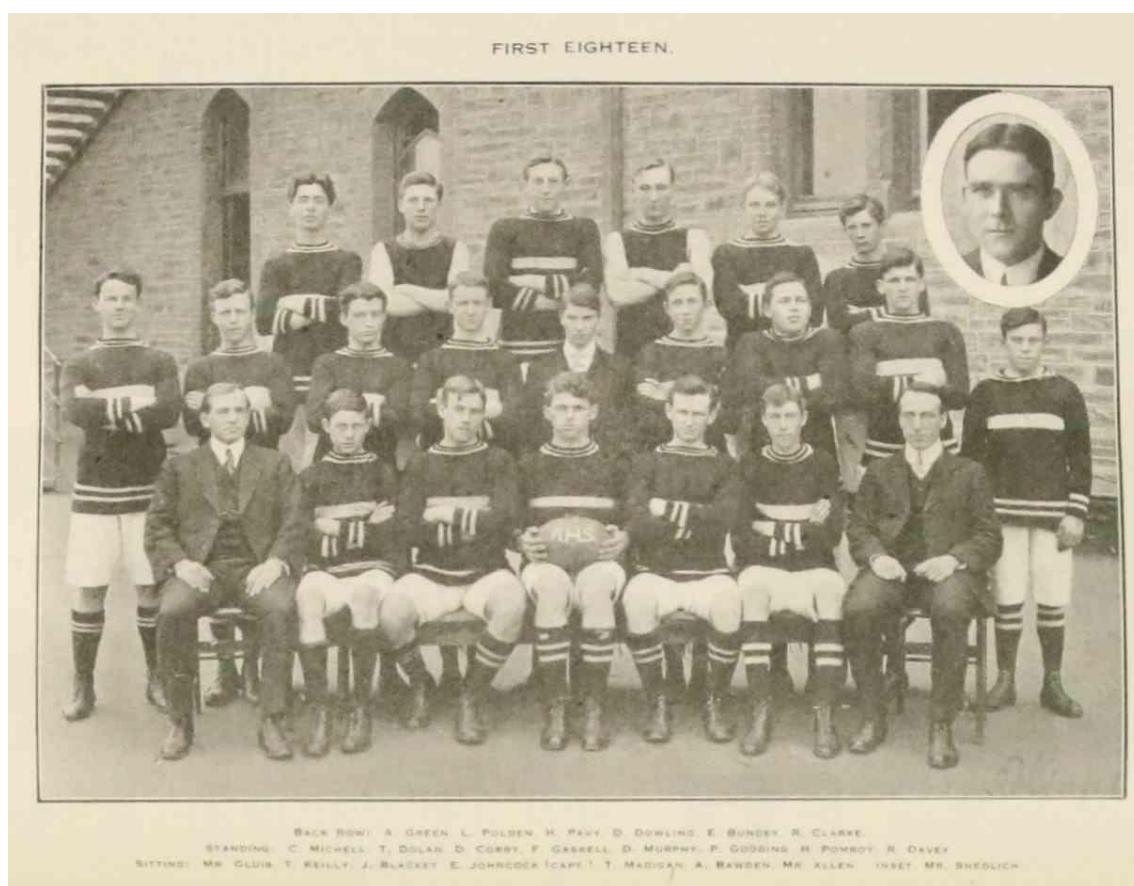
JA Blacket – Seated on Ground – At Left

## 1912 – Adelaide High School – Cricket Team



JA Blacket – Seated – Far Left

## 1913 – Adelaide High School – Football Team



JA Blacket – Front Row – Third from Left

In March 1913 Joe was promoted from Junior Teacher Second grade to Junior Teacher Third grade.

In April 1913, Joe's father, Rev John Blacket was transferred with the Methodist Church from Hindmarsh to Sydenham Road, Norwood.

Joe was among the best players for the AHS Football team when they played the Onkaparinga Football Club at Balhannah Oval in August 1913. He scored three goals in the Past versus Present football match in September 1913.

### *The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) - 8 September 1913*

**ADELAIDE HIGH SCHOOL, PAST VERSUS PRESENT.**

The annual football match between Past and Present scholars of the Adelaide High School took place on the South Park Lands on Saturday, and resulted in a good win for the Presents:—Scores:—Presents, 15 goals 10 behinds; Pasts, 2 goals 5 behinds. oGalkickers—Presents, Jose (3), Blacket (3), Pomroy (2), Treloar (2), Kelly (2), Johncock, Dowling, and Maddigan; Pasts, Sard (2). Best players—Presents, Bawden, Johncock, Blacket, Dowling, Pomroy, Treloar, Jose, and Maddigan; Pasts, Sard, Gluis, McDonald, Nietz, O'Neill, and Pope.

Joe played both football and tennis for AHS against Melbourne High School in September 1913.

***The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) - 26 September 1913***

**INTER-STATE HIGH SCHOOL MATCH.**  
On Wednesday morning a party of 31 boys from the Melbourne High School arrived in Adelaide. They were met and welcomed by representatives of the Adelaide High School, with whom they will engage in a series of contests. To-day they will play the annual football match on the Jubilee Oval. Teams:—M.H.S.—Colvin (captain), Cameron, Playle, Gluyas, Sutherland, F. Tate, A. Tate, Angwin, Hercules, Hotton, Caroe, Carroll, Sherwin, Feder, Coventry, Callinan, Lord, Boyes. A.H.S.—Johncock (captain), Maddigan, Pavy, Blacket, Bawden, Poole, Dowling, Clarke, Poinroy, Treloar, Corry, Bunday, Polden, Gaskell, Davey, Green, Jose, Dolan.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924) - 27 September 1913***

**INTERSTATE HIGH SCHOOL MATCH.**  
The visiting Melbourne High School team played the local lads on the Adelaide High School courts on Thursday afternoon. The match was productive of good and exceedingly exciting tennis, the Adelaide boys eventually winning by one game, the set tally being equal. Scores:—Melbourne High School, 9 sets, 87 games; Adelaide High School, 9 sets, 88 games. Bawden and Tiver (Adelaide) beat Sherwin and Cameron, 5-6, 6-1; Jacob and Blacket lost to Pizzev and Crebbin, 5-6, 2-6; Schubert and Statton lost to Colvin and Feder, 5-6, 5-6; Bawden beat Sherwin, 6-4, 6-4; Tiver beat Cameron, 6-4, 5-6; Jacobs beat Pizzev, 6-5, 6-4; Blacket lost to Crebbin, 2-6, 1-6; Schubert beat Colvin, 6-2, 6-5; Statton v. Feder, 4-6, 6-4.

Joe played tennis for Sydenham Road Methodist in the 1913/14 Lawn Tennis season.

Joe passed First Grade Model Drawing in the Education Dept Art Examinations held in August 1913 and Second Grade Model Drawing in the November 1913 examinations. He also passed Trigonometry in the Senior Public Examinations in December 1913.

In March 1914 Joe was promoted from Junior Teacher third grade to Junior Teacher fourth grade. He passed the Senior Examination in Geometry and Matriculated in March 1914.

In the 1914/15 cricket season Joe played for Sydenham Road Team in the East Torrens and Eastern Suburban Association.



## Football

In May 1914, Joe commenced playing B Grade football for the Norwood Football Club. His career with Norwood was spent mainly in the B Grade (Reserves – then referred to as the Juniors) however in May 1915 he played two A matches.

### ***The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922) - 29 April 1915***

In addition to these, the selection committee has its eye on Johncock, from the University club, a follower and forward; E. Suhard (half-forward), N. Suhard (rover), Knaggs (back), Joe Blacket, and J. Sowton, all from the juniors. W. Hatcher, a big, well-built lad from Virginia, also has distinct possibilities. Norwood's prospects for the season depend very largely on the way these juniors shape. So far, they promise well; but, until they have been in the testing pot, one cannot pass an opinion.

[http://www.redlegsmuseum.com.au/ON\\_FIELD/PLAYERS/BLACKET\\_Joseph.aspx](http://www.redlegsmuseum.com.au/ON_FIELD/PLAYERS/BLACKET_Joseph.aspx)

#### **PLAYERS - BLACKET, Joseph**

#### **Joseph Arnold BLACKET**

#### **STATISTICS**

Guernsey Number: 2  
Career: 1915  
NFC Games: 2  
NFC Goals: 0  
Debut: v North Adelaide (Norwood) 1st May 1915  
Finale: v Sturt (Norwood) 15th May 1915



Joseph Arnold Blacket was born at Koolunga in South Australia on 28 August 1894. His parents were Reverend John and Martha Jane (nee Fidler) Blacket. He studied at Adelaide High School before attending Adelaide University prior to enlisting in the army in May 1915.

Blacket joined the Norwood Football Club in 1914 when he played several games for the B team (Reserves)

In 1915 he played two league games for Norwood. His final game was against Sturt at the Parade just two days before enlisted in the army.

On 17 May 1915 he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and embarked on 23 June 1915 for Egypt with the 27th Battalion together his brother, John Wesley Blacket. Both brothers served at Gallipoli until the evacuation, after which the battalion was sent to the western front in France. During this time, Joseph rose from corporal to first lieutenant

Apart from time spent in English hospitals and furlough, Joseph Blacket remained on the western front until he was killed in action in France on 10 June 1918.

John Blacket was killed in action in July 1916. Two other Blacket brothers, Maurice Newton and Samuel Bertram enlisted in 1916 and both survived the war.

*W Heading Mar 2014 amended April 2017*

University

In 1915, Joe commenced studying at the University Of Adelaide. He was undertaking studies in Education and English Literature.

Adelaide University Student Card

NAME AND ADDRESS		Blackett, Joseph Arnold, Sydenham Rd. Norwood.				REGISTER NO.		26014		
COURSE	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF MATRICULATION		Education Department.		GRADE		Grad		
Arts.	28/10/14	22-3-14								
SENIOR 1912. Eng Lit, Mod His, Auth Alg. 1913. Trig, 1914. Geom.										
ON WAR MEMORIAL										
STATUS GRANTED										
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS
1915	Education									
	English Literature									
		Died - Great War 1914-1918. (H. 6277)						Enlisted.		

World War I

Joe enlisted on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1915, aged 20 years and 9 months with Service Number 1667. He listed his mother, Martha as his next-of-kin. Joe occupation was School Teacher. He was 5' 7¼", 150 lbs, with a fair complexion, grey eyes and fair hair. He had been serving in the 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Militia) for two years prior to his enlistment.

I hereby give my consent to my son  
(Joseph Arnold Blackett) enlisting in  
the military for service abroad.

John Blackett  
Nethurst Passage,  
Norwood.  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 1915.

Permission from Father to enlist

Joe's war service is well documented in the Virtual War Memorial Australia biography above, however it should be noted that Joe was 5' 7¼" tall not 5' 14" tall.

The Adelaide High School Magazine stated "Pte. J. A. Blackett was one of the most popular boys of 1913, both in the cricket field and football field. He has gone into the Infantry."

Further details below are from local newspapers including sections of letters written by Joe while on active service.

Joe was farewelled by members of the Sydenham Road Methodist Church. He left for the front on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1915.

#### ***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924) - 22 June 1915***

##### **SEND-OFF TO PRIVATE BLACKETT.**

The members of the Sydenham Road Methodist Church, Norwood, met at a social gathering on Tuesday, June 15, to bid farewell to Mr. Joe Blackett prior to his departure to the war. The hall, which was tastefully decorated by the ladies, presented an attractive appearance, and the musical programme submitted was well received. Mr. Blackett was made the recipient of a wristlet watch and clasp knife, from the members of the choir, tennis club, and senior class in the Sunday school. The various interests were represented by Messrs. J. Tonkin (choir), Minschell (Sunday school), W. Harry (church), H. Hancock (tennis club), and P. Williams (cricket club). Each speaker bore testimony to the high regard in which the guest was held by his fellow-members, and expressed the hope that, in common with his fellow-volunteers, Mr. Blackett would pass safely through all the perils about to be faced. Mr. Blackett, whose elder brother (Captain Blackett) has already left for active service, suitably responded, and expressed his intention of fulfilling his duty to King and country whatever sacrifice that involved.

#### ***Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924) - 23 June 1915***

##### **TEACHERS AT THE FRONT.**

The following list has been supplied of teachers of the South Australian Education Department who have volunteered for active service:-- Messrs. F. C. Beech, H. R. Oborn, J. S. Blackburn, S. W. Coombe, J. A. W. Kayser, W. J. F. McCann, C. R. McLaren, J. E. Pearce, L. M. Gellert, L. G. W. Caust, C. E. Padman, C. S. Mugford, F. S. Jeffery, E. A. Munro, V. K. Dickinson, J. A. Blackett, W. L. F. Taylor, E. B. Silver, N. C. E. Currie, A. V. Bawden, B. M. Francis, J. H. Curtis, A. A. Verran, P. R. Bignell, T. W. Ridler, C. F. Rogers, A. R. Morcom, R. T. Wells, G. S. McDonald, E. L. Roesler, and L. E. W. Schmidt.



## "LETTERS FROM THE FRONT"

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

### 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.

The Rev. Richard Jackson, of Brompton, has received word that his son, who was wounded, is now in a hospital in London. He arrived there with scarcely sufficient clothing, but like a true soldier he writes cheerfully. One of his hands will be of little use to him for some months.

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

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.

### **Cold at Gallipoli.**

Before the evacuation at Gallipoli  
Coropral J. A. Blacket writes:—

"You will have to excuse writing and shortness of letters. It is so cold that I can scarcely hold the pen. Last Saturday night we went to bed about 5.30, as it was then dark. When we woke up next morning everything was covered with snow. Snow fell all day, and we made the most of our blankets. Everywhere was snow and slush. Monday morning everything was frozen hard; all the slush was like stone. Water left out for a minute was frozen. My mate and I sleep together, and so have the benefit of four blankets instead of two. I am writing this while sitting under the blankets, and have to keep stopping to warm my fingers."

*Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931) – 14 October 1916*

### **PERSONAL NOTES.**

The Rev. John Blacket, of Norwood, has received notice that his son, Sgt. Major Joseph A. Blacket, serving with the forces in France, has been promoted to the position of lieutenant.

*The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923) - 18 November 1916*

### **BIOGRAPHICAL.**

#### **LATE LIEUT. NORMAN SELTH.**

Mr. Selth, of Beulah road, Norwood, has received information regarding the circumstances under which his son, Norman Selth, fell. Writing to him, Lieut. J. A. Blacket, of the 27th Battalion, said:—"Norman was in charge of No. 16 Platoon, D. Company, and although only with the company a short time, he was well liked and respected by all who knew him. The night of a charge we had to move over about 400 yards of lands before reaching the enemy's trenches. It was while crossing "no man's land" that he was hit very badly by a shell. He was a soldier and a man respected by us all, and his loss will be most keenly felt. It is not for us to bemoan his fate, yet it is hard, but what better ending could a man have than to lay down his life to save others?"

**"OUR HEROES LIEUTENANT BLACKET WOUNDED."**  
***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924) - 21 November 1916***

**OUR HEROES**  
**LIEUTENANT BLACKET WOUNDED.**  
Rev. John Blacket, Norwood, has received information that his son (Lieutenant J. A. Blacket) has been wounded. He went with his brother, the late Captain J. W. Blacket, to Gallipoli and followed him to France, where he has since been in the trenches. Both brothers were members of the 27th Battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel Dollman.

***The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923) - 18 May 1917***

**PERSONAL NOTES.**  
The Rev. J. Blacket has received an intimation from the military authorities that his son, Lieut. J. A. Blacket, has been wounded for the second time in France. His injury is not serious.

**Letter from Rev J Blacket to the University of Adelaide**

L I E U T E N A N T   J O S E P H   A .   B L A C K E T .

After spending some time at the University he enlisted. He left South Australia for the Front on June 24, 1915. Several weeks were spent in Egypt in Preparatory work. He then went with his brother (Captain Blacket) to Gallipoli, remaining there in active service till the British Government decided to withdraw the troops. He then went to Egypt, and finally followed his brother to France, doing service in the trenches until a few weeks ago, when he was wounded, and placed in one of the hospitals. He is <sup>an officer</sup> ~~an officer~~ of D. Company, 27th Battalion.

*Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954) - 7 July 1917*

**THE LATE PRIVATE HOOPER.**  
Mrs. A. Hooper, of Goodwood, has received a letter from Lieutenant J. A. Blacket, dated April 8, referring to the death of her only son, Private Arthur Hooper. He states that a sergeant, who was with her son when he was killed, reports:—"We had to attack a rather strong position and failed. We incurred very heavy casualties. Private Hooper belonged to the machine gunners and was killed on the way over to the position. His death was instantaneous and was caused by a bullet. Private Hooper was a soldier and a man."

7<sup>th</sup> April 1918 – 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion

France: Picardie, Somme, Corbie Albert Area, Beaucourt-sur-l'Ancre



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E02393

Lieut JA Blacket, Front Row – At Left

## Death

Joseph Arnold (Joe) Blacket was killed in action on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1918. He was buried at Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension.

*The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) – 21 June 1918

### THE AUSTRALIANS. BIOGRAPHICAL.

THE LATE LIEUT. JOSEPH BLACKET.  
The Rev. John Blacket, of Salisbury, has been advised that another of his sons has fallen on active service—Lieut. Joseph A. Blacket. He was with his brother, the late Capt. John W. Blacket, at Gallipoli, saw active service there, and since the evacuation had been doing service on the western front. Mr. Blacket has two more sons there.



*The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) - 22 June 1918

### THE AUSTRALIANS. BIOGRAPHICAL.

#### LATE LIEUT. J. A. BLACKET.

The Rev. J. and Mrs. Blacket, of Salisbury, have been notified that their son, Lieut. Joseph Arnold Blacket, was killed in action on June 10. The deceased soldier enlisted in May, 1915, and the following month left for Egypt with the 2nd Reinforcements of the 25th Battalion, of which his brother (the late Capt. J. W. Blacket) was Adjutant. With his brother he served in Gallipoli, and was there until the evacuation. Returning to Egypt he was sent with the first Australian troops to France. With the exception of the time spent in English hospitals (having been twice wounded), and also in a training camp and on furlough, he remained on the western front until the time of his death. From corporal he rose to the position of first lieutenant of D Company, 25th Battalion. In common with his captain brother (who fell near to Messines), he won the esteem of all his comrades. For some time he studied at the Adelaide High School, and prior to leaving for the front was attending the University in connection with the Education Department. In all manly sports the late soldier took a keen interest, and was a member of the Norwood football team. He was also a member of the young men's class, and of the choir at the Sydenham Road (Norwood) Methodist Church. He was 23 years of age. Two brothers are still serving with the Pioneers in France.



**LATE LIEUT. J. A. BLACKET**  
**Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 – 1931) – 29 June 1918**

**LATE LIEUT. J. A. BLACKET.**

The Rev. J. and Mrs. Blacket, of Salisbury, have been notified that their son, Lieut. Joseph Arnold Blacket, was killed in action on June 10. The deceased soldier enlisted in May, 1915, and the following month left for Egypt with the 2nd Reinforcements of the 27th Battalion, of which his brother (the late Capt. J. W. Blacket) was Adjutant. With his brother he served in Gallipoli, and was there until the evacuation. Returning to Egypt he was sent with the first Australian troops to France. With the exception of the time spent in English hospitals (having been twice wounded), and also in a training camp and on furlough, he remained on the western front until the time of his death. From corporal he rose to the position of first lieutenant of D Company, 27th Battalion. In common with his captain brother (who fell near to Messines), he won the esteem of all his comrades. For some time he studied at the Adelaide High School, and prior to leaving for the front was attending the University in connection with the Education Department. In all manly sports the late soldier took a keen interest, and was a member of the Norwood football team. He was also a member of the young men's class, and of the choir at the Hydebank Road (Norwood) Methodist Church. He was 28 years of age. Two brothers are still serving with the Pioneers in France.

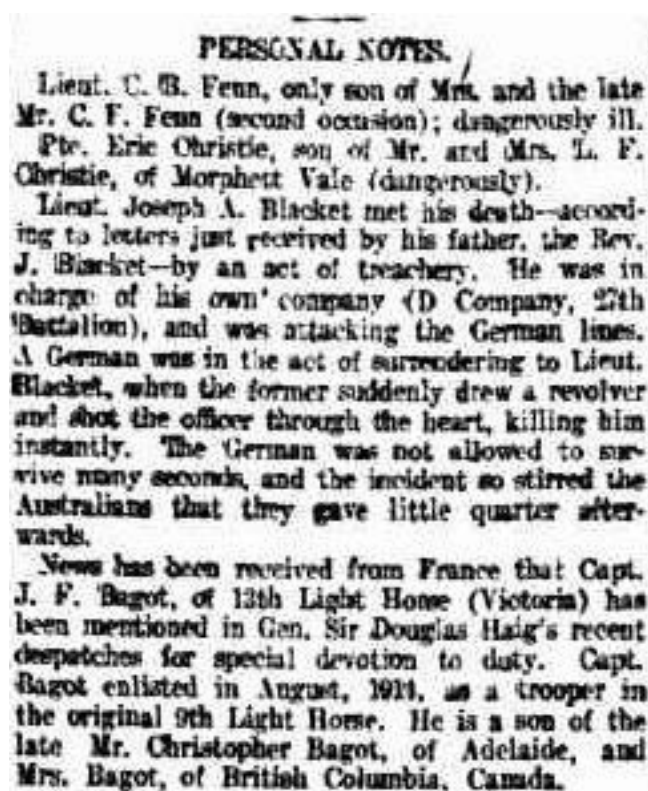
The Adelaide High School Magazine recorded the following:-

"Extract of letter from Lieutenant Edward Mattner, M.M., D.C.M., M.C. :- Once more death has claimed one of the finest lads who ever walked the floors of A.H.S. Poor old Joey Blacket paid the supreme sacrifice on June 11, gallantly leading his men in a charge. Such noble characters as Joe one is only privileged to meet occasionally. The term 'Man' can be applied to him in every respect.

According to letters which have been received by his father, the Rev. J. Blacket, Lieutenant Joe Blacket met his death by an act of treachery. He was in charge of his own company ("D" Company, 27th Battalion), and was attacking the German lines. A German was in the act of surrendering to Lieutenant Blacket, when the former suddenly drew a revolver and shot the officer through the heart, killing him instantly. The German was not allowed to survive many seconds, and the incident caused the greatest indignation and sorrow amongst his men.

Lieut. Joseph A. Blacket, in his final year, was perhaps the most popular fellow in the School. He was a great sport - cricketer, footballer, and tennis player - and a leader always, as he is remembered as one of the big men who has passed through this School. He met his death by an act of treachery. He was in charge of his own company "D" of the 27th Battalion, when a German who was in the act of surrendering suddenly drew a revolver and shot the officer through the heart. He was quickly avenged, but that does not bring back Joe Blacket to us. He has gone "over the top" never to return, but his life's work and influence, though short in one sense, in another it will live on. The traditions not only of the School but Australia are made by such lives as Joe's."





Australia War Memorial – Grave of JA Blacket



AWM Image: J00026

AWM Image: J00026

The grave of 1667 Lieutenant Joseph Arnold Blacket, age twenty four years, 27th Battalion, of Norwood, SA, killed in action 10 June 1918, in Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension.

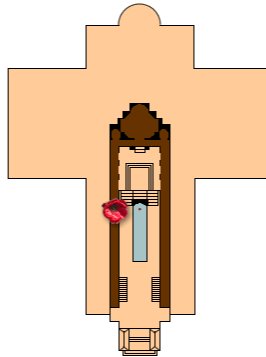
In the background is the cross bearing the name of 132260 Lance Corporal Joseph James Francis, 160th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers, who died on 20 July 1918, age 22; 4776 Private Keith William Evans, 56th Battalion, enlisted Balmain, NSW, killed in action 18 July 1918.

This image is one of a set of photographs of the original graves of some members of the 27th Battalion. The Battalion funded the purchase of the camera through its adjutant Captain (Capt) Southon for 5541 Pte G R Barrington to photograph the graves. The camera and negatives were then acquired by Major John L Treloar on behalf of the Australian War Museum, reimbursing costs for the camera to Capt Southon.

### Australia War Memorial

#### Location on the Roll of Honour

Joseph Arnold 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).



### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

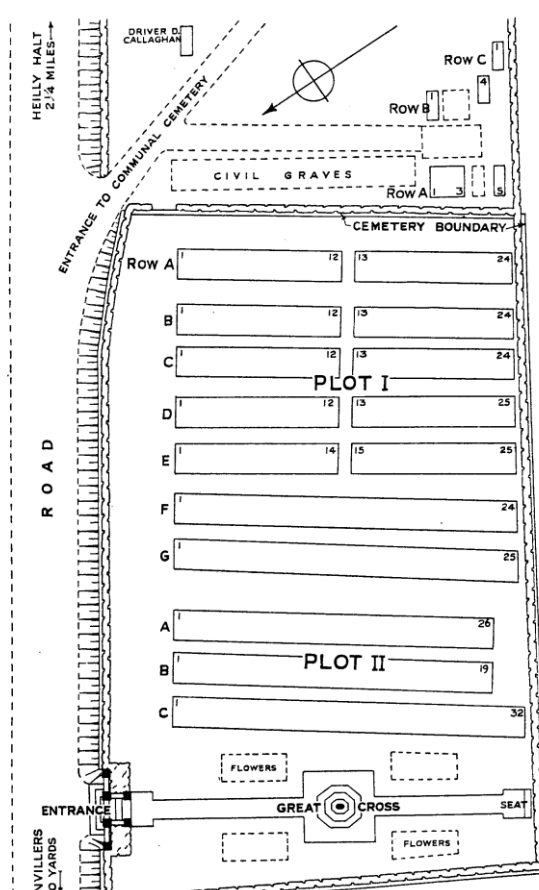
Lieutenant <b>BLACKET, JOSEPH ARNOLD</b>	
Died 10/06/1918	
Aged 23	
27th Bn. Australian Infantry, A.I.F.	
Son of John and Martha J. Blacket, of Salisbury, South Australia. Native of Koolunga, South Australia.	
<hr/>	
INSCRIPTION	
"DUTY NOBLY DONE EVEN SO FATHER FOR SO IT SEEMED GOOD IN THY SIGHT"	

## Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension



Grave of Lieut JA Blacket

## Map of Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension



Grave of Lieut. JA Blacket is at I.F.6.

## Brothers

Capt. John Wesley (Jack) Blacket enlisted on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1915 and served in Gallipoli, France and Belgium. He was killed in action near Messines, Belgium on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1916.

**BLACKET, John Wesley**



Captain  
27th Battalion

Born 20 July 1886 at Gumeracha, SA  
Son of John BLACKET and Martha Jane nee FIDLER  
Of 17 Sydenham Road, Norwood, SA  
Occupation prior to enlistment School Master  
Enlisted 30 January 1915  
Served in Gallipoli, France and Belgium  
Killed in action near Messines, Belgium 04 July 1916  
Buried La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery I B 9

Courtesy of Guy Dollman



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



***Cpl. M.N. Blacket***



***Pte. S.B. Blacket***

Leonard Whitefield Blacket enlisted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> February 1917.

Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer

## Sources

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