

BLATCHFORD, G. (M.M.)

Our research indicates that this soldier was Claude Blatchford, who lived with his wife, Gertrude, at 849 Drummond Street, North Carlton. He was the only soldier with the surname 'Blatchford' who was awarded a Military Medal. The signwriter appears to have mis-read his initial.

Claude's brother Edward was killed at Ypres, Belgium in 1917. His name does not appear on the St Jude's Honour Roll.

AIF Project Entry

Claude BLATCHFORD

Service number	4983
Place of birth	St Kilda, Victoria
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Clerk
Address	849 Drummond Street, North Carlton, Victoria.
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	26
Next of kin	Wife, Gertrude Isabell Blatchford, 849 Drummond Street, North Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria.
Enlistment date	8 November 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	30 October 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	22nd Battalion, 13th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/39/4
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A33 <i>Ayrshire</i> on 3 July 1916.
Rank from Nominal Roll	Sergeant
Unit from Nominal Roll	22nd Battalion
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Military Medal Recommendation date: 14 October 1917 Distinguished Conduct Medal (altered to Military Medal) Recommendation date: 24 May 1918.

Fate	Returned to Australia 7 June 1919.
Medals	<p>Military Medal</p> <p>'For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty. Although wounded prior to the attack he refused to leave the line. At Zonneberke on 4th October 1917, he led his section with the utmost courage and determination. During the advance he made his men fire from the hip with their rifles giving clear and deliberate fire orders and causing casualties to the enemy. On 9th October 1917, during the attack he again displayed the qualities of leadership to a very marked degree and proved of great assistance to his Officers. The men were greatly fatigued and suffering from exposure but this N.C.O.'s concern for their comfort, his initiative and his fine personal example enabled them to hold on in a difficult position until relief arrived.'</p>
Family/military connections	Brother: 1883 Pte Edward BLATCHFORD, 60th Bn, killed in action, Polygon Wood, Ypres, Belgium, 25 September 1917. (Service No: 1883).
Other details	<p>War service: Western Front</p> <p>Medals: Military Medal, British War Medal, Victory Medal</p> <p>Edited the trench newspaper, 'The Echo'.</p>
Date of death	10 July 1933.
Place of burial	St Kilda Cemetery.

Source: © *The AIF Project, UNSW Canberra*. Used with permission.

NAA: B2455, BLATCHFORD G SERN 4983.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E02376

Description

The staff, 6167 Private (Pte) E. E. Webster, printer (left), and 4479 Pte Alfred Henry Ladd, composition, and printing press of the 22nd Battalion 'Echo'. The editor of the fortnightly journal, 4983 Sergeant C. Blatchford MM is seen sitting at the table.

The 'Echo' has an average circulation of 600 and during the fighting was produced and printed in many an old ruin under shellfire. Trench journals of the AIF were rare publications - the photograph of an actual trench printing office such as this should be unique.