

**Sutton Cemetery, Sutton,  
Surrey, England  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1516 PRIVATE**

**C. D. C. BLATCHLY**

**51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**20TH OCTOBER, 1919 Age 28**

## Charles Douglas Carrington BLATCHLY

Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was born at Brandfontein, South Africa in 1892 to parents Charles Alfred Carrington Blatchly & Laura Blatchly.

(Note: Place of birth listed as per Attestation Papers, however another Attestation Paper & some forms in the Service Record file recoded he was born at Bradfatlon, Johannesburg, South Africa. The CWGC has his place of birth as Port Elizabeth, South Africa).

According to information provided for the Roll of Honour – Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly came to Australia when he was 22 ½ years old.

Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was a 23 year old, single, Harnessmaker from Duke of York Restaurant, Murray Street, Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 4th May, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1516 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Charles Alfred Blatchly, 22 Russell Road, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Prince Alfred Volunteer Guard at Port Elizabeth, South Africa for 6 months & also 4th Mounted Rifles for 12 months. He had left to come to Australia.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was posted to 1st Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 4th May, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Geelong (A2)* on 5th June, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was transferred from 1st Reinforcements to "B" Company on 18th August, 1915.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly embarked with his Battalion for Gallipoli on 4th September, 1915 from Alexandria on H. T. *Ivernia*.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was sent to 7th Field Ambulance at Anzac on 21st September, 1915 with Ear trouble. He was discharged to duty on 24th September, 1915.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance at Anzac on 8th October, 1915 for an ear examination. He was transferred & admitted to 16th Casualty Clearing Station on 8th October, 1915 with Otitis Media. Private Blatchly was transferred to Hospital Ship *Soudan* on 13th October, 1915 & admitted to St. John's Military Hospital, Malta on the same day with "Headache and Ear." He was transferred to Ghain Tuffieha on 23rd October, 1915.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was transferred to Ghain Tuffieha on 27th November, 1915 from St. George's Hospital, Malta. He was admitted to Convalescent Camp at Ghain Tuffieha on 27th November, 1915 with Acute Mastoiditi.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was transferred from St. George's Hospital, Malta to Fort Manoel Hospital on 2nd February, 1916 with Scabies.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was transferred from St. Anthony's Hospital, Malta to *Bohemia* on 14th March, 1916 for Active Service.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly disembarked at Alexandria from Malta on 19th March, 1916. He was marched in to "A" Details at Zeitoun on 25th March, 1916.

### 28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria. The battalion left Australia in June, and, after two months spent training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 10 September.

At Gallipoli, the 7th Brigade, which included the 28th Battalion, reinforced the weary New Zealand and Australian Division. The 28th had a relatively quiet time at Gallipoli and the battalion departed the peninsula in December, having suffered only light casualties.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was transferred from 7th Training Battalion & joined 51st Battalion at Serapeum on 2nd April, 1916 from 28th Battalion.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance at Serapeum on 16th April, 1916 with Otitis. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismalia on 17th April, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Private Blatchly was discharged to his Unit on 13th May, 1916 & rejoined his Unit the same day.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly proceeded from Alexandria on 5th June, 1916 on *Ivernia* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12th June, 1916.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was transferred to 4th Div. L.T.M. (Light Trench Mortar) Battery on 3rd July, 1916 & was taken on strength of 13th Light Trench Mortar Battery the same day. (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service)

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was detached from 51st Battalion for duty with 13th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery in France on 22nd July, 1916.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 19th November, 1916 with Influenza then transferred to 1st Anzac M.D. Station the same day. He was transferred & admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 20th November, 1916. Private Blatchly was discharged to his Unit on 25th November, 1916 & rejoined his Unit the same day.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was sent sick to "Hospital" on 17th January, 1917. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance on 18th January, 1917 with "VD Gon" then transferred & admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 19th January, 1917 with Gonorrhoea. Private Blatchly was transferred to Ambulance Train 9 on 21st January, 1917 & admitted to 51st General Hospital at Etaples, France on 24th January, 1917. He was discharged to duty (Base Details) on 14th April, 1917 after 87 days absent from duty (with VD). Private Blatchly rejoined his Unit (13th Light Trench Mortar Battery) in France on 27th April, 1917.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was wounded in action in Belgium on 7th June, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 8th June, 1917 with Shrapnel wound/s to right thigh. Private Blatchly was transferred to England on 9th June, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was admitted to Freemasons War Hospital, Fulham Road, London on 10th June, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right thigh – slight.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was admitted to 2nd London General Hospital, St. Mark's College, King's Road, Chelsea, London on 16th July, 1917 with G.S.W. to right thigh. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "transferred from Freemason Hosp: for supposed breaking his \_\_\_\_". He was discharged on 19th July, 1917.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was granted furlough from 19th July, 1917 to 2nd August, 1917 & was then to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 4th August, 1917 from furlough & was medically classified as B1 A 4 (Medically fit – awaiting Dental completion). He was passed Dentally fit on 25th September, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

The Records for the next-of-kin for Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly were changed on 13th August, 1917 to show his "wife" – Josephine Blatchly, of 245 Shaftesbury Avenue, London. His previous next-of-kin was listed as his Father.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd October, 1917 to reinforce 51st Battalion from 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 24th October, 1917. Private Blatchly proceeded from 4th A.D.B.D. on 31st October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit (51st Battalion) in the Field on 27th November, 1917.

The Records for the next-of-kin for Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly were changed on 1st December, 1917 to show his "wife" – Josephine Blatchly, c/o Mrs Keil, Church Lane, Wylie, Wilts. A marriage Bond & Allegation had been signed by Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly on 26th July, 1917 at Dean's Court, Doctor's Commons, London.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 21st March, 1918. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 21st March, 1918 having been Gassed – Mustard. Private Blatchly was transferred to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 21st March, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 53rd General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 24th March, 1918. He was transferred to No. 1 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 30th March, 1918 then transferred to No. 10 Convalescent Depot at Ecault on 1st April, 1918. Private Blatchly was discharged to Base on 5th April, 1918.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 7th April, 1918. He was marched out from A.I.B.D. on 17th April, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the Field on 22nd April, 1918.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was sent sick to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 24th April, 1918. He was transferred & admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 24th April, 1918 with Cardiac Dilation. Private Blatchly embarked for England on 27th April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle*.

## **51st Battalion**

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 11th, the 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the newly-formed 4th Australian Division....

Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 51st moved into the trenches of the Western Front within a fortnight. It fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and September, and suffered casualties equivalent to a third of its strength in both of the attacks (14 August and 3 September) it launched. After Mouquet Farm, the battalion saw out the rest of the year, alternating between front-line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.....

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This occurred in France in late March and the 4th Division moved to defend positions around Dernancourt on the River Ancre. The 51st Battalion assisted in the repulse of a large German attack on 5 April, launching a critical counter-attack late in the day. The German threat remained until late April, and just after 10pm on 24 April 1918, ANZAC Day eve, the 51st began their advance in the now legendary attack to dislodge the enemy from Villers-Bretonneux.

When the Allies launched their own offensive in early August, the 51st Battalion was among the units involved and played an active role until the middle of that month, before moving to duties in the rear area. The battalion was ordered forward again in early September, in preparation for its last major operation of the war. On 18 September it provided part of the 4th Division's reserve for the attack on the Hindenburg "outpost line". Not long after the Armistice on 11 November 1918, drafts of men began returning to Australia for discharge. With the departure of the last of these on 5 May 1919, the 51st Battalion disbanded.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, England on 28th April, 1918 with Gas poisoning (Shell) (as per Hospital Admissions form, however the Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he was admitted with Cardiac Dilation.) He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 15th May, 1918.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 15th May, 1918. He was granted furlough from 21st May, 1918 to 4th June, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital at Southall on 25th May, 1918 with Otitis Media. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Whilst on sick furlough from No. 1 AAH became ill. His ears became very painful & on reporting to Hqrs was sent to No 2 AAH. Improvement from 2.6.18 by syringing. Slight discharged. Discharged to No 4 CD.*" He was discharged on 20th June, 1918 & was to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly, Harness Maker, aged 26, married Josephine Jessie Elston, Commercial Clerk, aged 22, on 25th June, 1918 at The Registrar Office, St. Giles, London, England. They both listed their address as 64 Castle Street, St. Giles. Their marriage was registered in June quarter, 1918 in the registration district of St. Giles, London, England.

The Records for the next-of-kin for Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly were changed on 6th June, 1918 to show his wife – Josephine Blatchly, c/o Mrs Laurence, 64 Castle Street, London as the next-of-kin.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England on 1st July, 1918 from furlough. He was medically classified as B1 A2. Private Blatchly was medically classified on 10th July, 1918 as B1 A3 (Unfit for Service for 1 or 2 weeks). He was given the same classification on 19th July, 1918, 24th July, 1918 (ear still discharging), 31st July, 1918 (ear still discharging), 7th August, 1918 (still has discharging from ear), 14th August, 1918 (no discharge for 2 days) & 21st August, 1918 (ear again discharging).

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was sent sick to Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 28th August, 1918 with \_\_\_\_ fits. The Hospital Admissions form reported "*Somewhat depressed, complains of ear no \_\_\_\_ symptoms. No fits in hospital Complains of \_\_\_\_*". He was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 7th September, 1918.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was medically classified on B1 A3 on 11th September, 1918 – ear discharging.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was sent sick to Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 15th September, 1918. He was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 3rd October, 1918.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was marched out from No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 5th November, 1918 & was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on the same day with Chronic Otitis Media. He was medically classified as C2 (permanently unfit for General Service & temporarily unfit for Home Service.)

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was marched out to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England on 1st February, 1919.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was marched out to A.I.F. London on 18th February, 1919 from No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was medically classified on 20th June, 1918 as B1 A.

An Aural Report was completed on Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly on 1st October, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England by Nose, Ear & Throat Specialist. Private Blatchly had Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media in right ear, Mastoiditis in right ear & Chronic Cataractal Otitis Media in left ear. The Specialist stated that Private Blatchly was unfit for General Service & unfit for Home Service as far as his Ears, Nose, Throat & Mouth were concerned.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly on 30th October, 1918 at No. 4 Australian Command Depot in which his disability was listed as Chronic Otitis Media which had first originated in September, 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsula. "A shell exploded near him & ten days after ears began to discharge. Was evacuated." His ears became "bad again in Egypt in 1916. Went to France June 1916. Was evacuated March 1918. Gassed. Evacuated again 24th April & came to England. Pain became bad again 24.5.18 & been \_\_\_ so off & on since." The Medical Officer in charge of Private Blatchly's case recommended that he be classified C2 (permanently unfit for General Service & temporarily unfit for Home Service.) The Medical Board agreed.

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was discharged from Australian Imperial Force in London, England on 19th February, 1919 – permanently & medically unfit. He had served for 3 years & 292 days. Private Blatchly was entitled to 4 Blue Chevrons for overseas service & the Silver War Badge No. A14359. His intended place of residence was listed as c/o J. Earlston Esq., Falcon Grove, Battersea, London, S.W.

### **Blue chevrons**

In January 1918 the Australian Imperial Force approved the wearing of the overseas service chevrons which had been adopted by the British Army. These were embroidered or woven inverted chevrons worn above the cuff on the right arm. Due to a shortage of supply, some men had chevrons privately made. For each year of war service a blue chevron was awarded and those men who had embarked in 1914 received a red chevron to indicate that year's service.



**Blue chevrons**

### **Silver War Badge**

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

The large sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes. The decoration was introduced as an award of "King's silver" for having received wounds or injury during loyal war service to the Crown's authority. A secondary causation for its introduction was that a practice had developed in the early years of the war in the United Kingdom where some women took it upon themselves to confront and publicly embarrass men of fighting age they saw in public places who were not in military uniform, by ostentatiously presenting them with white feathers, as a suggestion of cowardice. As the war had developed substantial numbers of servicemen who had been discharged from His Majesty's Forces with wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance, found themselves being harassed in such a manner and the badge, to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, was a means of discouraging such incidents being directed at ex-forces' personnel. It was forbidden to wear the badge on a military uniform. (Information from Wikipedia)



**Silver War Badge**

Ex-Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly died on 20th October, 1919. He died from causes attributable to war service.

Ex-Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was buried in Sutton Cemetery, Sutton, Surrey, England – Plot number V. 107 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Lieutenant Colonel Buckley, Military Adviser, London, wrote to Base Records on 16th December, 1921 to advise that an additional name was to be included on A.I.F. List 5719 for a Plaque (reference 950027) *“.... The late No. 516 Pte C. D. C. Blatchly died after discharge in England from causes attributable to war service. The Plaque and Scroll will be forwarded to the late soldier’s widow, who is resident in England, as soon as they are available.”*

Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Blatchly’s widow – Mrs J. Blatchly, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England).

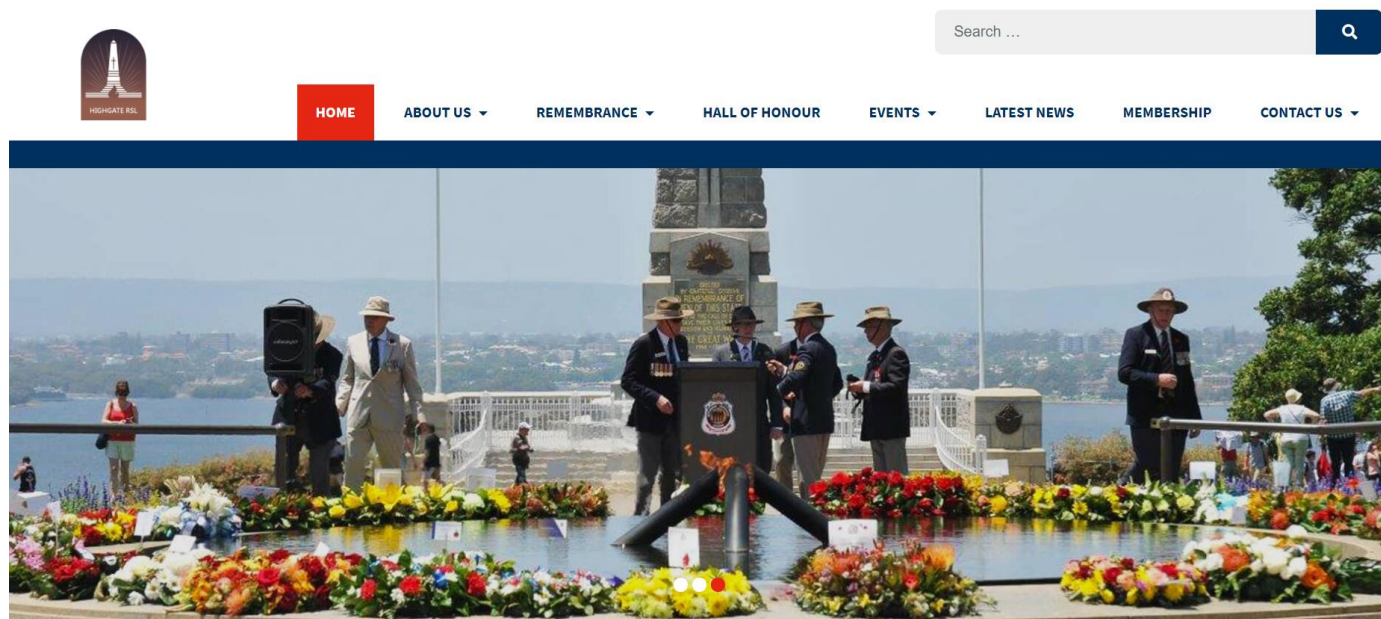
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly – service number 1516, aged 28, of 51st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles and L. Blatchly; husband of Josephine J. Blatchly, of 38 Great St. Andrews St., Seven Dials, London.

Private C. D. C. Blatchly is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 152.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly is remembered on the Western Australian War Memorials – Perth Roll of Honour document by Highgate RSL Western Australia which was compiled from the names of those eligible for the Australian War Memorial Rolls of Honour where the place of association is shown.



Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly is remembered by the South Africa War Graves Project.



(61 pages of Private Charles Douglas Carrington Blatchly's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*







**C. Blatchly (front row – centre) taken August 1915 at Alexandria, Egypt**

*(Photo shared by David Wood)*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **125th CASUALTY LIST**

##### **ILL OR WOUNDED**

28th Battalion, in hospital, Malta, previously reported ill

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 21 December, 1915)

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### **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **AT THE FIGHTING FRONT**

#### **181st Official List**

##### **RETURNED TO DUTY**

Previously Reported Ill

Private C. D. C. Blatchly (South Africa)

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 1 July, 1916)

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### **W. A. Casualties**

#### **At the Fighting Fronts**

#### **THE 323rd OFFICIAL LIST**

##### **WOUNDED**

Chas. Douglas Carrington Blatchly, South Africa

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 14 July, 1917)

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### **W. A. Casualties**

#### **At the Fighting Fronts**

#### **THE 391st OFFICIAL LIST**

##### **WOUNDED**

Chas. Douglas Carrington Blatchly, England, second occasion, gas

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 20 April, 1918)

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## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### 407th CASUALTY LIST

ILL

Blatchly, Chas. Douglas Carrington (England), previously reported wounded, second occasion.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 10 June, 1918)*

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#### War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

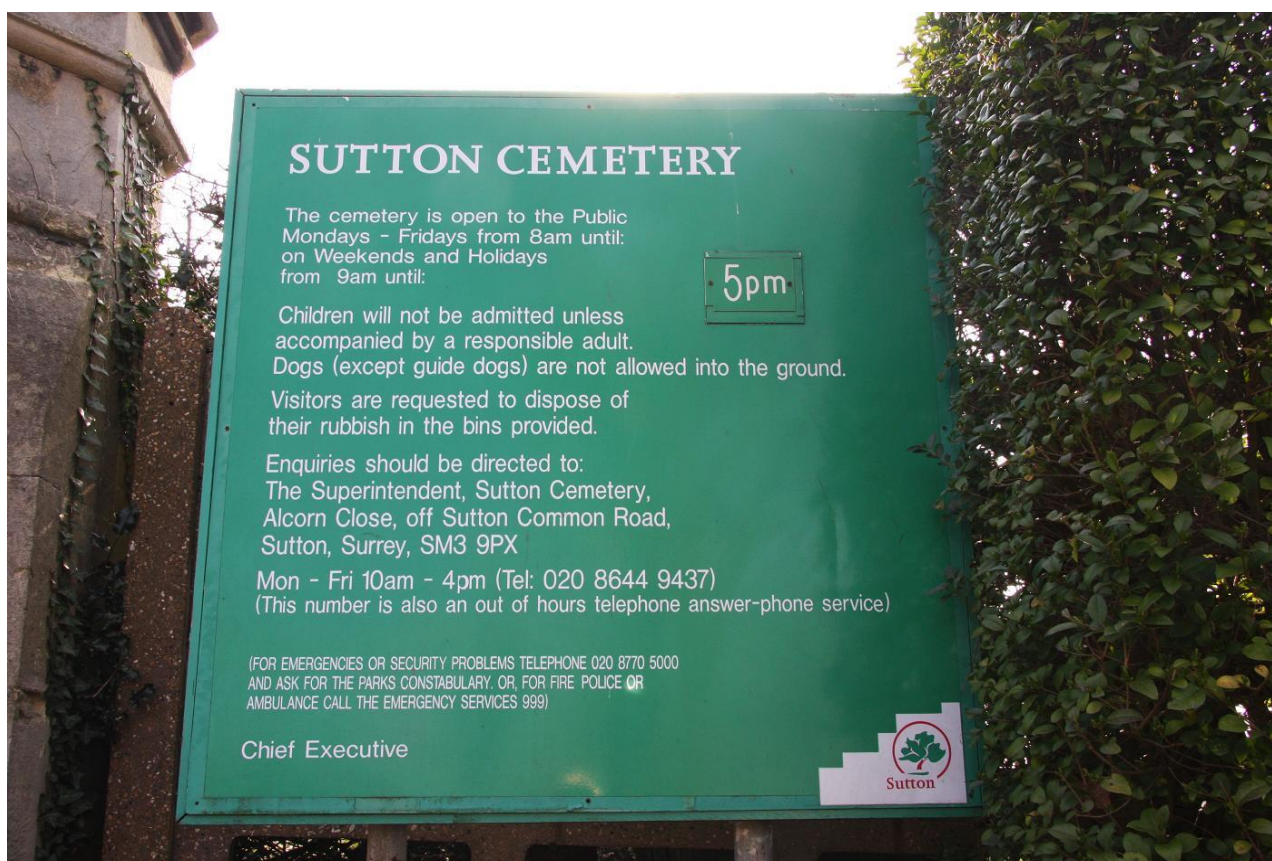
The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Private C. D. C. Blatchly does not have an inscription on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

#### **Sutton Cemetery, Sutton, Surrey, England**

Sutton Cemetery contains 93 Commonwealth War Graves – 43 relating to World War 1 & 50 relating to World War 2.





**Sutton Cemetery, Sutton** (Photos from Find a Grave)



Photo of Private C. D. C. Blatchly's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Sutton Cemetery, Sutton, Surrey, England.



*(Photo from Find a Grave - fulhamrocks)*