

Surname	Blatchley
Forename	Cyril
Initials	C
Age	25
Honours/Awards	
Date died	12/05/1917
Rank	Bombardier
Regiment	Royal Garrison Artillery
Unit/Squadron	39 th Siege Bty.
Service Number	137232
Cemetery/Memorial	Dickebusch New Military Cemetery
Grave Reference	BB. 26.
Further Information	Son of Mrs. A. E. Blatchley, of 'Trentham', Parkside, Egremont, Wallasey, Cheshire. Educated at the Wesleyan School, Brighton Street.



News Report

Egremont Bombardier Killed

Official intimation has been received that Bombr. Cyril Blatchley was killed in action on May 12. He joined the colours on August 13, 1914, and had been in France since November 1, 1915. The circumstances are all the sadder from the fact that the brave boy had never been granted leave to come home since he went into the fighting zone. He was educated at the Wesleyan School, Brighton Street, under the late Mr. James Wright, and was formerly employed with Messrs. Richard Taylor and Sons Ltd., bakers and confectioners, Walton, Liverpool. He was a loyal member of Seacombe Wesleyan Church and Sunday School, and very fond of motoring. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Blatchley, "Trentham," Parkside, Egremont to whom widespread sympathy has been extended in their irreparable loss.

Major T.H. Yorke, R.G.A., writing under-date of May 13, says:-

“Dear Mrs. Blatchley, - I greatly regret to inform you that your son, Cyril Blatchley, was killed by a shell yesterday. I cannot tell you how sorry we all are to lose him. He was a most excellent N.C.O., and a credit to the battery. His death was instantaneous. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy for your great bereavement.”

2nd Lieut. J.W. Hood, R.G.A., writes:-

“Dear Mr. and Mrs. Blatchley – By this time you will have received news of your son’s passing away, and though I am a complete stranger to you, and feel that under these circumstances even the words of a bosom friend may seem inadequate and almost jarring, I cannot but write to tell you my own feelings in the matter. I was Cyril’s section officer, and though I did not get to know him until after he came back from the Base early in February, as I only joined the Battery in November last, I very soon appreciated his value, not only for his own good qualities, but also on account of the way he handled the men under him. He was very keen on his work, and I always knew I could rely on him to do any piece of work with which he was entrusted. It was, therefore, with a very keen sense of loss that I heard that he had suddenly been called away. Most of his private papers and belongings have been dispatched through the regular Army channel, but the enclosed ring was taken off his finger, and the scissors found in his trousers pocket were handed to me; so I am sending them on to you direct. Please accept my real and sincere sympathy with you in your keen loss, and an assurance that I pray heartily that the Father of us all, whose only Son was so tragically and undeservedly put to death, may comfort you in your sorrow, so may you be given strength to bear the present trial, and hope to look forward to the day when dear ones who have passed away will be united to those whom they love in a new world, where war will be unknown and partings be no more. It may perhaps comfort you to some extent to know that Cyril’s death was instantaneously, as he was struck in the morning while he was asleep. I believe your son was engaged.”

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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