

1817 Private Julius Sydney Bloom, 17th Battalion

KIA 5 November 1915

No photograph in collection

Julius Bloom, born in 1892 in Paddington, Sydney, was the son of John and Evelyn Bloom. His father was a Jewish financier in Sydney, and in 1905 Julius celebrated his coming-of-age with a Bar Mitzvah at the age of 13. He attended Sydney Grammar School and later studied accountancy, taking up a position in his father's office. Julius was a member of the Alfred Hills Amateur Opera Company and took a passionate interest in music. He was also an active member of the Coogee Life Saving Club, and there is evidence he was interested in racing horses.

In 1914 Bloom made a visit to England, returning to Australia about a month after the start of the First World War. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in July 1915 and after periods of training in Australia and Egypt he arrived on the Gallipoli peninsula in September 1915. He proved to be "very popular in the company" during this period.

Bloom arrived on Gallipoli long after the major offensives were over, but the trenches and dugouts around ANZAC Cove were still dangerous. On 5 November he was in the firing line near Quinn's Post. He was reading a letter from his mother when a Turkish mine, laid in secret, exploded under his position. Private Julius Bloom was killed instantly. His body was taken from the rubble of the explosion and re-interred in Shrapnel Valley Cemetery. He was 23 years old.