

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

31453 PRIVATE

W. ALLEN

N.Z. CANTERBURY REGT.

23RD FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 29



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private W. Allen is located in Front Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 23 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 70)

William Allen was born on 24th June, 1888 at Oxford, Canterbury, New Zealand, the son of Joseph & Leah Jane Allen (nee Twose). He was a 27 year old & 11 months, single, Labourer from Westland, West Coast, New Zealand when he enlisted on 25th July, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 31453 & his religion was Baptist. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Leslie Allen, Oxford, Canterbury, New Zealand.

Pte William Allen embarked with 19th Reinforcements Canterbury Infantry Battalion - C Company from Wellington, New Zealand on HMNZT (69) *Tahiti* on 15th November, 1916, destination Devonport, England. He disembarked at Devonport on 29th January, 1917.

Pte William Allen was marched in to Sling Army Camp at Wiltshire, on 29th January, 1917.

Pte William Allen was admitted to 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 19th February, 1917 with influenza. He was reported as “Dangerously Ill” on 21st February, 1917.

Pte William Allen died on 23rd February, 1917 at the 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Lobar Pneumonia.

A death for William Allen, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private William Allen was buried at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Codford on 27th February, 1917.

Pte William Allen, 31453 was last attached to Canterbury Regiment of New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Private William Allen was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Allen’s father – Mr Joseph Allen of Bexley, Oxford, Canterbury, New Zealand. (May, 1921 & January, 1922)

(16 pages of Private William Allen’s Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand website).

Information obtained from the Archives New Zealand, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Commonwealth War Graves Commission & PapersPast, National Library of New Zealand.

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Newspaper Reports

NEW ZEALAND CASUALTIES

A Casualty list issued last night reported 1 man died of sickness and 1 officer and 4 men wounded.

DIED OF SICKNESS

Canterbury Infantry Batt.

Allen, W., 31453 (L. Allen, Oxford, b); 23rd February

(*Evening Post*, Volume XCIII, Issue 50, 27th February, 1917 & *Dominion*, 27th February, 1917)

Private W. Allen has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

Photo of Private W. Allen's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)