

**Efford Cemetery,
Plymouth, Devon
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6957 PRIVATE

C. ALLEN

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 25

Charles Alexander ALLEN

Charles Alexander Allen was born at Wallaroo, South Australia on 13th April, 1891 to parents Albert & Maria Allen (nee Brickman).

Charles Alexander Allen attended Wallaroo State School, South Australia.

Charles Alexander Allen was a 25 year old, single, Clerk from Wallaroo, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 25th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6957 & his religion was Methodist (as per Embarkation Roll, however his religion is listed as Church of Christ on Attestation Paper. Another Attestation Paper has Church of Christ crossed out & replaced with "Meth" in red). His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. Allen, Hughes Street, Wallaroo, South Australia. Charles Allen stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service on 24th November, 1915.

Private Charles Alexander Allen was posted to "C" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion, Mitcham Reinforcements on 28th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 23rd Reinforcements of 10th Battalion on 14th November, 1916.

10th Battalion

The 10th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. The battalion was recruited in South Australia, and together with the 9th, 11th and 12th Battalions, formed the 3rd Brigade.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Alexander Allen embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 16th December, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Battalion, 23rd Reinforcements.

Private Charles Alexander Allen was written up for being Absent Without Leave while at Cape Town from 11 pm on 12th January, 1917 till 5 pm on 14th January, 1917. He was awarded 5 days Detention.

Private Charles Alexander Allen was admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 28th January, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined) & again on 6th February, 1917. He was discharged on 13th February, 1917. Private Allen disembarked at Devonport, England on 16th February, 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.

Private Charles Alexander Allen was admitted to Military Hospital, Devonport, England on 18th February, 1917 – dangerously ill with C.S.M. Fever. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*A very acute case. Acute cyclitis occurred on the 7th day with destructive inflammation of the eyeball.*"

Private Charles Alexander Allen died at 1.30 pm on 27th February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Devonport, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Charles Allen, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Private Charles Alexander Allen was buried on 2nd March, 1917 in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number Church C. 4933. 3.3. and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Private Charles Alexander Allen - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm Brass Mountings. Extra cost defrayed by relatives in England. A floral tribute in the shape of a cross was placed on the gun-carriage. This was sent by the Nursing Staff of the Devonport Military Hospital. The firing party, band and pall-bearers were provided by the 3rd Devon Regiment.*

A. Allen, Wallaroo, South Australia, was advised by Base Records on 2nd March, 1917 that Private Charles Allen had been admitted to Hospital on 18th February dangerously ill with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A War Pension was granted to Maria Allen, Wallaroo, mother of the late Private Charles Alexander Allen, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 12th April, 1918.

Private Charles Alexander 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 A. Allen, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Allen – service number 6957, aged 25, of 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Albert and Maria Allen.

Private C. A. Allen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 58.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. A. Allen is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

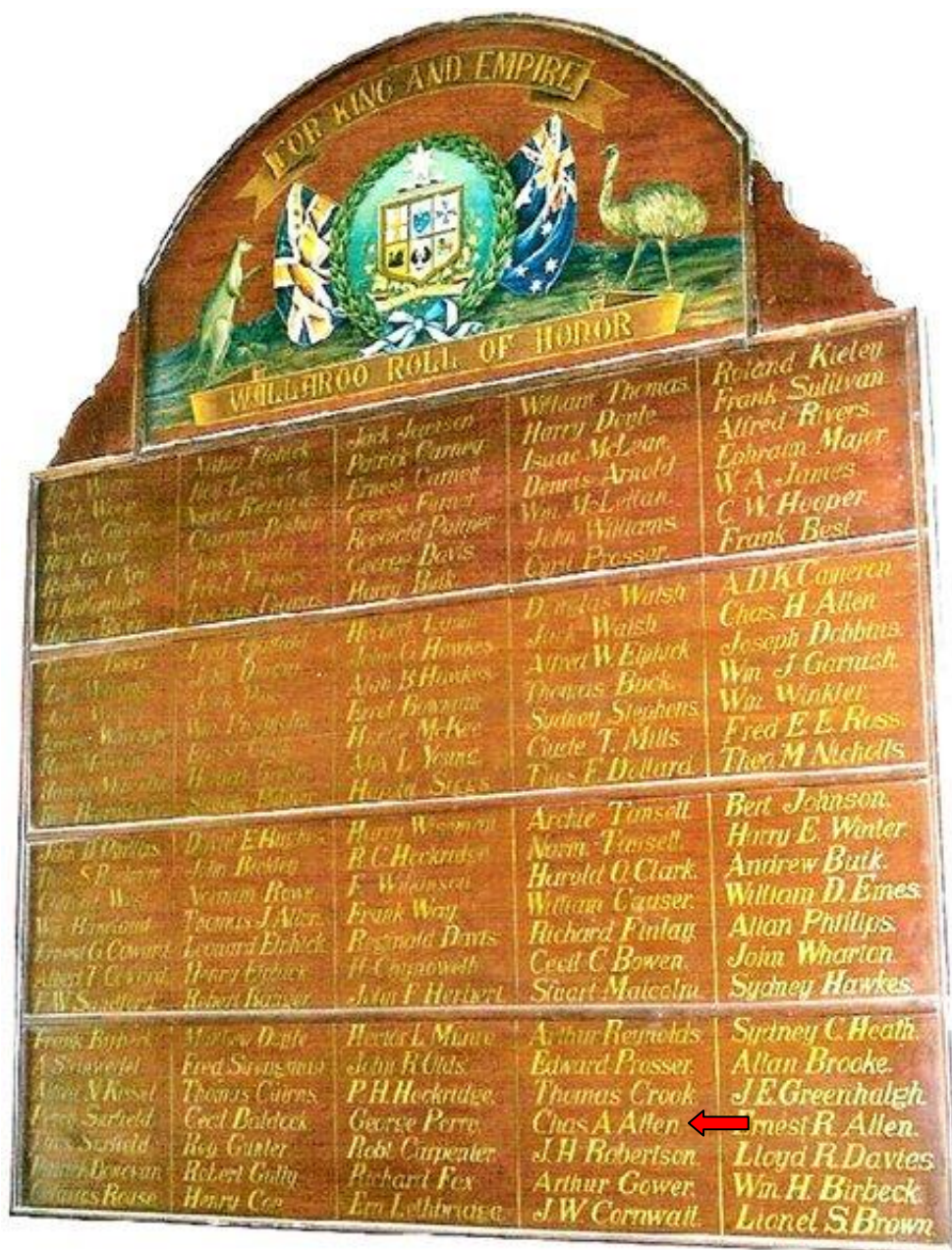
C. A. Allen is remembered on the Soldiers' Memorial Arch located at Wallaroo Town Hall, Irwin Street, Wallaroo, South Australia.



Wallaroo Soldiers' Memorial Arch (Photos from Monument Australia)



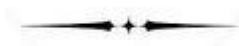
Charles A. Allen is remembered on the Wallaroo WW1 Roll of Honour, located in Town Hall, Irwin Street, Wallaroo, South Australia.



Wallaroo WW1 Roll of Honour (Photo from VWMA)

(48 pages of Private Charles Alexander Allen'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) & National Archives





Charles Allen

Photo



Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOR

THE LATE PRIVATE C. A. ALLEN

News of the death of Private Charles Alexander Allen, of the A.I.F., from meningitis, was received in Wallaroo on Saturday with much regret. The mayor (Mr. T. E. Ashton) had the flag at the town hall lowered, and other flags in the town (including one at the local works of the Wallaroo-Mount Lyell Company, where Private Allen was employed prior to his enlistment), were flown at half-mast. Private Allen enlisted on October 29, 1916. He died at Devonport Military Hospital (England) on February 27, at the age of 25 years. He was born in Wallaroo and had been for some years a clerk in the works of the Wallaroo-Mount Lyell Company. He was a musician of ability and was in great demand at socials and other gatherings.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 March, 1917) & (*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 March, 1917)

BIOGRAPHICAL

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The late Private C. A. Allen.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 March, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

ALLEN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Charles, who died in Devenport Military Hospital, England, of illness, February 27, 1917, while on active service.-Inserted by his father, mother, sister, and brother, Wallaroo.

ALLEN – In fond remembrance of Charlie, who gave his life for King and Empire, died Davenport Hospital, England, February 27, 1917. Gone but not forgotten. Duty nobly done. –Inserted by his aunt and uncle, M. and F. Cawte, Murray Bridge.

ALLEN – In memory of dear Charlie, who died on active service abroad, February 27, 1917. He laid down his life for his friends. –Remembered still by loving grandfather and grandmother, G. and M. Dalby, Wallaroo.

ALLEN – In loving memory of Private Charles Alexander Allen, who died of meningitis in England on February 27, 1917.

Greater love hath no man than he laid down his life for his friends.

-Inserted by his loving Aunt Annie, Uncle Will, and Cousins Grave, Iris, Ada, Lorna, and Harry Warne, Wallaroo.

ALLEN – A token of live to the memory of Private Charles A. Allen, who died at Davenport Military Hospital, England, 27th February, 1917.

“Great love hath no man than this.”

-Fondly remembered by Aunt Nell, Uncle Will, Cousins Daisy, Will, Harry, and Madge Henderson, Wallaroo Mines.

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 February, 1918) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 March, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

ALLEN – In loving memory of Charlie, who died on active service, February 27, 1917.

Called to higher service. So sadly missed.

-Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, F. and M. Cawse, Murray Bridge.

ALLEN – In loving memory of our dearest son and brother, Charlie, who passed away at Devonport Military Hospital, England, of illness, February 27, 1917, whilst on active service. We shall not forget the sacrifice he made. –Inserted by his father, mother, brother, and sister, Wallaroo.

ALLEN – A token of love to the memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private C. A. Allen, died in England, February 27, 1917. Fondly remembered by his loving aunt and uncle and cousins, Henderson, Wallaroo Mines.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 February, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

ALLEN – In ever loving memory of our dear Charlie, who passed away at Devonport Military Hospital, England, on the 27th February, 1917.

At rest. –Inserted by his father, mother, brother, and sister, Wallaroo.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 February, 1920)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

ALLEN – In loving memory of our dear Charlie, who passed away at Devonport Military Hospital, England, February 27, 1917.

We can't forget, we loved him too dearly.

–Inserted by father, mother, brother, and sister, Wallaroo.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 February, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

ALLEN – In loving memory of dear Charlie, who died in England on February 27, 1917.

A sudden shock, a cruel pain,

And the world was never the same again.

–Inserted by father, mother, brother, and sister, Wallaroo.

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 February, 1922)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area. Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth. PLYMOUTH (EFFORD) CEMETERY contains 338 scattered burials of the First World War. The 109 Second World War burials, including 5 unidentified, are also scattered apart from a small group in Section C, in a plot set aside for service burials that was actually little used. The Commission also maintains five non-war burials within the cemetery and 12 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Greek merchant seamen. PLYMOUTH CITY CREMATORIUM is situated in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery and 61 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall set into a recess in the hedge behind the Cross of Sacrifice.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth (Photo from CWGC)



(Photo courtesy of Rebecca Smith)



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photos courtesy of Rebecca Smith)*



Photo of Private Charles Allen's Private Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo courtesy of Rebecca Smith – CWGC)



(Photos by Moose – Find a Grave)





(Photos by Woose – Find a Grave)

