

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3059 PRIVATE

W. ALLEN

4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH JUNE, 1918 Age 26

William ALLEN

Christopher William Erricker was born at Longreach, Queensland on 27th September, 1893 to parents Christopher & Rose Ellen Erricker (nee Allen).

William Erricker attended State School.

William Erricker enlisted as William Allen, stating he was a 24 year old, single, Labourer (born at Rockhampton, Queensland) from Gosford, NSW when he enlisted on 18th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3059 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Rose Ellen Allen, Rockhampton, Queensland. William Allen stated on his Attestation Papers that he has been apprenticed as a Horse Trainer (Race). (According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – William was a Miner). (According to family information William Erricker believed that “Erricker” was a German name & decided to enlist as William Allen – “Allen” being his mother’s maiden name.)

Private William Allen was posted to “D” Company of Newcastle Depot Battalion on 22nd May, 1916 for recruit training. He was sent to Milson Island (non venereal) from 5th September, 1916 to 9th September, 1916 then to Moore Park. Pte Allen was posted to 1st Battalion Pioneers on 22nd August, 1916.

Private William Allen embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Borda (A30)* on 17th October, 1916 with the 1st Pioneer Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 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 William Allen was written up for an Offence at Parkhouse, Wiltshire – “Absent without leave from midnight 30.1.17 till 9pm 1.2.17.” He was awarded 10 days Field Punishment No. 2 & was in custody awaiting trial 11 days. Total forfeiture of pay – 23 days.

Private William Allen was marched in to Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire from Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 2nd March, 1917.

Private William Allen was transferred & taken on strength of 1st Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 11th July, 1917 from Pioneer Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire.

Private William Allen qualified as very good at Lewis Gun School held between 6th & 10th August, 1917 at 1st Training Battalion.

Private William Allen proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 5th September, 1917 from No.’s 7 & 8 Camps, Durrington. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 6th September, 1917 & marched out on 13th September, 1917 to join his Unit.

Private William Allen was taken on strength of 4th Battalion in France on 25th September, 1917 from 1st Pioneer Battalion.

Private William Allen was reported Missing in France on 4th October, 1917. He was later reported “Not Missing” & was with his Unit on 4th October, 1917.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private William Allen contains a letter from W. Allen. 3059, D. Coy stating “*I am all right and was away from the Battn on October 4th for a few hours. I was not wounded on that occasion.*”

Private William Allen was written up for a crime on 11th February, 1918 – “Neglecting to obey an order given by his superior officer.” He was awarded 5 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks) & forfeited 5 days’ pay.

Private William Allen was wounded in action – Gassed. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 9th March, 1918 then transferred to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Allen was transferred to Ambulance Train 36 on 10th March, 1918 & admitted to 53rd General Hospital at Boulogne the same day. He was

transferred to No.1 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 22nd March, 1918 then transferred to No. 10 Convalescent Depot at Ecault on 25th March, 1918. Pte Allen was discharged to Base on 2nd April, 1918.

Private William Allen was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre from Hospital on 4th April, 1918 & marched out to join his Unit on 10th April, 1918.

Private William Allen had been written up for a Crime on 6th April, 1918 while posted at A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) – “1. Drunkenness 2. Being in possession of Spirits 3. Being in town without a pass 4. Absent from Tattoo 6/4/18 till apprehended by the French Police at about 11 pm on 6/4/18.” He was awarded 20 days C.C. (Confined to Camp) & forfeited 20 days'pay.

Private William Allen rejoined 4th Battalion in France on 25th April, 1918.

Private William Allen was wounded in action – gassed (classified as wounded) on 25th May, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Allen was transferred & admitted to 53rd General Hospital on 26th May, 1918. He was invalided to England from 53rd General Hospital on 30th May, 1918 – gassed.

4th Battalion

The battalion participated in a short period of mobile operations following the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line in early 1917, but spent much of that year fighting in increasingly difficult conditions around Ypres. In 1918 the battalion returned to the Somme valley and helped to stop the German spring offensive in March and April.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Allen was admitted to War Hospital at Norwich, Norfolk, England on 30th May, 1918 – Gassed Shell – dangerously ill.



Private William Allen died at 5.40 pm on 4th June, 1918 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from Gas Poisoning from Shell Gas & Burns.

Base Records advised A.I.F. Headquarters, London on 4th June, 1918 that “Mrs Rose E. Erricker of 82 South Street, Rockhampton (Queensland) has furnished a Statutory Declaration to the effect that No. 3059, Private W. Allen, 4th Battalion, is her son, and that he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force under an assumed name, his correct one being WILLIAM ERRICKER.” The Statutory Declaration was dated 16th May, 1918.

Private William Allen was buried at 2 pm on 8th June, 1918 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Plot number 54. 712 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private William Allen - *Coffin was good Oak. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack". A number of comrades from the Hospital attended the funeral and sent a wreath. The last rites of the Roman Catholic Church were performed by Chaplain the Rev. Harwarden. A wreath was sent by Mrs H. G. Wheeler, Flat 41 Westminster Palace Gardens, Westminster. An oak cross was erected on the grave. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The burial information sent to Mrs R. Erricker on 4th October, 1918 by Base Records referred to her son as Private W. Erricker.

The District Pay Office, Sydney wrote to Base Records, Melbourne in March, 1918 to inform them that "*Mrs Rose Erricker, Rockhampton, Queensland, is making enquiries concerning her son's allotment. She states he enlisted under the name of William Allen, No. 3059, 7th Reinforcements, 1st Pioneers. This soldier left an allotment of 3/- per diem to his mother – Mrs Rose Ellen Allen, Rockhampton, Queensland, and he also nominated this person as his next-of-kin.*

According to Police Reports furnished by the courtesy of the Inspector General of Police, there appears to be no doubt that the soldier's correct name is William Erricker and that he intended his allotment to be paid to his mother – Mrs Rose Erricker, whose maiden name was Allen....."

A War Pension was granted to Rose Ellen Erricker, of Cambridge & Belsover Street, Rockhampton, widowed mother of the late Private William Allen in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 9th August, 1918.

Private William Allen stated to be William Erricker, was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal (named to Private W. Allen (stated to be W. Erricker). A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Erricker's mother – Mrs R. E. Erricker, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 with name Private William Allen (served as) & Plaque sent March, 1923 with name Private William Erricker).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Erricker, – service number 3059, aged 26, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry (served as ALLEN). He was the son of Christy and Rose Allen Erricker of 132 Derby Street, Rockhampton, Queensland. The CWGC also has an entry for Private William Allen, 3059 ALIAS see Erricker the true family name.

Private W. Erricker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 40.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Rockhampton War Memorial, located in Botanic Gardens, 100 Spencer Street, Rockhampton, Queensland does not have individual names.



Rockhampton War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

(92 pages of Pte William 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

Mrs Erricker, Bolsover and Cambridge streets, Rockhampton, has received a letter from Mrs. H. G. Wheeler, London, dated the 4th of February last, enclosing the following communication, dated the 1st of February, from the Secretary of the Australian Red Cross Society, Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.:—"With reference to your inquiry of the 25th of January for No. 3059, Private William Allen, A.I.F., who was previously reported missing on the 4th of October, 1917, we have much pleasure in informing you that he is now reported not missing, but is again with his unit in France." Mrs. Wheeler adds—" I daresay you will have heard the good news already through the Red Cross, and I am going to cable to you to-day. I am writing to your son to-day." Mrs. Erricker says that she duly received Mrs. Wheeler's cable message and that she wishes to express her gratitude to Mrs. Wheeler for all that she has done for her and for her son, adding "She is doing fine work for all our boys."

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 9 April, 1918) & (The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 13 April, 1918)

411th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte WILLIAM ERRICKER, Rockhampton, Q.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 June, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Queensland Casualties

Casualty List 411.....

IN OTHER STATES

DIED OF WOUNDS – William Erricker, Rockhampton, gas, 4/6/18, p.r.m.

(*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 June, 1918)

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

Major Steel, of the Military Headquarters, Brisbane, has advised the Mayor that a communication has been received from headquarters, London, to the effect that William Allen (stated to be Erricker), of the Fourth Battalion, late First Pioneers, died in the Norwich War Hospital. The cause of death, it was stated, was being inquired into. The writer asked that the deceased's mother, Mrs R. E. Erricker, 82 South-street, should be informed of the facts.

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 29 June, 1918)

PERSONAL NOTES

The Mayor of Rockhampton has been further advised that Private Wm. Allen has died in the Norwich Hospital. The cause of death is being inquired into. The deceased soldier's mother, Mrs Erricker, resides in South-street.

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 6 July, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ERRICKER – In sad and loving memory of our dearest Son and Brother, Private William Erricker, 4th Battalion. Died from gas poisoning, 4th June, 1918.

R.I.P.

(Inserted by his loving Mother, Sister and Brothers)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 3 June, 1919) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 7 June, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ERRICKER – In sad and loving memory of our dearest son and brother, Private William Erricker, 4th Battalion, died from gas poisoning, 4th June, 1918.

R.I.P.

(Inserted by his loving mother, sister and brothers)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 4 June, 1920) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 12 June, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ERRICKER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private William Erricker, who died from gas poisoning and wounds on the 4th of June, 1918.

Rest in Peace

(Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sister)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 3 June, 1921) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 11 June, 1921)



Private William Erricker who served as Private William Allen



Commonwealth 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 W. Allen does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private W. Allen's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.

(Note – William Allen was the name he enlisted under – real name Christopher William Erricker)



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich



