

## William Percy Allen

### What do we know about William Allen?

#### Overview

Born April/May 1880 in Leicester, Leicestershire (although no birth record found yet)

Father = **Charles Allen** (Watchmaker), mother named **Sarah**

Coster Monger in Leicester at Market Square, lived at 27 Orchard St Leicester in 1898

Joined 3<sup>rd</sup> Militia Leicestershire battalion 21/11/1898 Regimental **#6852**

Joined 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment 5/1/1899 Regimental **#5435**

Regiment spent time in Egypt, then Guernsey (where he met Beatrice Mitchell)

Daughter **Florence Beatrice Allen** Born 24/8/1904 Guernsey

Married Beatrice Mitchell 11/9/1904 Trinity Church, St Peter Port Guernsey

Discharged after 8 years' service with 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment 4/1/1907

Re-applied but was denied due to health issue 16/12/10

Discharged from Regimental Service 4/1/1911

1914 – Joins the AOC with Regimental **# 05398**

1/2/1916 Dies in Southampton, of aortic aneurysm and pneumonia (after time spent in Dardanelles near Gallipoli)

His middle name of Percy is first mentioned on his Wedding in 1904 to Beatrice Mitchell, and then followed by his Military Service with the AOC 1914+ and on his Death Certificate in 1916.

#### Section 1                      Queries regarding his date of birth: Believed to be **April** or **May 1880**

His date of birth seems to have been **1880** according to his Military Records, Marriage record and the 1911 Census.

Free BMD has a William Allen Born Q2 1880 in Leicester

The 1901 Census and His death record supply the only conflicting pieces of information, both make his birth year 1876/1877.

As I have been unable to find a birth record, or trace him or his family on the 1881 and 1891 Censuses, my first relevant piece of information comes from his attestation on 21/11/1898 to join the Militia (3<sup>rd</sup> Leicestershire Battalion)

His Military Records confirm a birth year of 1880.

The 1901 Census (if it is indeed our William Allen but doubtful) state his year of birth as being 1876/1877.



The Glen Parva Barracks opened in 1881

**1901 Census at Headquarters', 17<sup>th</sup> Regimental District, Blaby, Leicestershire**  
**William Allen (24) B 1877 Private B St Margaret's Leicester**

His Military Records provide a year of birth of **1880**

His Wedding Certificate of **11/9/1904** states that he was 24. Born **1880**

The **1911** Census also states that he was born in **1880/1881** (he was 30 in April 1911, which adds credence to his birthday being in May, when he would have turned 31 confirming 1880 as his birth year)

His Death Certificate of **1/2/1916** states that he was 39. Born 1876/1877

\*The Great War Guernsey Website has his death age as 35, which fits with 1880

Born: Per Regimental Papers: **St Mark's Leicester**

Per Census – 1901 (taken at Glen Parva Barracks) – Born St Margaret's Leicester

Per Census – 1911 (taken at The Cottage St John Street SPP Gsy) – Born Nottingham (his father **Charles Allen** also born Nottingham)

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### **Date of Birth**

Per Census – 1901 aged 24 (1876/1877)

Per Wedding details of 11<sup>th</sup> September 1904 aged 24 (1880)

Per Census – 1911 aged 30 (1880)

Per Death Certificate of 1<sup>st</sup> February 1916 aged 39 (1876/77)

\*1901 Census taken on: 31<sup>st</sup> March 1901

\*1911 Census taken on: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911

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## Section 2 – His Place of Birth

It is most likely that William was born in **St Marks Leicester, Leicestershire**

\*(St Margaret's was the Civil Parish whereas St Mark's was the ecclesiastical Parish)

The 1901 Census and his Military Records provide his place of birth as St Mark's Leicester; his death record also states born in Leicester.

The 1911 Census throws a curve ball by stating that he was born in Nottingham.

## Section 3 - Who were his parents?

I would be fairly confident to say that his father was named **Charles Allen** (rumoured change of surname at some point)

The 1904 Wedding Certificate states that **Charles Allen**, a Watchmaker by Profession was his father.

This is confirmed on his Military Records, in particular his discharge record of January 1911 which confirms that his father was Charles and his mother Sarah.

The Military Records aren't terribly clear; the names of his parents could have been referring to his attestation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment in 1899 or his discharge in 1907.

Name of Parents:

Father: **CHARLES ALLEN** (Watchmaker) – This information appears on the 1904 Wedding Certificate and supplied by the Priaux Library Guernsey.

**CHARLES** and **SARAH** (surname not given) this information found on his Army Service Record of 1899-1911 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment

(This applies to William's attestation in 1899, transfer in 1907 or discharge in 1911)

Their Address: 22 Garden Street, Nottingham.

\*Looked up this Address on the 1911 Census FindmyPast.co.uk (area Radford Nottinghamshire).

There were lots of other street numbers for Garden Street. No trace of 22, so unable to verify data.

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## Military Service

### Militia Attestation – 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicester (Militia) Battalion - #6852

William enlisted with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicester (Militia) Battalion on 21/11/1898 he gave his occupation as Coster Monger in Market Place, Leicester



At the top of the form it states William **Kelly** (but Kelly has been crossed out as a surname) and Allen written to the right of it. Is this just a corrected error, or an indication that William had a different surname at some point?

His employers name was given as **G Sales** and his place of residence as **27 Orchard Street, St Mark's Leicester**

He provided a place of birth as St Mark's Leicester. (St Margaret's was the Civil Parish whereas St Mark's was the Ecclesiastical Parish)

He confirmed that in the last 12 months he has been a resident of St Mark's Leicester (1897-1898)

His age was given as 18 years and 1 month on the 1<sup>st</sup> page of the attestation but 18 years and 6 months on the second page (Birth either May 1880 or October 1880)

\*It is my belief at this stage 18 years and 1 month was accurate.

Age: 18 years and 6 months  
Height: 5 feet 2 5/8 inches  
Weight: 120lb  
Chest measurement: 34 inches (expanded to 35.5 inches)  
Complexion: Fresh  
Eyes: Light Brown  
Hair: Brown  
Trade or Occupation: Costermonger  
Religion: Church of England

\*A Costermonger is a street seller who sells fruit and vegetables

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costermonger>

Distinctive marks – Tattooed a Pair of Flags and Crown back of left hand

Then another sentence is written in this section “Special 126 © M. R.”

I have no idea what this means as yet.

His number in the Militia was **#6852**

\*The Militia was like a Territorial Army, whereby the person still had a regular day job at the same time.

He had 49 Days of Days of Drill with the Militia. Upon completion he filled out attestation papers to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment.

*The **Leicestershire Regiment** was accordingly formed on 1 July 1881. The regimental depot was at [Glen Parva](#), and the regiment consisted of:*

- *The 1st and 2nd Battalions (formerly the 1st and 2nd battalions of the 17th Foot)*
  - **3rd (Militia) Battalion (formerly the Leicestershire Militia)**
- *1st Leicestershire Rifle Volunteer Corps, redesignated as the 1st Volunteer Battalion in 1883*

### **Attestation for 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment #5435**

On 5/1/1899 he applied for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment**

He was given the regimental **#5435** (Certificate **#A42**)

Form headed “Application from Militia to 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment 5/1/1899 states:

(This form signed 5/1/1899) states that he was 18 years and 3 months and that his previous employment was that of Costermonger

He confirms that he has been serving with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Militia Leicestershire Battalion

Form headed "Descriptive Return of a man proposed for enlistment (or retention) in the Leicester Regiment

Age at enlistment to 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment = 18 years 6 months (3 months difference on two forms with the same date)

Age: 18 years and 6 months

Height: 5 feet 3 inches (a little taller than prior form)

Weight: 122 lb.

Chest Measurement: 33.5 inches (expanded to 35 inches)

Complexion: Fresh

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Religion: Church of England

Form headed "**Certificate of Medical Examination**"

Age: 18 years and 6 Months

Height: 5 feet 3 inches

Weight: 122 lb.

Chest Measurement: 33.5 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Light Brown

Religion: Church of England

Physical: Fit

Distinctive marks: Crown and crossed flags on right Forearm. Tattooed Crown and Crossed Flags, back of left hand

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### **Service Record (and general timeline) with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment**

5/1/1899 – 4/1/1911

He was in B Section, Army Reserve

**Service record:**

**5<sup>th</sup> January 1899** - Regimental Depot Posted

**25<sup>th</sup> May 1899** - Transferred

**5<sup>th</sup> October 1899** Granted Messing Allowance

*(A Messing Allowance was a Military allowance granted towards food and accommodation when away from Unit)*

**6<sup>th</sup> February 1900** Home

Posted **7<sup>th</sup> February 1900 – 14<sup>th</sup> December 1902** – Egypt (not directly involved with Boer War but protecting British Colony, Suez Canal etc)

\*Query it seems to be our William Allen showing on the 1901 Census taken on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the Glen Parva Barracks in Leicestershire, yet he was in Egypt for these two years? I suspect it is another William Allen.

**31<sup>st</sup> January 1902** – Completes course in instruction in Stretcher Drill

**26<sup>th</sup> November 1902** – Awaiting trial

**28<sup>th</sup> November 1902** – Tried and convicted by Records of Breaking out of Barracks. Sentenced to 21 days imprisonment

**15<sup>th</sup> December 1902** –Home (Most likely Guernsey and Fort George by now), as must meet wife to be Beatrice Louisa Mitchell shortly after this time.

**26<sup>th</sup> September 1904** – Service extended to 8 years with Colours. Granted Service Pay Class II @ 5 (unable to decipher rest of sentence)

**19<sup>th</sup> November 1904** – Granted 1 GC (Good Conduct) Badge

**21<sup>st</sup> September 1906** – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Posted (Don't know where)

**19<sup>th</sup> November 1906** – Granted 2 GC Badges

**31<sup>st</sup> December 1906** – Forfeit 1 GC Badge

**4<sup>th</sup> January 1907** – Transferred (unable to decipher a couple of words) I think this was due to completing his period of engagement (8 years)

Age: 26 years and 9 months

Height: 5 foot 3 inches

Waist: 30 inches  
Exact size of Helmet: 21 ¼ inches  
Exact size of Boots: 5  
Complexion: Fresh  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Brown

Intended place of residence – **6 Hauteville, St Peter Port**

Age given as 26 years and 9 months as at 4/1/1907 = **Born April 1880**

**11<sup>th</sup> November 1907** – William Allen (see personal correspondence) writes asking if he could rejoin the Colours. Stating how he has been on the Reserve Military for 12 months and has no current employment.

This is what his letter says:

*"Sir, would you kindly inform me if there is any possible chance of rejoining the Colours before? I have been on the Reserve 11 months. If no will you kindly forward me full particulars as soon as possible for I am out of Employment and I should like to come back to the Service"*

**15<sup>th</sup> November 1907** – Reply states that owing to his not having 4 years to do his application cannot be entertained.

**9<sup>th</sup> June 1910** – William writes to the Major in Lichfield, asking that he can join Section D of the Reservist Army. William wrote that his time with the Army would expire on 4/1/1911 and he was keen for a vacancy so that he could re-enlist.

*"As my time expires on 4/1/1911, I beg to apply to join Section D Army Reserve should there be a vacancy. Kindly inform me as soon as convenient for you to do so. I am yours obedient*

*W Allen, 64 Victoria Road, St Peter Port Guernsey*

**7<sup>th</sup> September 1910** – Letter to William Allen at 64 Victoria Road regarding his re-engagement for Army Reserves asking that he report 'here' (Litchfield Middlesex) as the Battalion is moving to Bordon Garrison (William was applying to be in Section D of the Reservist Army)

\*The Bordon Garrison was in Hampshire

**10<sup>th</sup> December 1910**– Letter from Major to another Commanding Officer, stating that William Allen desires not to be re-enlisted with Section D, but rather to be re-attested for Section D.

**16<sup>th</sup> December 1910** – Memorandum to Major that William Allen failed his Medical examination



**16<sup>th</sup> December 1910** – See Form headed “Medical Form confirming Discharge on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1911 owing to VDH”

William Allen is certified unfit due to having VDH (Valvular Disease of the Heart\*) and that his existing engagement with the Leicestershire Regiment will expire on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1911.

Intended place of residence: 64 Vauvert, St Peter Port

**\*Valvular heart disease** is any disease process involving one or more of the [valves of the heart](#) (the [aortic](#) and [mitral valves](#) on the left and the [pulmonary](#) and [tricuspid valves](#) on the right). Valve problems may be congenital (inborn) or acquired (due to another cause later in life). Treatment may be with medication but often (depending on the severity) involves valve repair or [replacement](#) (insertion of an [artificial heart valve](#)). Specific situations include those where additional demands are made on the circulation, such as [in pregnancy](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

**4<sup>th</sup> January 1911** – Discharged on the termination of first period of engagement

Intended Place of Residence 64 Vauvert, St Peter Port, Guernsey

The Discharge Form of 1911 confirms that he was in B Section Army Reserve

**1914** – William Allen joins the AOC (did not become RAOC until after WWI) and is given # 05398.

Is awarded the RAOC1B/17 – 15 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal (RAOC/101B 76)

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 1915** – Enters the Dardanelles Gallipoli

Background:

**27<sup>th</sup> November 1915** - Heavy rain strikes Gallipoli lasting until 30<sup>th</sup> November 1915, following this blizzard at Sulva in early December. Rain floods trenches and the following snow kills yet more.

**9<sup>th</sup> January 1916** – Allied Evacuation of Gallipoli completed.

**1<sup>st</sup> February 1916** – William Percy Allen dies at **8 Highfield Lane U. D. Southampton** aged 39 years. (He was in fact 35 years old)

Highfield Hall was used as a Military Hospital during World War I (Now this is part of Southampton University's Campus)

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Registration Number **CEH.065774**

REGISTRATION DISTRICT **Southampton**

**1916** DEATH IN THE SUB-DISTRICT **Southampton Eastern** in the **County of Southampton C.B.**

No.	Spouse or other person	Name and address	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and address of informant	Time reported	Signature of registrar
First	February 1916 William Percy	Male	29	40	11 Sir George's Road, Shirley, Southampton	Aortic Aneurysm	P.H. Allen	First	A.S.
462	Beatrice Louisa Allen	Female	40	40	11 Sir George's Road, Shirley, Southampton	Pneumonia	P.H. Allen	First	A.S.
<p>CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the General Register Office of the District of Southampton</p> <p>Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE under the Seal of the said District on the <b>28th</b> day of <b>November</b> 2003</p> <p><b>DYA 234560</b></p> <p>WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.</p>									

Cause of death: 1) Aortic Aneurysm  
2) Pneumonia

Widow Beatrice Louisa Allen residing at the time at **11 Sir George's Road Shirley Southampton**,  
(Per Dad this address was the home of William's sister Nellie at the time...so far I have found nothing to confirm this, but have had no access to 1916 records)



The Main Property on the left is 11 Sir George's Road, Southampton

(At the time of the 1911 Census a **William and Caroline Paull** were living at 11 Sir George's Road)

Buried at Netley Military Cemetery, Netley Southampton Grave Reference C.E 1781 (Royal Victoria Country Park)

**\*\*An aortic aneurysm** is a general term for any swelling (**dilatation** or [aneurysm](#)) of the [aorta](#), usually representing an underlying weakness in the wall of the aorta at that location. While the stretched vessel may occasionally cause discomfort, a greater concern is the risk of **rupture**, which causes severe pain; massive internal [hemorrhage](#); and, without prompt treatment, results in a quick death.

**William Percy Allen** married **Beatrice Louise Mitchell** on 11/9/1904 at Trinity Church, St Peter Port Guernsey. William was confirmed the son of **Charles Allen** a Watchmaker, and of being in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment.

The Rev Nassau Cathcart Officiated.

\*Source of confirmation – Priaulx Library

The Military Records state that William and Beatrice married at the Military Station with Witnesses J Mitchell (understood to be father James Mitchell) and C Windsor.

The Rev Nassau Cathcart Officiated

### **Children of William and Beatrice Allen**

Florence Beatrice Allen Born 24/8/1904 at 8 Havelet St, St Peter Port	Married Frank Tardif
Winnifred Ellen Allen Born 23/8/1907 at 6 Hauteville St Peter Port	Married Harold Hall
Emily Allen Born 4/1913 at <b>46 Pedvin Street</b> , St Peter Port Guernsey	Died date not known
Agnes Louise Allen Born 16/3/1916 Southampton England	Married Horace Camp

\*Father was not named on her Birth Certificate. Flossie was not baptised until 20/4/1913 at Trinity Church (She was baptised with younger sister Emily Allen)

Gran said that Emily Allen had hydraceapholis and died in infancy – not sure when.

**46 Pedvin Street** was the address of Beatrice Allen's Parents James and Emily Mitchell at the time of the 1911 Census

The 1911 Census brings Nottingham into the mix (as did the Military Papers stating next of kin being parents Charles and Sarah of 22 Garden Street, Nottingham.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911 Census at the Cottage, St John Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey**

**William Allen (30) B 1881 Labourer/Plasterer B Nottingham England**

Beatrice Allen (27) B 1884 Wife B St Peter Port Guernsey

Florence Beatrice Allen (6) B 1904 Daughter B St Peter Port Guernsey

Winnifred Ellen Allen (3) B 1907 Daughter B St Peter Port Guernsey

The 1911 Census adds that William Allen's father was also born in Nottingham

### **Florence Beatrice Allen 1904-2001**

Flossie Allen married **Frank Arthur Tardif** (Son of **William Alfred Tardif** B 1875 and **Lilly Tardif** nee **Boucher**) B 1879 13/12/1925 in Guernsey (exact location not known)

*\*Lilly Boucher was the daughter of George Allen and Phoebe Clark*

1881 and 1891 Census has the family as Boucher in Guernsey – George, Phoebe and daughter Lilly.

### **Children of Frank and Flossie Tardif**

Frank William Tardif

Sydney Tardif

Enid Tardif

Muriel Tardif

**Winnifred Helen Allen** 1907-

Winnifred Allen married **Harold Hall**

**Children of Harold and Winnifred Hall**

Phyllis Hall

Joyce Hall

Shirley Hall

Margaret R Hall Born Q1 1940 Stockport, Manchester

Elizabeth M Hall Born Q1 1940 Stockport, Manchester

Robert Hall (Bobby)

William Hall (Billy)

Married Ed Gavey

Moved to Australia

Married Hollingsworth

Died

**Siblings of William Allen**

Per Gran 1 older sister named Nellie (appears her surname was Holmes not Allen – different fathers) who married a Mr. Stone. One of their two sons' was named Sidney. Both became Arch Deacons in the Church, possibly in Northampton.

Later known as Mrs Brookes

Was Nellie an Ellen/Eleanor/Helen or a Nellie/Nelly?

In 1911 there is a Nellie Stone with a son Sidney Stone living in Northampton, but I do not think this can be the right one.

**1911 Census at 44 Woolmonger St, Northampton, Northants**

William John Stone (31) B 1880 School Caretaker B Northampton Northants

**Ellen Louisa Stone (32) B 1879 Wife, Assisting in School B Northampton Northants (Married 7 years)**

William John Stone (5) B 1906 Son B Northampton Northants

Sidney James Stone (4) B 1907 Son B Northampton Northants

James Stone (58) B 1853 Father, Widower, Mail Cart Driver B Gillingham Dorsetshire

Married 7 years = 1904

They had 3 children, 2 of which still living at the time of this Census

They married Q2 1903 Northampton. She was an **Ellen Louisa Holmes**.

**Ellen Louisa H Holmes** Born Q1 1879 Northampton (Per BMD)

This Ellen had an older brother **William John Holmes** Born Q3 1873 Northampton

**1881 Census at 3 Jeffreys Gardens, Northampton, Northants**

Sarah Holmes (39) B 1842 Shoe Machinist married B Northampton

William John Holmes (8) B 1873 Son B Northampton

**Ellen Louisa Holmes (2) B 1879 Daughter B Northampton**

No trace of Sarah or Ellen on the 1891 Census. I can find nothing about Sarah, her marriage, her death, her maiden name.

At the time of the 1901 Census, she was boarding with her future husband to be.

**1901 Census at 13, Dunster Street, Northampton Priory of St Andrew**

James Stone (48) B 1853 Mail Cart Driver B Gillingham Dorsetshire

Laura Stone (48) B 1853 Wife B Buckingham

(William) John Stone (21) B 1880 Son Rough Stuff Pressman B Northampton

**Ellen Louisa Holmes (22) B 1879 Boarder, Shoe Fitter B Northampton**

William John Stone married Annie Frost Q4 1931 Northampton

Sidney James Stone married Amy Law Q3 1934 Northampton

Can find no children for William or Sidney Stone

**William John Stone** Senior Died Q4 1942 Northampton aged 63 years

Other Possibilities:

Gran used to say that one of the family members changed their surname. Who was it?

Also that the name Holmes was involved how does this fit in?

**Charles B Allen** the Watchmaker born in Canada

At first I had my suspicions that this man would be William's father, especially as he is living in the area where William was born, but Charles goes on to marry Widow **Sarah Jenkins** who at 60 in 1881 was far too old to have been William's mother.

**1881 Census at 6, Charles St, Leicester St Margaret, Leicestershire**

Samuel Edge (22) B 1859 Head, Lodger, Single, Boot Clicker B Stafford

James Reynolds (25) B 1856 Lodger, Single, Boot Clicker B Bethnal Green Middlesex

**Charles B Allen (45) B 1836 Lodger, Single, Watch and Clock Maker B Upper Toronto Canada**

George Culpin (22) B 1859 Lodger, Single, Grocer's Assistant B Stamford

Just a few doors away was **Sarah Jenkins** (nee **Hatton**), then a Widow. It does not state if she lived at #6, as #7 not noted, but #8 is the house next to hers.

**1881 Census at Charles St, Leicester St Margaret, Leicestershire**

**Sarah Jenkins (60) B 1821 Widow, Fancy Hand (Goods, Textiles) B Atherstone Warwickshire**

Robert Roberts (23) B 1858 Boarder, Single, Shoe Hand Born Nuneaton Warwickshire  
Warwickshire

There is a Marriage in Q2 1881 in Leicester of **Charles Byron Allan** (states Allan not Allen) to  
**Sarah Jenkins**

Clearly Sarah was far too old to be William's mother, so maybe this is another red herring.

There is no trace of Charles or Sarah after the 1881 Census

Prior to marrying Charles Allen, Sarah was married to James Jenkins and there were no children from this union.

**1871 Census at Knighton Street, St Mary, Leicester**

James Jenkins (56) B 1815 Tailor B Bristol Gloucestershire

**Sarah Jenkins (50) B 1821 Wife B Atherstone Warwickshire**

Jane Ison (19) B 1852 Niece Fancy Hosiery B Leicestershire

Emma Kirby (20) B 1851 Boarder Fancy Hosiery B Daventry Northamptonshire

As at 1861 James was still single, he did not marry **Sarah Hatton** until Q3 1870 in Leicester. He died 1877

Sarah Hatton was single and working as a seamstress in Leicester in 1861 (she was living alone at that point)

Karen Frith  
2013