

C.S.

Pensions.

J. Allen

1920.

DEF/FID/1#42

No.

453.

Secretary, Ministry  
of Pensions.

SUBJECT.

1920.

22nd March

Previous Paper.

Asks to be supplied with  
a report on cause of death, &c,  
of Mr. J. Allen, Falkland Islands  
Volunteers.

MINUTES.

(1)  
Copy of Coroners Inquisition attached  
to CH  
10.6.20  
(2)

N.E.  
Submitted,  
? And enclosed to Ministry of  
Pensions,

G. I. J.  
11.6.20

(3)  
Yes. Wm.  
11.6.20

Forwarded, 21. June 1920

Subsequent Paper.

AP 18 Other Departments

Colonial

G.F.37.

REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTS.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS,

45, Grosvenor Road,

S.W.1.

1-6. 1925.

The Secretary, Ministry of Pensions, requests that you will be so good as to forward for inspection the

Documents, Medical History Sheet, <sup>and</sup> report on cause of Death <sup>or</sup> Court of Enquiry ~~and any other documents taken at inquest.~~  
of the man named below.

The ~~Officer-in-Charge of Records.~~ Honourable  
*The Colonial Secretary*  
*Port Stanley, Falkland Island*

Regiment *Falkland Island Volunteers*

Rank *Volunteer*

Name *James ALLEN*

Regimental No. *-*

Date of Death *1. 12. 14 (Drowned)* 19 *.*

To

The Secretary, Ministry of Pensions,  
45, Grosvenor Road, S.W.1.

Forwarded herewith as requested.

19 *.*

Returned herewith. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

19 *.*

Received.

14th July

20.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter G.P.37 dated the 1st June 1930, with reference to particulars required in connection with the death of Pte James Allen, late of the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force, and to inform you that a document containing the necessary information was despatched to your office on the 21st June, last.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

  
For Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,

Ministry of Pensions,

45 Grosvenor Road,

London, S. W.1.

Dear Mr. Grierson,

This is the third application for particulars  
respecting the <sup>death</sup> ~~death~~ of Mr. Allen which I have received.  
Replies to the first two have been forwarded and I do not  
think they can have been delivered yet. In any case  
would you kindly supply full information to the queries  
<sup>on</sup> you the attached, as I should like if reply could be made  
in this instance which will leave no room for additional  
enquiries being made.

G.H.B.

*I should like  
reply to go this  
forward mail.*

Please reply here:

Dear Mr. Brown

The only information I can give you  
regarding Pte. J. W. Allen's death is that he  
along with seven others were drowned in  
Stanley Harbour while on Military duty.  
For full particulars might I refer you to  
the records of the regiment in December 1914.

Yours ~~truly~~

John W. Grierson



3+5 application

G.F. 37.

REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTS.

LP 18. Other Departments.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS,  
45, Grosvenor Road,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

4th August 1920.

The Secretary, Ministry of Pensions, requests that you will  
be so good as to forward for inspection the

Documents, <sup>and</sup> Medical History Sheet, report on cause of Death or  
Court of Enquiry  
~~copy of depositions taken~~  
~~at inquest.~~

of the man named below.

The Honourable  
The Officer in Charge of Records,  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Port Stanley, Falkland Island.

Regiment Falkland Island Volunteer Force.

Rank

Name

J.W. Allen.

Regimental No.

Date of Death 8th. December 1914. 4th August 1920.

To

The Secretary, Ministry of Pensions.  
45, Grosvenor Road, London, S.W.1.

forwarded herewith as requested.

19

Returned herewith. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

19

Received.

Ministry of Pensions,  
(Widows Branch)  
Victoria Tower Gardens,  
Millbank, London, S.W.1.  
4th October, 1920.

Answer.

*18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1920*

The Secretary Ministry of Pensions requests that you will be good enough to forward all documents in your possession respecting this man or a statement showing a full record of the late soldiers service.

No: 398. Volunteer

James Allen,

Falkland Islands Volunteers.

Pte James Allen,  
joined 13th August, 1914  
drowned 1st December, 1914.

Record of Service:

Very Good.

The following documents enclosed.

Report of Inquest:  
Report on accident  
causing death.

The Officer Commanding

Falkland Islands Defence Force.

Port Stanley.

COPY.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

To wit.

AN INQUEST held for our Sovereign Lord the King at the Court House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, on the 4th and 5th days of December, 1914, before me Montague Cecil Craigie-Halkett, Acting Coroner of our Lord the King in and for the said islands, on view of the bodies of Ernest Henry Spencer, Walter Shire, William Blyth, Norman Aitken, Charles Newing, Frederick Biggs and James Allen came to their deaths, do upon their oaths say that the said Ernest Henry Spencer, Walter Shire, William Blyth, Norman Aitken, Charles Newing, Frederick Biggs and James Allen came to their deaths accidentally and not otherwise whilst in the performance of their duty. After hearing the expert evidence of four witnesses they are of opinion that the punt was unsafe and not suitable for the work that she was placed there for. We think she should not be used in future. We wish to record our sympathy with the relatives of the deceased men. We also wish to record our appreciation of the work done by officers and men of H.M. S. "Canopus" in recovering the bodies.

(sgd) John T. Luxton.	Foreman	(Seal)
" Abner Berntsen		"
" Alex Steel.		"
" Aubrey G. Hardy		"
" Richard Jones.		"
" Edward S. Crawford.		"
" Howard Ratcliffe		"

In witness whereof as well the said acting Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid, have hereunto set their hands and seals this fifth day of December 1914.

(sgd) M. Craigie-Halkett.  
Acting Coroner.

I certify the foregoing to be a true and faithful copy of the finding of the Jury in a Coroners Inquest held at Stanley, Falkland Islands on the 4th and 5th days of December, 1914, into the circumstances attending the deaths of Ernest Henry Spencer, Walter Shire, William Blyth, Norman Aitken, Charles Newing, Frederick Biggs and James Allen, on the 1st December, 1914, whilst on active service with the Falkland Islands Volunteer Corps.

(sgd) M. Craigie-Halkett,  
Coroner,  
Falkland Islands.

Port Stanley,  
December, 17th 1920.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

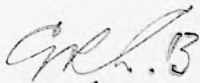
REPORT ON THE DEATH OF PTE. J.W. ALLEN OF THE  
FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEER CORPS ON THE 1st DECEMBER, 1914.

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Private J. W. Allen, in company with a non-commissioned officer and six other members of his section on the morning of the 1st December crossed a narrow neck of water separating two strips of land on the further of which a naval work was in course of building. The party was expected to return about midday and shortly after this hour the non-commissioned officer on duty at the time at the wireless station feeling uneasy at their prolonged absence sent an orderly down to the neck of water (which was crossed by a punt attached to an endless fall) to see whether there was any sign of the men. The orderly hastened back and reported that the punt was lying upside down in midstream. Boats were immediately manned and a thorough search was made both by the Volunteer Force and by naval divers, but in view of the strength of the tide at this point and the coldness of the water, all hope of saving the lives of the unfortunate men was out of the question. The bodies were all recovered and buried in the Port Stanley Cemetery.

The work from which Private Allen was returning at the time of his death proved absolutely indispensable one week later when the German squadron under Admiral von Spee was destroyed by the ships under Vice-Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee.

Private Allen joined the Falkland Islands Volunteer Corps on the 13th August, 1914. He met his death on the 1st December, 1914.

  
for Col: Secretary.

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