



2805 Private Ronald Shadrick ALLEN



**12th Battalion, A Company,
3rd Infantry Brigade.
1st A.I.F. - W.W.I.**

**Date of Birth: 4 July 1898,
North Motton, Tasmania, Australia.**

**Enlisted in A.I.F. on 11 August 1915,
K.I.A. at Pozières, France: 23 July 1916**

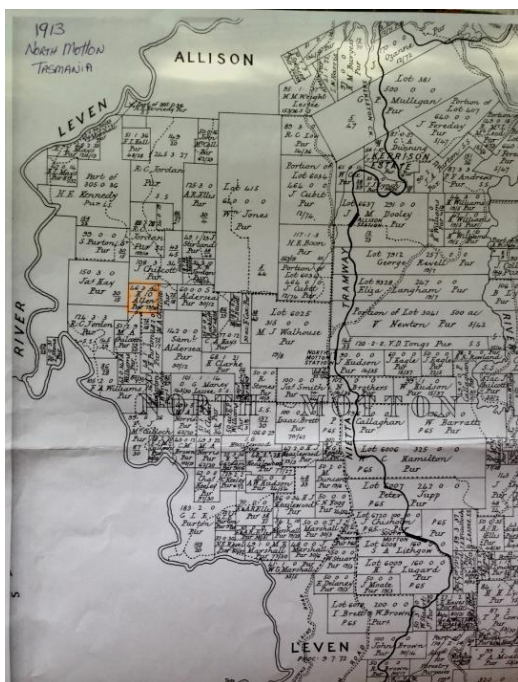
Ronald Shadrick Allen was born in the small town of North Motton on the NW Coast of Tasmania, on the **4 July 1898**, along with his twin brother, Herbert Jnr. Ronald had been named after his paternal grandfather Shadrach Purton and his great-grandfather, also named Shadrack Purton, who had been born in UK in 1796 but died in Westbury, Tasmania in 1871. Shadrack was a convict overseer and farmer. He had fought in the **Battle of Waterloo!** (All through the generations 'Shadrick' has been spelt in several ways due to many country-folk being semi-literate.)



Allen Family- North Motton- (Ron is fourth from the left in back row)

Ronald spent a happy childhood on a small-holding of just over 46 acres called "Fairview", in Allison's Rd, North Motton, known to be one of the best properties on the North West Coast! He lived with his father, Herbert Osborne **Allen** and mother, Marion Wallace Hay Allen, nee Purton, and his four brothers and one

sister. Ronald's mother died aged 37 years from a possible miscarriage in 1911, when he was 13 years old. Later Jessie Violet Brothers, nee Saltmarsh, a widow and mother of Charles Jnr, married Herbert Allen on 19 June 1912. Jessie became his step-mother and loved Ronald as her own son.



On the farm, horse riding was a favourite pastime with the boys.



He attended the North Motton State School until the age of 12 years when he was required to work on the

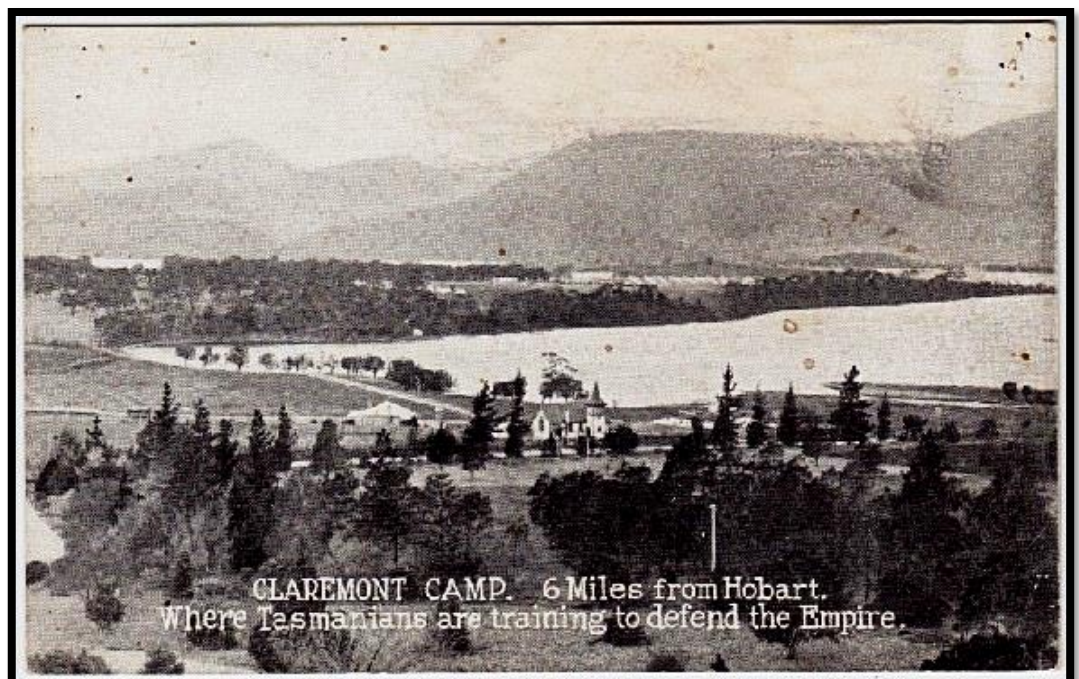


farm to help his father. He had lots of mates, one of whom was Frank MacDonald from Ulverstone. They used to meet up with other local lads when farm work had been completed for the day. Fishing in the Leven River and hunting were favourite leisure activities. Dances in the local hall and at the North Motton Methodist church on Sundays were the best chance of meeting other families and girls!

In August 1915 a function was held in the small, rural village of North Motton. All the locals turned out to say goodbye to seven young men from the district who were leaving to join the fight in World War One (WWI). The men did not know where they would go when they finished their training, but wherever it was, they would do their duty. The young men who had left in 1914 did so with a certain sense of adventure, having no real idea of the horrors of war! For those enlisting after the Gallipoli Campaign, it was different "kettle of fish"! They were all too aware of what was in store for them, but felt it was important to support their mates fighting on 'The Peninsular', and that is what prompted many of them to enlist. "They will become – they already are – our own heroes."

Private Ronald Shadrick Allen was among the seven recruits! Ronald was just 18 years old, was of slight stature, weighing under 10 stone and only just 5' 4" in height.

When he enlisted and after completing his initial training, Ron was assigned to the 26th Battalion, 6th Reinforcements, on 26th September 1915 in Claremont.

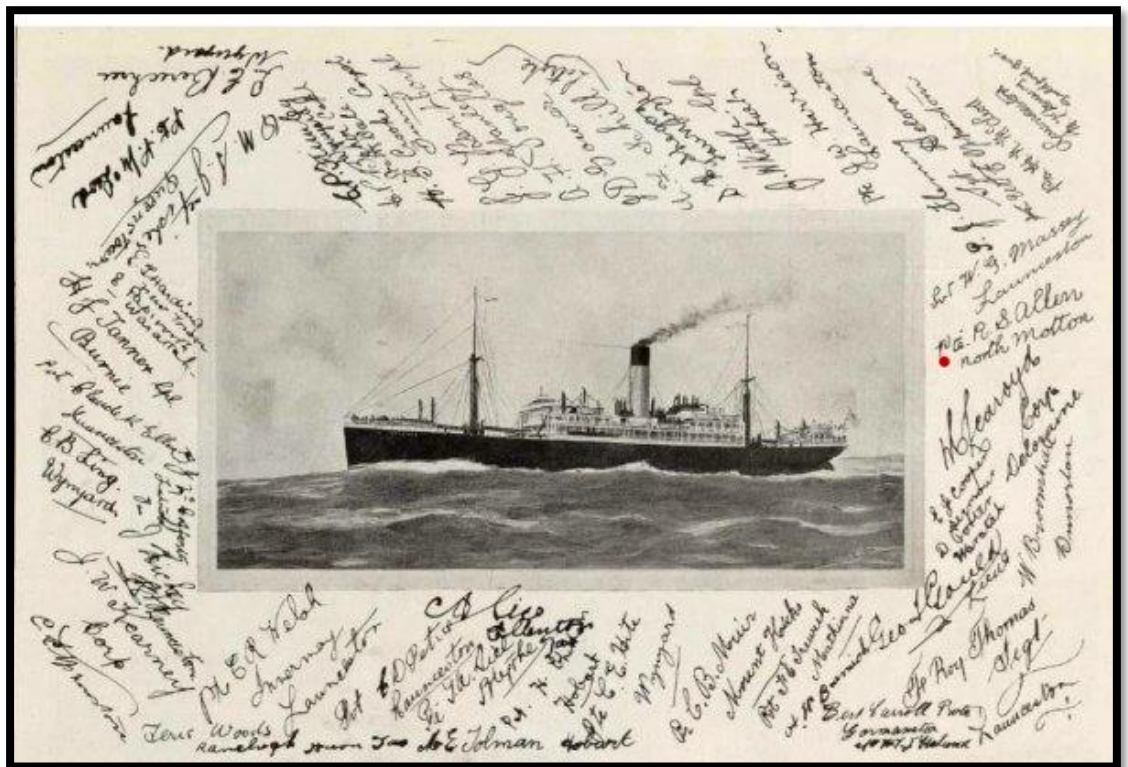




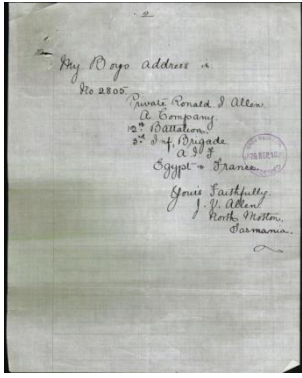
Aerial view of Claremont Training Camp, at Triffett's Point, Hobart, locally known as 'Tent City'!

On 27 October 1915 in Hobart, the soldiers embarked for Egypt on the transport ship, H.M.A.T. 'Ulysses'.

With other young Tasmanians, Ron signed a postcard of 'The Ulysses' which was sent home to the family.

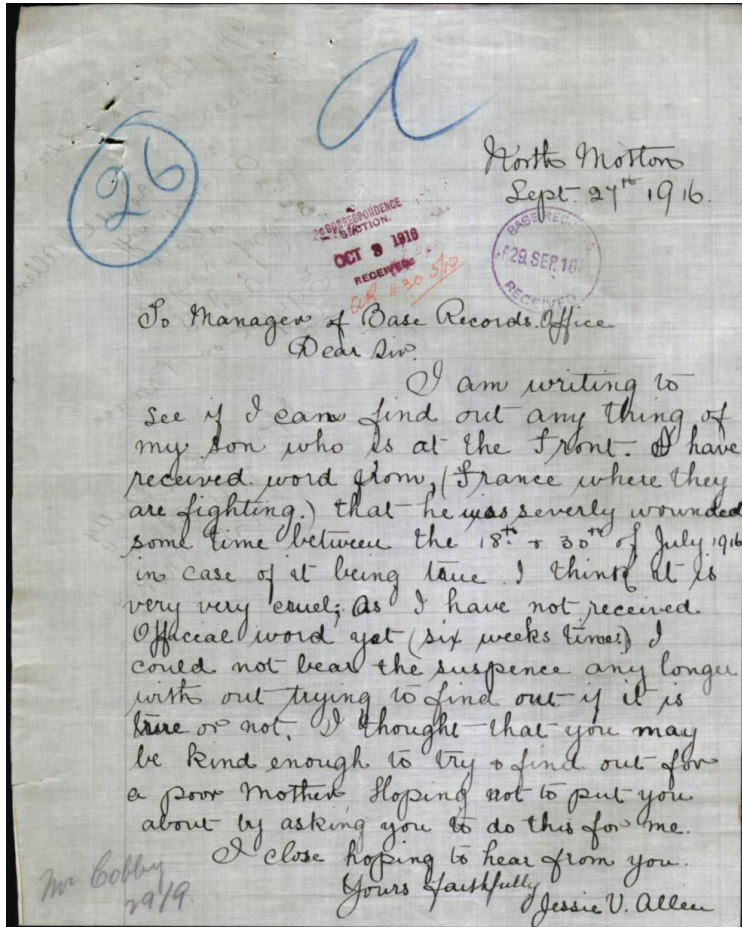


Whilst in Egypt, Ron was transferred to the 12th Battalion., A Company, 3rd Infantry Brigade. (A battalion raised in Tasmania which had been at the Gallipoli Landing). Before too long he was sent to France to fight,

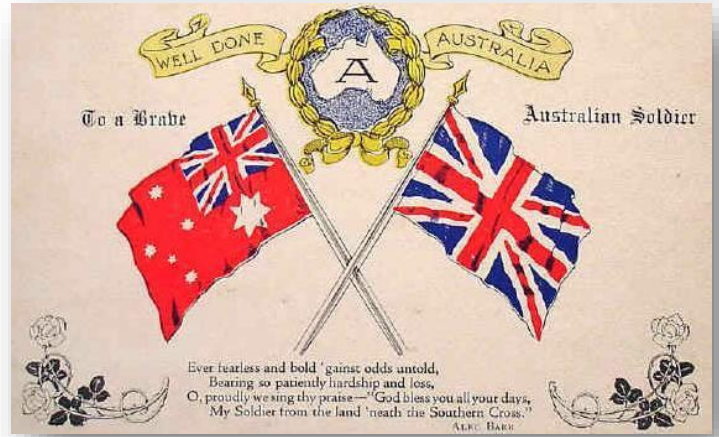


with so many other young Australians in the trenches on the Western Front. He landed in Marseilles 5 April 1916.

When letters stopped arriving home in July 1916, his worried parents, Herbert and step-mother Jessie made enquiries! Some of his mates from North Mottos had already written home saying he had been badly wounded during a battle at a place called Pozieres, in France, but nobody seemed to know where he was!



Jessie Allen, Ron's Step-mother, and Ron before leaving to fight in WWI August 1915.



W. Stephens
N.S.

20 FEB 17

North Motton
Feb: 15th 1917.

To The Minister of Defence.

Dear Sir.

I am writing to ask you if you can give me any information about my son Private Ronald S. Allen No 2805 A. Company, 12th Battalion

3rd Inf. Brigade. As I heard that he was wounded in France on the 23rd of July 1916. I have not received any official word but have heard through mates of his who were wounded at the same time. Also a letter that was written to him has been returned with "Wounded in France & not heard of since" written across the corner. The last letter we received from him was in July last.

CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

FEB 20 1917

RECEIVED
19 FEB 17
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

RECEIVED
20 FEB 17 M
RECEIVED

Yours faithfully,

H. O. Allen

North Motton

Tasmania

FORMAL ACK2

SENT FEB 19 17

Still with no Official Confirmation of Ronald's death, another desperate letter was sent from his parents to the Minister of Defence on 15 February 1917.

It was not until mid-1917 that his parents finally received confirmation of their son's death at Pozieres on 23 July 1916, the first day of the battle!

His effects were returned to North Motton; just a damaged bible and the handle of his kit bag!

Pozières, France WWI 23 July 1916



On the day of Ron's demise, there was continuous enemy shellfire on the Bapaume Road. The Allied reinforcements had to run the gauntlet across the road. Near this point, about 30 men from both sides of the conflict had been killed. Private Ronald Allen was one of these!

It was later known as 'Deadman's Road'!

The carnage on Pozières Ridge led Australia's official war historian Charles Bean to write that the soil there was, ***'More densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth!'***



'Deadman's Road'
24 April 2019

Pozières British Cemetery & Memorial to the Missing, Ovillers-la-Boisselle, Pozières, France



Ronald aged just 19 years, lies in Pozières Cemetery (Plot III -Row O -Grave 25) along with so many others. Mates together always! No family to tend their final resting place but never forgotten through the following generations. Nonetheless, too young to have died so brutally, too young to have died at all!





North Motton Mates....



*They grew up together
 They played together
 They went to school together
 They enlisted together
 They trained together
 They travelled thousands of miles together.*

*Then... they fought together
 And DIED together!*


Finally, they are tucked up in the warm earth together.

.....They are not alone! E.B.P.




An RSL funeral for 2805 Pte Ronald Shadrick ALLEN on 24 April 2019. 103 years after he was K.I.A.


Six students from the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize Tour group holding the flag and Fred bear keeping an eye on the proceedings!



ROLL OF HONOUR
North Motton




ROLL OF HONOUR



H O Allen
R S Allen
J Ashton
A Baker
W Bannister
S Billing
S Brett
L Brown
A Chambers
C Chambers
A Charlesworth
G Charlesworth
L Charlesworth
Dick Chilcott
Len Chilcott
Tom Chilcott
V Chilcott
W Delaney
H Ewington
B Gardam
J Gillespie
L Gillespie
A Guthrie
N C Guthrie
Alf Hudson
L Hudson

E Hunter
A Jupp
J Jupp
C Keogh
W R Lines
C Manson
A Marshall
L Murray
A Purton
E Purton
Wal Purton
A Revell
C Revell
J Revell
A Singleton
J Smith
L Smith
U Smith
A Thompson
R Thompson
C Tamlyn
J Tamlyn
P Tamlyn
A L Tongs
C Williamson

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.
Lest We Forget.



Eight months after Ron's death, his twin brother Herbert Jnr, enlisted on 16 March 1917 but managed to survive the War and returned to Australia on 22 July 1919.



North Motton State School Memorial Board and Roll of Honour Banner.

Back home in North Motton, a service was held in his memory and was written up in the local paper.

'An In Memoriam service was held in the North Motton Methodist Church for the late Private Ronald Allen, twin son of Mr H.O. Allen, who gave his life for King and Country in the battle at Pozieres on July 23rd 1916. It has been an anxious time for his parents, as one of his comrades who left North Motton with him and five others wrote saying he was mortally wounded that day, but until recently they had no official notice of his death.'

'The Examiner Newspaper' on 3rd August 1917;

2805 Pte Ronald Shadrick Allen's Medal entitlements.



It was mentioned at the service that of those seven young men who left home with Ronald, only two were left! It was the same story in towns and villages all over Tasmania.