

## Private William ALLEN of the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment (No.1222)

Killed 16 May 1846 at Boulcott Farm, Lower Hutt

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*So who was this 21 year old soldier who died while raising the alarm for his comrades?*

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When his death was recorded in the muster roll his mother, Martha Allen of Godshill, Isle of Wight, was listed as next of kin.<sup>1</sup> William was the fourth son and the eighth of twelve children of Hugh Allen (1781-1853) and Martha nee Wellspring (1787-1864). He was born 02 April 1825 and baptised 08 May 1825 at St Mary's Prior Church, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.<sup>2</sup>

His family were still residing at Carisbrooke<sup>3</sup> when he enlisted with the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment on 17 December 1839<sup>4</sup> at Portsmouth.<sup>5</sup> Frederick Hayles, also of the Isle of Wight, enlisted on the same day.<sup>6</sup>

On 06 June 1841 William and Frederick were stationed at Edinburgh<sup>7</sup> and by July the Regiment was under orders to proceed to Dublin.<sup>8</sup> The Regiment moved to Chatham in North Kent in late 1842<sup>9,10</sup> and remained there until required for duty as guards on convict transports to Australia.<sup>11</sup>

William and Frederick marched from Chatham to Gravesend on 10 May 1844 as part of the head-quarters and band of the 58<sup>th</sup> Foot.<sup>12</sup> Frederick was now a Drummer. They embarked from Custom-house Quay on board the 'Pestonjee Bomanjee' with a total of 156 men under the Command of Major Cyprian Bridge and Captain Nugent. Thirteen women and 27 children belonging to the regiment proceeded with them. Also on the same ship were 37 men from the 99<sup>th</sup>, 28 men from the 51<sup>st</sup>, 31 men from the 96<sup>th</sup> and 48 men from the 80<sup>th</sup>.<sup>13</sup> The 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment muster roll records 165 men as "embarked for N. S. Wales 14<sup>th</sup> May."<sup>14</sup>

The 'Pestonjee Bomanjee' arrived at Hobart on 10 September 1844<sup>15</sup> after putting "into Rio to refresh, where she remained for eight days, and left Rio on the 6<sup>th</sup> July." Two men of the 99<sup>th</sup> regiment died and there were six births during the passage out.<sup>16</sup>

Most of the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment departed from Hobart on the 'Pestonjee Bomanjee' on 21 September and arrived at Sydney on 28 September 1844.<sup>17</sup> William disembarked on 30 September and received "G1" good conduct pay up till the end of the year. He also spent 10 days in the Regiment or General Hospital. Frederick Hayles joined a detachment stationed at Windsor from

<sup>1</sup> National Archives (UK) WO12/6747 Muster Roll 58th Regt NZ 01 Apr to 30 Jun 1846

<sup>2</sup> Baptism Register St Mary's, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight – FamilySearch

<sup>3</sup> 1841 Census Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight – Family of Hugh and Martha Allen

<sup>4</sup> National Archives (UK) WO12/6747 Muster Roll 58th Regt NZ 01 Apr to 30 Jun 1846

<sup>5</sup> Google Books – United Service Magazine 1839

<sup>6</sup> Discharged in New Zealand: Soldiers of the Imperial Foot Regiments who took their discharge in New Zealand 1840-1870 by Hugh & Lyn Hughes (1988)

<sup>7</sup> 1851 Scotland Census Edinburgh Canongate – William Allen, Soldier, aged 15 years

<sup>8</sup> Exeter Flying Post 01 July 1841 page 2

<sup>9</sup> Yorkshire Gazette 12 Nov 1842 Stations of the British Army – 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment at Dublin

<sup>10</sup> Yorkshire Gazette 24 Dec 1842 Stations of the British Army – 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment at Chatham

<sup>11</sup> History of the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment (The Rutlandshire regiment of Foot) which served in New Zealand 1845-1858 by Russell Gurney (1935) – Alexander Turnbull Library Reference P q356 GUR 1935

<sup>12</sup> Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper 12 May 1844 Military Intelligence

<sup>13</sup> Illustrated London News 18 May 1844 Naval and Military Intelligence

<sup>14</sup> National Archives (UK) WO12/6744 Muster Roll 58th Regiment Chatham 01 Apr to 30 Jun 1844

<sup>15</sup> The True Colonist Van Diemen's Land Political Despatch... 12 Sep 1844 Shipping Intelligence

<sup>16</sup> Launceston Examiner 14 Sep 1844 Miscellaneous – ex Hobart Town Examiner

<sup>17</sup> The Dispatch (Sydney) 05 Oct 1844 Shipping Intelligence

November to December 1844.<sup>18</sup> In January 1845 William was on guard duty and apparently remained in Sydney until April.<sup>19</sup>

The muster roll for April to June 1845 indicates that William was with the headquarters of the Regiment in New Zealand.<sup>20</sup> After the arrival of the 'Slains Castle' at Sydney, on 03 April 1845 with some of the evacuated inhabitants of Kororarika<sup>21</sup>, the same vessel and the 'Bee' were chartered to convey troops of the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment to New Zealand.<sup>22</sup> It is likely that William arrived in New Zealand via one of these ships.

Three men of the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment, who were known to have been at Boulcott Farm<sup>23,24</sup> on 16 May 1846, arrived on the 'Bee'. They were Colour Sergeant James Naughton (No.815), Corporal Joseph Northover (No.1158) and Private Edward Haslam (No.1629).<sup>25</sup> The information recorded in the muster rolls for these men is the same as that for Private William Allen (No.1222).

Captain Russell, Lieutenant Rush, two sergeants, one drummer, and fifty rank and file of the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment embarked on board the brig 'Bee' on the morning of 08 April 1845<sup>26</sup> and arrived at Port Nicholson on Saturday 19 April.<sup>27</sup>

On the evening of Sunday 20 April 1845 a report was received in Wellington that Maoris in the Hutt were about to pull down the stockade and destroy the bridge. "Fifty soldiers of the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment, which had just arrived from Sydney on the brig 'Bee', were landed in the night at Petoni and by three o'clock on Monday morning they had taken possession of the stockade."<sup>28</sup> Fort Richmond was occupied by the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment on 24 April 1845.<sup>29</sup>

William Allen is recorded as being part of the Wellington detachment, for the first time, in August 1845 and this may reflect that he was now receiving his pay locally.<sup>30</sup> It is likely that he remained stationed in the Hutt Valley until his death.

On the Saturday morning of 16 May 1846 there were 42 soldiers stationed at Boulcott's farm under the command of Lieutenant George Hyde Page. At about 5.30am "the first alarm was given by the sentinel who, on hearing a noise, fired his piece and endeavoured to rouse the picquet." Private William Allen, "who acted as bugler to the company", "seized his bugle, and while in the act of sounding the instrument a blow from a tomahawk nearly severed his arm and struck him to the ground. But while lying in this mutilated state he seized the bugle with his other hand and attempted to warn his comrades of their danger, when a second stroke of the tomahawk nearly severed his head from his body." William was one of the four soldiers who "were tomahawked on the spot in one tent."

A total of six soldiers died on the day, including William: Corporal Joseph Dockrill (1893) and Privates Thomas Bolt (1151), Robert Brett (1153), James McFadyen (1061) and Thomas Songhan (1479). Private Patrick Haslam "assisted in putting them in their blankets, and laying their bodies in their last resting-place."<sup>31</sup>

<sup>18</sup> National Archives (UK) WO12/6745 Muster Roll 58th Regiment NSW 01 Oct to 31 Dec 1844

<sup>19</sup> National Archives (UK) WO12/6745 Muster Roll 58th Regiment NSW 01 Jan to 31 Mar 1845

<sup>20</sup> National Archives (UK) WO12/6745 Muster Roll 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment NZ 01 Apr to 30 Jun 1845

<sup>21</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 04 Apr 1845 Distressing Intelligence from New Zealand

<sup>22</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 07 Apr 1845 Shipping Intelligence – Exports

<sup>23</sup> New Zealand Herald 05 Jan 1897 A Noble Deed – mentions Naughton and Northover

<sup>24</sup> New Zealand Herald 30 Mar 1885 Obituary for Edward Haslam

<sup>25</sup> Discharged in New Zealand: Soldiers of the Imperial Foot Regiments who took their discharge in New Zealand 1840-1870 by Hugh & Lyn Hughes (1988)

<sup>26</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 09 Apr 1845 Military for New Zealand

<sup>27</sup> Wellington Independent 23 Apr 1845 Shipping Arrivals

<sup>28</sup> Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle 03 May 1845 page 34

<sup>29</sup> North Otago Times 25 Dec 1903 page 2 (Supplement) The Growth of a City

<sup>30</sup> National Archives (UK) WO12/6745 Muster Roll 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment NZ 01 Jul to 30 Sep 1845

<sup>31</sup> New Zealand Herald 05 Jan 1897 A Noble Deed

"The slain were buried on Sunday on the field of battle"<sup>32</sup>, "in one grave on the banks of the Hutt River." Henry Humphrey Jackson, in 1883, said "they have long since been washed away by the floods."<sup>33</sup>

After the attack Allen's bugle "was displayed by the rebels in triumph" near the Hutt River<sup>34</sup> and "one of their party is constantly sounding it within hearing of the military."<sup>35</sup> Patrick Haslam recalled that "the bugle was taken away by the natives, and we could hear the natives blowing it nearly every morning up on the ranges for a month after the fight."<sup>36</sup> The bugle was found on 05 August 1846, in the Horokiwi valley,<sup>37</sup> "suspended from the roof of one of the huts" along with three bayonets. They were all returned to Lieutenant Page.<sup>38</sup>

William Allen was survived by both of his parents.

His father, Hugh Allen, was an agricultural labourer<sup>39</sup> and at the time of the 1851 census he was a pauper living with his wife, Martha, and their 23 year old daughter, Caroline Jupe, at Grenville Lane, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.<sup>40</sup> Hugh died, aged 72 years, and was buried 07 April 1853 at Carisbrooke St Mary.<sup>41</sup> Martha continued to live with the Jupe family and in the 1861 census she was 72 years of age and residing at Swanmore, Ryde, Isle of Wight.<sup>42</sup> She was buried on 27 October 1864<sup>43</sup> at Ryde Cemetery.<sup>44</sup>

William Allen was also survived by at least seven siblings and of these five died at the Isle of Wight. Jane Potts formerly Newbery (1810-1897), James Allen (1811-1878), Richard Allen (1813-1890), Martha Hayward (1821-), Sarah Wood (1826-), Caroline Jupe (1828-1896) and Kate Allen (1839-1849).

Private Frederick Hayles (1223), who enlisted on the same day as William, arrived at Auckland on 24 March 1845 and was discharged on payment at Auckland on 31 March 1853.<sup>45</sup> His claim for 80 acres or £40 at Kennedy's Bay, Coromandel was rejected in 1882 under the Naval and Military and Local Forces Land Claims Commission.<sup>46</sup> His death was registered in the Coromandel district in 1882.<sup>47</sup>

Private Robert Brett (1153), who died at Boulcott Farm on 16 May 1846, was a labourer from Shalfleet, Isle of Wight.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>32</sup> New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 23 May 1846 Events of the past week

<sup>33</sup> Wairarapa Standard 21 Sep 1883 Reminiscences of the Early Wairarapa Settlers No.VI by H. H. Jackson (continued)

<sup>34</sup> New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 03 Jun 1846

<sup>35</sup> Wellington Independent 13 Jun 1846

<sup>36</sup> New Zealand Herald 05 Jan 1897 A Noble Deed

<sup>37</sup> New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 17 Aug 1846 Recent Military Operations in the Southern District

<sup>38</sup> New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 15 Aug 1846

<sup>39</sup> 1841 Census Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight – Hugh Allen and family

<sup>40</sup> 1851 Census Grenville Lane, Isle of Wight – William Jupe and family

<sup>41</sup> FamilySearch GS Film number 1470804

<sup>42</sup> 1861 Census Swanmore, Newchurch, Ryde, Isle of Wight – William Jupe and family

<sup>43</sup> FamilySearch GS Film number 1470956

<sup>44</sup> Ryde Social Heritage Group – Ryde Old Cemetery Map RSHG 014 drawn by David Earle and last updated 01 Jan 2017 – Martha Allen Section C3 No.372. Other names to appear in this record are Ellen and Foster Threadgold <http://rshg.org.uk/maps-and-indexes/ryde-cemetery-maps/> and <http://rshg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/RSHG-014-1-Jan-2017.pdf>

<sup>45</sup> Discharged in New Zealand: Soldiers of the Imperial Foot Regiments who took their discharge in New Zealand 1840-1870 by Hugh & Lyn Hughes (1988)

<sup>46</sup> Report of the Naval and Military and Local Forces Land Claims Commission AJHR 1882 H17 p13

<sup>47</sup> Ancestry New Zealand Death Index (No entry in BDMs online)

<sup>48</sup> National Archives (UK) WO12/6747 Muster Roll 58th Regt NZ 01 Apr to 30 Jun 1846