

ALLAN, William



Ovillers Military Cemetery. Ovillers la Boisselle, Picardie, France
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William Allan was just fifteen when he commenced the then, two-year diploma at Hawkesbury, in February 1898. He was born at Oxley Island, not far from Taree, on the mid-north coast of NSW. His father John was a publican at Wingham.

Working as a Bookmaker, Allan joined the 8th Reinforcements of the 13th Battalion on 1 June 1915, aged 33. He embarked from Sydney in August 1915, was ill in late October, then landed on Gallipoli at the end of November 1915, arriving back in Alexandria via Moudros on 3 January 1916. He was again sick in March 1916 and left with the battalion for France in June.

He was killed two months later, aged 34, near Mouquet Farm during the Battle of the Somme on 14 August 1916. His remains were originally recovered near Thiepval and buried at the Ovillers British Cemetery. It wasn't until 1922 that a grave bearing his regimental number and a misspelt name, was established as belonging to that of William Allan.