



# Woodford Remembers



Pte. Leonard Allen

6 September 1896 – 1 July 1916

## Family

Sarah, Leonard's mother was born in Sudborough and moved to Woodford following her marriage to Edward Allen. The family lived in Church Street according to the 1891 census. Leonard and his younger brother were born in Northampton and on the 1901 census Sarah was listed as a widow with six children, living in Horse Market Gardens, where Mr Albert Howe was also a lodger. A further son Cyril Allen, was born later in 1901 .

The family moved back to Woodford and Leonard and his younger brother Frank enrolled at Woodford School on 7 January 1903. Sarah Allen married Albert Howe in 1906. Leonard moved from the Infant School to the Junior School on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1905. By 1911 Leonard was still living at Woodford working as a Ploughboy. The family moved to Derbyshire where Leonard worked as a Collier for the Pilsey Colliery Company. The family lived in Shakespeare Yard, King Street Clay Cross.

## Army Service

On 29 April 1914 Leonard was declared fit for service and joined the Territorial Force, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment. On 25 March 1915 Leonard agreed to serve in the regular army. Serving at home from 6 August 1914 until August 1915, he transferred to the 1/6<sup>th</sup> Notts and Derbys Sherwood Foresters Service number, 2192 in August 1915 and the Battalion embarked from Southampton to Rouen on 19 August 1915

The Regiment was located in Auty in March 1916 and Leonard was killed in action on 1 July 1916. The Derbyshire Courier recorded a letter from his former commanding officer, Capt H H Johnson "I am writing to tell you what I can about poor Len Allen.....Allen was killed with two other bombers, who were all together under the bombing officer Lieut. Hipkins. Out party of bombers were in front, and this shell killed three of them and put most of the others out of action. Allen was killed at once.... He was a very good soldier, and a very brave man, which I hope will be a little comfort to his mother. He used to be in my platoon, and came out with the first reinforcements. He really was splendidly brave." (Derbyshire Courier 29 July 1916)

## Burial / grave

Foncquevillers Military Cemetery, Somme, Grave I.L.46.

## Dependants

None.

## Commemoration

A memorial service for Private L Allen was held at Clay Cross Parish Church on Sunday. Amongst the family mourners were Mr Albert Howe (stepfather), Mrs Howe (mother), Mrs Hart (sister), Mr and Mrs Harry Allen (brother and sister in law), Mr Cyril Allen, and Mrs David Males. (Derbyshire Courier 22 July 1916)

Clay Cross War Memorial

Woodford War Memorial

Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial



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