

AUDREY RUTH ALLEN

Information from Peter Rickard, RSHG member March 2011:

I have been searching for details of THE LATE AUDREY RUTH ALLEN as she is recorded on the Borough of Ryde's War Memorial.

I can now draw this one to a close. Please use the information as you wish.

" I have been carrying out research to provide a full record of civilian fatalities in the Isle of Wight during the 1939 - 1945 War.

The Borough of Ryde War Memorial in Lind Street lists A R Allen (Miss) under civilians killed.

Unfortunately there is no Commonwealth War Graves Commission record for this person

Following one avenue of research it was possible to determine that from the record of graves listed by the Ryde Social History Group, Audrey Ruth Allen died in 1943.

This information came from the details of graves listed by the Ryde Social History Group in Ryde Cemetery where one is to be found one with the inscription "IN FOND MEMORY OF TWO LOVING SISTERS AUDREY RUTH ALLEN 1925-1943 PHYLLIS VIOLET RICHARDS (Nee ALLEN) 1922-2001 DEAR WIFE OF DAVID IVOR RICHARDS".

It is now possible from further research to provide full details of the death of Audrey Ruth Allen.

She is recorded as dying on 29th April 1943 in a field at New Barn Farm, Shorwell Rural District (Isle of Wight). She was 17 years old. Her address is recorded as 20 Dover Street, Ryde (Isle of Wight). Spinster. Agricultural Worker, Womens Land Army. Daughter of Amos Richard Allen Torpedoman Royal Navy.

Cause of death: Shock from fractured skull and laceration of brain sustained when tractor she was driving overturned with her. The Jury say that death was accidental.

An Inquest was held on 30th April 1943.

(Additional matters - there is no record of her Father being killed in the War; no CWGC record nor is he listed in www.Naval-History.Net -. There is no grave record on the RSHG site).

A sad story of the death of a young lady doing her bit towards the war effort".

There has now been a reply from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission:

"Your observations are correct in that the Commission does not commemorate Audrey Ruth Allen.

During the Second World War, the Commission was given the task of compiling as complete a list as possible of Commonwealth civilians whose deaths were due to enemy action. Details of these casualties would have been provided to us by the local authorities involved at the time.

As it appears that Audrey Ruth Allen's death was not due to enemy action, this would mean that the Commission was never asked to commemorate her for this reason".

I hope this helps. Please use the information as you wish - might add something to her record on your site?

Hello Peter

Many thanks for doing this research and solving the problem of why Miss Allen was not recorded by the CWGC.

It's perhaps unfortunate that an accident like this is not recognised as she was undoubtedly contributing to the war effort as a member of the WLA

I'll add some information to my website but perhaps not all the circumstances as given in the inquest.

regards

Geoff Allan
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www.isle-of-wight-memorials.org.uk