

Tale of a Methodist minister

SCRoll (South Canterbury Roll of Honour), hosted by the South Canterbury Museum, was born out of a vision to develop short biographies of all South Cantabrians who served their country during World War I. They have been compiled to be publicly accessible in order to support the 100th commemoration of World War I. The *South Canterbury Herald* will feature some of the biographies over coming weeks. Last week we ran the wrong photo with the profile of Sergeant Joseph Henry Wallace. It was in fact Chaplain Alexander Allen, 48144, Chaplain NZ Rifle Brigade NZEF, who we are profiling this week.



Chaplain Alexander Allen

Chaplain Alexander Allen was killed in action, Somme, France, May 8, 1918, aged 34.

Chaplain Allen was the son of Joseph and Annie Allen, Wai-iti Ave, Timaru. He was born January 1, 1884 and married Eva Sandford on April 3, 1914.

In 1914, Alexander and Eva were living at Main Rd, Waikouaiti, his occupation Methodist minister.

Alexander was attached to No 2 NZ General Hospital and later 4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade (NZRB).

He arrived in France September 15, 1917 with the 23rd Reinforcements.

He was ministering to the wounded in the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) of the 4th Battalion, NZRB, when it was destroyed by

German shellfire, killing everyone in it.

He was buried in Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No 2 on the Somme department in Picardie in northern France.

A plaque to his memory exists in the Caversham Methodist Church, Dunedin.

A son, who he never saw, was born after he left New Zealand with the forces. His war medals, scroll and plaque were sent to his wife Mrs Eva Allen, care Messrs Field & Royds, 200 Cashel St, Christchurch.

■ This is part of the SCRoll project. You can find SCRoll stories, hosted by the South Canterbury Museum, at museum.timaru.govt.nz/scroll.

In memory: The grave of Chaplain Alexander Allen.

