

ALLAN-BLACK Pte Hugh McAllister

CWGC:

Rank: Private

Service No: 77570

Date of Death: 08/08/1918

Age: 19

Regiment/Service: Royal Fusiliers 9th Bn.

Grave Reference: XVIII. C. 8.

Cemetery: **VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MILITARY CEMETERY**

Additional Information: Only son of John William and Clare Edith Allan-Black (née Delius), of White Gates, Idle, Bradford.

see: <http://www.cpgw.org.uk/soldier-records/hugh-mcallister-allan-black/>

Hugh McAllister Allan-Black (born 27 May 1899) was the son of John William and Clara Edith Allan-Black, née Delius. John was born at Burley-in-Wharfedale and Clara at Bradford, Yorkshire. Hugh was the nephew of the composer Frederick (Fritz) Theodore Albert Delius.

1901 Harrogate, Yorkshire Census: 15, South Drive - Hugh McA. A. Black, aged 1 year, born Lothersdale, Yorkshire, son of John Wm. A. and Clara E. Black.

1911 **Victoria Road Ilkley**, Yorkshire Census: 4, Victoria Avenue - Hugh McAlister Allan Black, aged 11 years, born Stone Gappe, Lothersdale, Yorkshire, son of John William Allan-Black (Wool Merchant) and Clare Edith Black (one of 8 daughters of Julius Delius). Two sisters at home; 5 children altogether, Hugh being the only boy.



Pte Hugh McAllister Allan-Black
Image from Du Ruvigny's Roll of Honour

DE RUVIGNY'S ROLL OF HONOUR 1914-1918 Part Five

ALLAN-BLACK, HUGH MCALISTER, Private, 9th (Service) Battn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt.), only s. of John William Allan-Black, of Hango Side, Castletown, Isle of Man, by his wife Clare, dau. of the late **Julius Delius, of Claremont, Bradford**, co. York; and grandson. of the Rev. Charles Ingham Black, D.D., R.D., V.D.; b. Stone Gappe, near Skipton, co. York,

- Born 27 May 1899; educ. by a tutor and at King William's College, Castletown IoM; was a member of the O.T.C.;
- left college at the age of 18 to volunteer for service, and joined the Royal Fusiliers in June, 1917; trained at Catterick, near York, during which time he was mostly in hospital, suffering from a strained heart, and was twice offered his discharge, but refused to accept it, the second time being in March, 1918, when he felt that all men were needed;
- served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from May, 1918 and was killed in action outside the village of Morlincourt 8 Aug. following. Buried at Vaux-sur-Somme.
- In letters received it was stated: "That his courage under fire for the first time was marvellous and an example to old soldiers; although a boy in years, he had a man's heart, and as a comrade and a pal we shall not easily see his like again. He was a very gallant gentleman." Unmarried.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
-ALLAN	R. Fus.	Pte	GS/77570
H. M. BLACK-			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	TP/104 826	3596.	
BATTION	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

Note: his body was exhumed – with several others - from Vaux and re-buried at Villers Bretonneux

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES. (EXHUMATION AND RE-BURIALS).

BURIAL RETURN.

of Cemetery of Re-burial VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MILITARY CEMETERY Sh. 62D 0.17.0.4.3.

Plot.	Row.	Grave.	Approximate Map Reference where body found.	Was cross found on grave.	Particulars on cross found on grave.	Were any Effects forwarded to Base.
18	E	4	Sh. 62D J. 26.6.9.3.	Yes	422402 Pte. NOVITSKY, H.L. 2/10 Lon.Rgt. 8.8.18.	
17	D	3	do.	Yes	2/Lieut. A.F. MORTON, 8th Lon.Rgt. att. 174 L.T.M.B. KIA. 8.8.18.	
18	E	5	do.	Yes	200118 Cpl. J.R. SIN, 8th R. BERKS Rgt. 12.8.18.	
17	D	8	do.	Yes	426181 Pte. W.T. BOYTON, 8th Lon.Rgt. 12.8.18.	
19	A	10	do.	Yes	279139 Pte. G.S. HUGGETT, 2nd Lon.Rgt. 14.8.18.	
18	F	8	do.	Yes	500481 Sgt. J. ALGER, 8th Lon.Rgt. 15.8.18.	
18	F	2	do.	Yes	368063 Cpl. G.A. HUGUS, 7th Lon.Rgt. 12.8.18.	
18	F	1	do.	Yes	275427 Pte. G. MURE, 3rd Lon.Rgt. 14.8.18.	
18	E	8	do.	Yes	0/95283 Sgt. A. Godwallader, 3rd Lon.Rgt. 14.8.18.	
19	D	10	do.	Yes	Pte. Unknown soldier. 14.8.18.	
19	E	10	do.	Yes	40036 Pte. H. RAMSHEAD, 59th T.M.B. 14.8.18.	
19	C	10	do.	Yes	Pte. Unknown soldier. 10th Lon.Rgt. 13.8.18.	
18	C	3	do.	Yes	77570 Pte. H.M.A. BLACK, 2nd R. Fus. 13.8.18.	
18	F	6	do.	Yes	248098 L/Cpl. J. FISHER, 2nd Lon.Rgt. 12.8.18.	
17	E	3	do.	Yes	251439 Pte. W. PASTERFUL, 4th Lon.Rgt. 12.8.18.	
17	E	8	do.	Yes	Pte. STOLDS, 2nd Lon.Rgt. 14.8.18.	
17	E	6	do.	Yes	257196 Pte. C.H. BRETT, 3rd Lon.Rgt. 14.8.18.	
18	E	6	do.	Yes	Pte. HYNES, 6th Lon.Rgt. 14.8.18.	
18	F	5	do.	Yes	495640 Pte. E. NOTTINGHAM 6th Lon.Rgt. 14.8.18.	
18	F	3	do.	Yes	5289 Rfn. MOSS, S.A. 1/12th Lon.Rgt. 4.9.16.	
8	E	6	do.	Yes	1794 Pte. G. BROWN, 21st Bn. AIF. 5.4.18.	
9	E	5	do.	Yes	7634 Pte. L. BOUTIE, 41st Bn. AIF. 28.3.18.	
18	C	4	do.	Yes	8071 Pte. T. CRAIG, 1st Norf. Rgt. 20.10.15.	
18	C	5	do.	Yes	1940 Cpl. F. ACONE, 26th P. Amb. 8th Div. 20.1.17	
18	F	7	do.	Yes	8058 Pte. S. HARDY, 1st Norf. Rgt. 20.10.15.	
18	K	13		Yes	Unknown British Soldier.	
19	F	10	P. 27.0.5.9.	Yes	Unknown Australian 14th Battalion.	
9	E	9	do.	Yes	Unknown British Soldier.	
19	E	9	do.	Yes	Unknown British Soldier.	
19	C	7	do.	Yes	No. 3321 TURNER, R.R. A.V.C., C. of F.	
19	C	9	do.	Yes	Unknown British Soldier.	

No. 3 Adv. Sect. A.P. & S.S. This form to be rendered in duplicate, one copy being handed to the Registration Officer and the other retained by the Burial Officer. E.1110 3-18.

Historical Information

Villers-Bretonneux became famous in 1918, when the German advance on Amiens ended in the capture of the village by their tanks and infantry on 23 April. On the following day, the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, with units of the 8th and 18th Divisions, recaptured the whole of the village and on 8 August 1918, the 2nd and 5th Australian Divisions advanced from its eastern outskirts in the Battle of Amiens.

VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MILITARY CEMETERY was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from other burial grounds in the area and from the battlefields. Plots I to XX were completed by 1920 and contain mostly Australian graves, almost all from the period March to August 1918. Plots IIIA, VIA, XIII A and XVI A, and Rows in other Plots lettered AA, were completed by 1925, and contain a much larger proportion of unidentified graves brought from a wider area. Later still, 444 graves were brought in from Dury Hospital Military Cemetery.

The following were among the burial grounds from which graves were taken to Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery.

VAUX-SUR-SOMME COMMUNAL CEMETERY, contained three Australian graves of March-April 1918, and two United Kingdom of 1916 and 1917; and the EXTENSION, made in May-August 1918, contained the graves of 130 Australian soldiers and 104 soldiers (mainly 58th Division and Artillery) and one airman from the United Kingdom.

9th Btn Royal Fusiliers formed part of 12th (Eastern) Division. On 1 July 1918, two years to the day that the British offensive had opened on the Somme, the Division carried out an attack at Bouzincourt. After initial success, counter attack drove the attacking units back at a cost of 680 casualties. The Division was relieved on 10 July and came under orders of XXII Corps. It was moved to the area south of Amiens.

The Battle of Amiens

The Divisional artillery supported the successful attack of the French 66th Division near Moreuil on 23 July 1918. It remained in action near Gentelles in covering the 2nd Australian Division, and between 8 and 25 August played a part in the highly successful attack by Fourth Army, the Battle of Amiens. Meanwhile the infantry of the Division continued to rebuild and train. On 30 July, the Division moved to III Corps and the area of Vignacourt, Canaples and Pernois.

The Battle of Albert, a phase of the Second Battles of the Somme 1918

Under the command of III Corps and on the left flank of this Corps front along the River Ancre, the 12th Division generally played only a holding role on 8 August 1918 (the day HM Allan-Black died) when Fourth Army made its great attack. However, German withdrawal from the Ancre and from Dernancourt being observed before the attack took place, 35 Brigade – on the Division's right – became involved. The 7/Norfolk and 9/Essex advanced to their objectives,

consolidating a new line from the west of Morlancourt to the Ancre, but the Cambridgeshires on the right were held up by heavy fire from the Saily Laurette road. The battalion renewed its attack later in the day, assisted by a tank, and achieved its objectives, capturing 316 enemy, 14 machine guns and 10 mortars. 37 Brigade took up this attack later on 9 August and succeeded in further captures. By the evening of 10 August the old Amiens defence line had been recaptured: in all the Division had by now advanced almost two miles.

After a brief rest, the Division attacked again on 22 August, pushing right across the wilderness of the old Somme battlefield, capturing Meaulte, Mametz, Carnoy, Hardecourt and Faviere Wood, which was reached after a week's continuous fighting. The Division had made an advance of another 15000 yards. It was relieved on 30 August by 47th (London) Division and moved back to the Carnoy-Briqueterie area.



26.d.9.3 is the site of Vaux sur Somme Communal Cemetery Extension where HM Allan-Black was initially buried. He was re-interred at Villers Bretonneux.

