

Private Allan Fleming Jamieson©

Regimental number: 9/296

2nd Battalion, Otago Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force

born: 7 May 1881 – died: 22 June 1916

Private Allan Fleming Jamieson was born on 7 May 1881 in Invercargill, New Zealand,¹ the son of James and Janet Porteous Jamieson.² Both his parents were probably born in Scotland—his father in 1831 in Argyll³ and Janet in 1845 in Balsery, Lanarkshire.⁴ However, they married in New Zealand in 1865⁵ and probably went on to have at least 12 children: Janet (also known as Jessie) Fleming (b. 1866),⁶ Jane Barbour (b. 1868),⁷ James (b. 1870),⁸ Francis Porteous (b. 1873),⁹ John William (b. 1875),¹⁰ Margaret Catherine (b. 1877),¹¹ Mary Ellen Isabella (b. 1879),¹² Allan, Andrew (b. 1884),¹³ Hannah Stewart (b. 1885),¹⁴ Violet Annie (b. 1888)¹⁵ and Hugh Barbour (b. 1890).¹⁶ The youngest of the children was born when Allan's mother was 45 years of age. His father died just five years later, dying in Invercargill on 24 April 1895.¹⁷

For the most part, the rest of the family lived in Invercargill on the South Island in the years leading up to, and during, the Great War.¹⁸

When Allan enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, he was living in Bluff, working as a labourer at Half Moon Bay near Auckland on the North Island.¹⁹ He enlisted as a private (trooper) in the Otago Mounted Rifles on 15 August 1914, only 11 days after the UK declared war on Germany, engaging all countries in the British Empire.²⁰ He was 33 years of age, single, 5' 8½" tall and had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. He had been a member of the Invercargill Boys High School Cadets for a year. His mother, who was living on Layard Street in Invercargill, was his next of kin.

He remained in New Zealand from August to October 1914 and then embarked for the Mediterranean Front, travelling by sea from mid-October to early December. He arrived in Egypt on 4 December and embarked for the Dardanelles on 20 May 1915. Three months later he was admitted to a Field Ambulance and then transferred to a sick convoy with enteritis and debility. He was admitted to the Red Cross Hospital in Taplow, Buckinghamshire, England on 1 September. He arrived back in Gizeh, Egypt in late January 1916 and rejoined his unit in Zeitoun on 27 January 1916. In March, he transferred to the 15th Battery of the New Zealand Field Artillery, then to the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the Otago Regiment. On 9 April 1916, Allan left Alexandria on the *Llandovery Castle* for France, to join the Western Front.

The 2nd Otago Battalion was part of the 2nd New Zealand Brigade, which went into Houplines, near Armentières, in May 1916.²¹ Over the next few months, the Brigade moved around as need required. At the time, Armentières was largely intact, but Houplines was in ruins. There were, however, still civilians in the area carrying on life as best they could. The Anzac soldiers had just come from Gallipoli and as they were

... accustomed to waging war on the barren, unpeopled Gallipoli Peninsula, were also surprised to find peasants still working their fields. Old men and boys and women in the main. They were frequently forward of the British gun lines and behind the trenches, but again well within the zone of enemy shellfire.

Civilian casualties in both town and country were not infrequent and increased considerably as time went by. Eventually Armentieres itself was largely destroyed, and most of the remaining population fled or were evacuated.²²

On 20 June 1916, Allan was wounded and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds and a fractured right arm and wrist. He died on 22 June and was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: II. E. 176).

Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian CCS, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.²³

Allan was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).

Allan's brother Hugh also served in the 2nd Battalion of the Otago Regiment but survived the Great War. Hugh was a farmer when he enlisted as a rifleman on 30 May 1915.²⁴ He was a widower with a young daughter. He had married Poke Tukihona²⁵ in 1912²⁶ and they had two children: Douglas (born on 31 March 1913) and Pohe Amokura (born on 6 April 1914). Sadly, just over three weeks after the birth of their daughter, his wife died.²⁷ Hugh's military career was punctuated, and eventually ended, by illness. He was hospitalized with measles before leaving New Zealand. He arrived in Egypt in November 1915 and then went to Somalia to serve in the Western Frontier Force. He was hospitalized there for five days. On 9 April 1916, he sailed from Egypt for France on the *Llandoverly Castle*, on the same sailing as his brother Allan. He joined the Western Front but, just a few months later, he was again hospitalized. He had contracted a bad cold but only reported sick at the beginning of June. At his request, he returned to his unit, but his condition deteriorated and he was evacuated to England with haemoptysis (coughing up blood). He eventually returned to New Zealand and was discharged on 1 February 1917, with a permanent disability caused by a "constitutional predisposition and infection on active service." In fact, his military medical history notes that three of his sisters and one brother had died of "chest troubles."

Indeed, four of his siblings had died in their thirties: Jessie Fleming (died at the age of 31 in 1897), Jane Barbour (at the age of 34 in 1902) and Margaret Catherine Worthington (at the age of 34 in 1911). (Margaret had married Alfred Henry Worthington in 1908.) Hugh's brother John William also died at the age of 37 in 1912. Two other brothers died soon after the Great War—Francis Porteous, at the age of 49 in 1922, and Andrew Fleming, at the age of 39 in 1923. After the Great War, Hugh remarried, marrying Dorothy Maria Humphreys in 1922²⁸ and, in 1935, was a lighthouse



Private A. F. Jamieson's gravestone
Source: New Zealand War graves project

<http://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/>

keeper.²⁹ Given his medical and family history, Hugh went on to live a long life, dying in Auckland on 29 January 1968 at the age of 78.

Allan is commemorated on the gravestone of his mother and father. His father had died when Allan was just 14. His mother died just after the War, dying in Invercargill on 27 January 1920. She had, by then, lost her husband and five of her children.

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¹ "Military personnel files," *New Zealand Defence Force, Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga* (<http://archives.govt.nz/world-war-one>: accessed 26 October 2016), entry for Jamieson, Allen [sic] Fleming, Description: - WW1 9/296 - Army; Record no: 0059938; R no: R18052905; Series: 18805. Unless otherwise noted, all information on his military career and personal life comes from this source.

² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Jamieson, Allen Flemming [sic], Service No: 9/296

³ "1841 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 October 2016), entry for James Jamieson, Parish number: 536

⁴ "1861 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 October 2016), entry for Janet Porteous, Enumeration district: 49, Household schedule number: 19, Line: 14, Roll: CSSCT1861_126

⁵ "New Zealand, Marriage Index, 1840–1934," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 October 2016), entry for James Jamieson, Folio number: 1872

⁶ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Janet Jamieson, Registration place: New Zealand, Folio number: 1109

⁷ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Jane Barbour Jamieson, Registration place: New Zealand, Folio number: 1398

⁸ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for James Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 1412

⁹ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Frnacis [sic] Porteous Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 890

¹⁰ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for John William Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 1593

¹¹ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Margaret Catherine Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 2935

¹² "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Mary Ellen Isabella Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 3122

¹³ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Andrew Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 1060

¹⁴ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Hannah Stewart Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 4506

¹⁵ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Violet Annie Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 4359

¹⁶ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Hugh Barbour Jamieson, Registration place: Invercargill, New Zealand, Folio number: 4281

¹⁷ "New Zealand, Cemetery Records, 1800–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 October 2016), entry for Allan Fleming Jamieson

¹⁸ "New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853–1981," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 October 2016), entry for Janet Jamieson, Electoral years: 1896, 1900, 1905/6, 1911, 1914, 1919

¹⁹ "Military personnel files," *New Zealand Defence Force, Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga* (<http://archives.govt.nz/world-war-one>: accessed 26 October 2016), entry for Jamieson, Allen Fleming. Unless otherwise noted, all information about his military career comes from this source.

²⁰ "Where Britain goes, we go?" *New ZealandWW100* (<http://ww100.govt.nz/where-britain-goes-we-go>: accessed 22 November 2016)

²¹ *The New Zealand Division in France and Flanders May 1916 to November 1918: A Contemporary Diary of Pilgrimages in Their Footsteps April 2002 and July 2005*, Revised Edition 2005, John H. Gray, Christchurch, New Zealand (<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Publications/NewZealandDivisionInFranceAndFlanders/NewZealandDivisionInFranceAndFlanders.pdf>: accessed 30 August 2016)

²² Ibid. p. 14

²³ "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>: accessed 5 August 2015)

²⁴ "Military personnel files," *New Zealand Defence Force, Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga* (<http://archives.govt.nz/world-war-one>: accessed 26 October 2016), entry for Jamieson, Hugh Barbour, Description: - WW1 24/1090 - Army; Record no: 0059969; R no: R23700131; Series: 18805. Unless otherwise noted, all information about his military career comes from this source.

²⁵ "New Zealand, Cemetery Records, 1800–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Pohe Tukihona Jamieson

²⁶ "New Zealand, Marriage Index, 1840–1934," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Hugh Barbour Jamieson, Folio number: 1276

²⁷ "Cemetery Records in Tasman District," *Tasman District Council* (<http://www.tasman.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/cemetery-records-search/>: accessed 1 November 2016), entry for Pohe Tukihona Jamieson

²⁸ "New Zealand, Marriage Index, 1840–1934," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2016), entry for Hugh Barbour Jamieson, Folio number: 2023

²⁹ "New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853–1981," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 October 2016), entry for Hugh Barbour Jamieson, Electoral year: 1935