

## Alton James Allen

Alton James Allen was born 15 July 1891 or 1892 in Blanchard, South Dakota. His parents were Charles Wesley Allen (1835-1895) and Mrs. Nellie F. (Houck) Allen Ames (1857-1937), a mother to thirteen children. Before entry into service, Allen worked as painter and as a blacksmith for the railroad, and he lived in Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota.

Allen enlisted 7 July 1917 at Philadelphia and served as a Private in the Infantry of the Marine Corps. He was originally assigned to Headquarters Detachment, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment at Philadelphia Navy Yards. He was transferred to Co. B, 1<sup>st</sup> Separate Machine Gun Battalion at Quantico, Virginia. He received marksmanship qualifications in 1917 and 1918. Allen served with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe from 22 August 1918 to 4 August 1919.

Allen embarked from Hoboken, New Jersey on the SS DeKalb on 22 August 1918 and arrived at Brest, France on 3 September 1918. He served in Chatillon, France from 12 September until 13 October 1918, and then was transferred to the 77<sup>th</sup> Co., 6<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. He first went into action on 1 November 1918 in Meuse-Argonne. He was under care at Base Hospital 52 at Rimoncourt, France from 11 November to 19 November 1918. He arrived back at Hoboken, New Jersey on 5 August 1919 and discharged at Quantico, Virginia on 13 August.

Alton James Allen was married to Catherine Chase on 11 November 1920, and they moved to Kalispell in 1948. He died at age 68 on 15 October 1960 in Kalispell, Flathead County, Montana. He was buried in Glencoe City Cemetery at Glencoe, McLeod County, Minnesota.

