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Outstanding Personalities

Mr Jack Allies

There are many amongst our Coloured community who in various spheres of activity, have laboured in the past, and are still striving in the interests of our people for a better and brighter future. Many of these personalities have accomplished much, but are little known amongst the greater majority of our community, especially in the smaller towns and 'dorps'.

It is the policy of 'The Sun' to publish from time to time biographical sketches of such personalities, with a view to satisfying the expanding demands of our readers, and incidentally enhancing the growing popularity of 'The Sun'.

Mr. Jack H. Allies is an ex-volunteer of the 1st World War (1914-1918). He attested in the 1st Battalion Cape Corps in 1915 and was attached to the Signaller Section. Proceeding to East Africa with the Armadale Castle he passed out as 1st Class Signaller at Mochi and was promoted to Corporal. After further examinations he was promoted to Signaller Sergeant and on returning to the Union of South Africa after the East African Campaign, he passed out as 1st Class Signaller at Potchefstroom.



In Egypt Mr. Allies with ex-Sergeant Rev E L B George, were the first two Cape Corps representatives to pass a course at the Zeitoun School of Instruction at Heliopolis, Cairo. He served throughout the campaign and was mentioned in despatches.

When the 1st Cape Corps returned to the Union after Armistice, Mr. Allies performed ship's wireless work in the absence of the Wireless Operator who was seriously ill aboard, for which work he was handsomely paid by the Naval authorities.

Subsequently Mr. Allies became Secretary of the 'Comrades of the Great War' Association (C.C. Section) with an office at 23 Burg Street, and was responsible for meeting the needs of many an ex-volunteer, including a large number of Namaqualanders who were reluctant to return to their homes owing to the severe famine which existed at the time.

He assisted Captain I. D. Difford in writing the history of the 1st Battalion Cape Corps and contributed largely to Chapter 20 (The Sports Chapter), and many photographs appearing in the book were taken by him.

He became Secretary of the 1st Cape Corps Association, and was instrumental in organising the Memorial Service held in the City Hall in 1929.

He was appointed first National President of the South African Coloured ex-Serviceman's Legion of the B.E.S.L at its inaugural meeting held in Cape Town in 1945, a position to which he was unanimously re-elected in 1947.

For the past two years he has been serving on the Cape Town Discharged Soldiers Demobilisation Committee (C.C. Section).

As National President of the ex- servicemen's Legion, and a number of the D.S.D.C., he has led deputations to Gen. Palmer, Commissioner of Police, and General Brink, Director General of Demobilisation, and had interviews with various other heads of departments in the interest of ex-volunteers.

He served as Secretary of the Athlone and Crawford Civic and Ratepayers Association for three years, after which he was elected Life Vice-President.

He was Secretary of the Athlone and District Sports Board of Control for ten years before resigning.

Well known in the Cape Flats for Social Work among the poor he, with Mrs. Allies (then Miss Kate van Harte) who was Secretary of the Athlone and District Soup Kitchens Committee, to which funds the City Council contributed £50 per annum, were mainly responsible for the establishment of seven soup kitchens in the Cape Flats.



He represented the League of Friends of the Blind **and joined the S A Coloured Boy Scouts as Signaller Instructor. Subsequently he took the oath and was promoted to Headquarters Administrative Staff with the rank of District Scout Master. He represented Scouts at Conferences held at Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Cape Town and is now Assistant Divisional Commissioner, Cape Western Division.**

Mr. Allies was a great sportsman, and at various times, played representative Association Football, Cricket and Tennis. Starting at the age of seventeen he played 1st Class Soccer and Cricket for the original Sea Point Club. He captained the 1st Batt. Cape Corps team in Egypt against leading English and Scottish Soccer players.

Played cricket with leading Springboks such as the late Gordon White, Archie Difford, D. K. Pearce, S. V. Samuelson J. H. Tandy, etc and with the famous V. W. C. Jupp the English bowler, represented Alexandria against Cairo at the Gezira Sports Club ground. Finally he represented South Africa against England and Australia at Alexandria.

Mr. Allies is indeed a unique man, one could honestly say he was a man of many talents with an outstanding personality.