

# Allen William NASH QPM

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New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ?

**Rank:** Senior Constable – posthumously promoted to Sergeant 3rd Class

**Service:** From 3 July 1939 to 22 August 1956 = 17+ years Service

**Stations:** ?, Pt Kembla

**Awards:** Queen's Police Medal for Gallantry – granted 28 December 1956

Peter Mitchell Trophy and the George Lewis Trophy

**Cause:** Shot – Murdered

**Event location:** Primbee

**Born:** ? ? 1916

**Age:** 40

**Date of Event: Thursday 16 August 1956**

**Date of Death: Wednesday 22 August, 1956  
at 5.25pm in Wollongong Hospital**

**Funeral date: Saturday 25 August 1956 –  
Wagga Wagga**

**Allen is buried in the Wagga Wagga  
Cemetery, Koorinal Rd, Koorinal, NSW.**

**His grave is located in the Anglican  
Section K – 5-0077**

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**[alert\_blue]Allen IS mentioned on the Police Wall of  
Remembrance[/alert\_blue]**



Senior Constable ( Sergeant 3rd Class ) Allen  
William NASH, Shot at Primbee on 16 August 1956  
and died on 22 August 1956.□□ 1939 Police

Academy class photo with NASH being first on the left in second row from front ( circled ).



Allen William NASH



Allen William NASH



On **16 August, 1956** Senior Constable Nash was on duty at the Port Kembla Police Station. Following the receipt of a message of shots fired at a Primbee dwelling occupied by a **woman** and **two children**, Senior Constable Nash left to attend to the complaint.

On arrival he found the offender **Russin** near the back verandah of the house and spoke to him. **Russin**, however simply raised the **rifle** he was carrying and shot the constable. The bullet unfortunately passed through Nash's abdomen, damaging his spine and causing him to drop his pistol. With his **right arm paralysed**, Nash picked up the pistol with his **left hand** and, although in great pain, managed to fire two shots. One shot hit the offender in the hands, and the other penetrated the heart, killing him.

Senior Constable Nash was posthumously awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Gallantry, the Peter Mitchell Trophy, and the George Lewis Trophy.

Commissioner Delaney also promoted him sergeant 3<sup>rd</sup> class on the day before he died from his wounds.

The sergeant was born in 1916 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 3 July, 1939. At the time of his death he was stationed at Port Kembla.

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## **Police Remembrance Day: Lake Illawarra sergeant Allen William Nash honoured**

JOSHUA BUTLER

**29 Sep 2014, 3 p.m.**



Kenneth Nash (left) at the Police Remembrance Day ceremony on Monday. Picture: ANDY ZAKELI.

Almost 60 years on, Kenneth Nash still misses his uncle Allen.

Sergeant Allen William Nash, aged 40, was killed in the line of duty by a gun-wielding offender at Primbee in 1956.

Sgt Nash was one of eight officers stationed in the Lake Illawarra local area command who were recognised with memorial plaques on a wall of honour outside Lake Illawarra police station on Monday, as part of Police Remembrance Day commemorations.

Dozens of current and retired officers, families, friends, politicians, councillors and members of the public gathered at Oak Flats for a ceremony to unveil the memorial wall, and honour past and present officers.

Kenneth Nash travelled from Brisbane for the ceremony, laying a wreath below his uncle's name.

“We came to Port Kembla some time ago to see where he was, and they had a plaque on the wall at the station,” Mr Nash said.

“They called us and asked if we could come for the ceremony.”

On August 16, 1956, Sgt Nash, stationed at Port Kembla, responded to shots fired at a Primbee house.

Finding a man on the verandah, Sgt Nash attempted to speak to the man but was shot through the abdomen, the bullet piercing his spine and paralysing his right arm.

Sgt Nash then shot the offender with his left hand. He died not long after.

Sgt Nash was posthumously awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Gallantry, the Peter Mitchell Trophy, and the George Lewis Trophy.

“He wasn't even supposed to be on duty that day, he was covering for someone else,” Mr Nash said.

“Having a recognition like this, it's everything for us. He had a lot of siblings but only one or two are left. This plaque means people won't forget about him.”

Mr Nash carries with him a cigarette case Sgt Nash had in his jacket on the day he died, and counts a cutlery set sent to his uncle by Queen Elizabeth herself as a prized family heirloom.

Since 1862, more than 250 NSW Police officers have died in the line of duty.

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/2591540/lake-illawarra-officers-honoured-on-police-remembrance-day-photos/>

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**The Canberra Times**

**Friday 17 August 1956**



<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/91220605>

## **Badly Wounded Constable Kills Gunman In Duel**

**WOLLONGONG, Thursday.** – A critically wounded police constable shot dead his beserk attacker in a gun duel at Wollongong early to-day.

Doctors at Wollongong Hospital are fighting to save the life of the policeman, Allen Nash, 40, of Wentworth Street, Port Kembla, who was shot through the groin by a .22 bullet.

The bullet pierced his liver and lodged near his spine.

Doctors said to-night they had performed an emergency operation on Constable Nash, but his condition was still critical. The dead man is Czech migrant, **Nokolaj Russin**, steelworker, of **Shellharbour Rd, Primbee.**

As Constable Nash lay wounded he shot Russin through the heart.

Police described Russin as a woman-basher.

Before Constable Nash fought the duel with him, **Russin** had terrorised a housewife and her family for an hour.

The woman is **Mrs. Mildred Pearce**, who lives with her husband and two children aged three and six in **Allowra Crescent, Primbee.**

She said that shortly before midnight **Russin** forced attentions on her.

When she refused him admission to the house he went berserk and fired a fusillade of shots, which shattered a window of her bedroom.

Residents said to-day they knew **Russin** as a gun happy lover

who had approached many women in the Primbee area, but had been rejected.

Police said he was estranged from his wife, who lives in **Trundle** with her 10 year old son.

They believe **Russin** watched the **Pearce** home until **Mr. Pearce** went to work. When **Mrs. Pearce** was alone, he went to the rear of the house and tried to enter.

Just after midnight **Mrs. Pearce** was awakened by rifle shots and heard **Russin's** voice as he called out. As she went to open the back door, a bullet whizzed past her head. She went back to the bedroom and locked her children in the bathroom.

"I shouted to neighbours, but they didn't hear me and when I heard a couple more shots I ran out of the front door to **Mr. Stanton's** shop opposite," she said.

**Mr. B. Stanton** rang Port Kembla police and when Constable Nash arrived in a police truck, **Mrs. Pearce** said she went back into the house.

She heard more shots and **Constable Nash** called out "*Mrs. Pearce, get me help. He's shot me*".

Then **Nash** said "*I've got him*".

A few minutes later **Detective Sergeant Davenport** and **Detectives Marrott, Knott** and **Morgan**, of **Wollongong**, arrived.

They found **Russin** dead. He was still clutching a .22 repeating rifle, on the small back verandah below the bullet-perforated back door.

**Russin** had been shot through the heart by one bullet from **Nash's** service pistol and a second shot had passed through both of his hands.

Nash told police that as he walked to the back verandah he saw

**Russin** firing shots into the back door.

**Russin** turned and at a range of only a **few feet**, shot him in the stomach. **Nash** fired two shots and then **his pistol jammed**.

An examination of the house showed ten shots had been fired into the back door and bullets were buried into the wall inches from where **Mrs. Pearce** had been standing.

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**The Canberra Times**

**Monday 20 August 1956**

**page 1 of 12**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/91220815>

### **Rise For Constable Nash**

**WOLLONGONG, Sunday,**— The Police Commissioner, Mr. C. J. Delaney, to-day visited wounded police hero, Allan Nash, and promoted him from the rank of senior constable to third-class sergeant.

Sergeant Nash, 40, was promoted for bravery and devotion to duty.

He was wounded before he shot dead a beserk Czech migrant at Primbee last Thursday.

The migrant, Nokolaj Russin, had fired shots at a woman and her children and had terrorised them, for an hour before Nash tackled him.

Doctors at Wollongong Hospital said to-night that although Nash was still in a critical condition he had a fighting chance.

Mr. Delaney and several high police officers visited sergeant

Nash to-day.

About 16 friends and relatives of Sergeant Nash including his parents, who came from Wagga waited outside the hospital but were not allowed to see him.

Mr. Delaney read a letter to Nash telling him of his promotion.

Part of the letter read: "Your conduct has been hailed by colleagues and the public alike as a magnificent effort.

"We of the police force are proud of you."

Sergeant, Nash thanked Mr. Delaney for the tributes.

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**The Argus ( Melbourne )**

**Tuesday 21 August 1956**

**page 7 of 18**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/71653081>

### **Police hero still critical**

**SYDNEY, Monday:** Police sergeant A. Nash was still critically ill in Wollongong Hospital today.

He was shot in a gun duel with migrant Nikolaj Russin last Thursday.

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**The Canberra Times**

**Thursday 23 August 1956**

**page 3 of 16**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/91221095>

## **Policeman Hero Dies From Migrant's Bullet**

**WOLLONGONG. Wednesday.** – Sergeant Allan Nash, 40, of Port Kembla, died in Wollongong Hospital this afternoon, a week after a beserk Czech migrant critically wounded him with a .22 rifle.

Sergeant Nash had a relapse at 3 pm. and **died at 5.25 pm.**

When he was admitted to hospital, he was suffering from a bullet wound in his liver.

He rallied soon after admittance and doctors yesterday said his condition, although still critical, was improved.

The Police Commissioner, Mr. Delaney, visited Sergeant Nash on Sunday and promoted him from a Senior Constable to Sergeant Third Class.

Mr Delaney told Nash the Police Force and the public regarded him as a hero after shooting dead the man who shot him.

The man, Nojolsi Russin, 40, of Port Kembla, had terrorised a woman and her family at Primbee with a .22 rifle before Sergeant Nash challenged him.

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**The Central Queensland Herald ( Rockhampton )**

**Thursday 23 August 1956**

**page 4 of 32**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/79267740>

### **Death Of Police Hero**

**SYDNEY. August 22.** – Sergeant Allen Nash, 40, police hero in a gun duel with a crazed Czech gunman near Port Kembla last week, died this afternoon in the Wollongong Hospital, after

nearly a week fighting for his life.

He was critically wounded by the gunman before he shot him dead.

The gun duel was mentioned in the Wollongong Court to-day, when a 33-year-old man was freed of a charge of occasioning bodily harm.

Ladeus Skora, labourer, of Primbee, near Port Kembla, was charged with occasioning actual bodily harm to Nikolaj Russin, the gunman whom Nash shot dead.

It was alleged that during an argument at a Port Kembla hotel, on July 23, Skora had jabbed Russin in the face and neck with a broken beer glass.

Detective J. Gudgeon told the court he knew Russin as a violent man before Nash had shot him.

### **GEORGE MEDAL?**

The Police Commissioner ( Mr. C. J. Delaney ), said tonight the late Sgt Nash would probably be recommended for the George Medal – the highest civilian award for gallantry.

A doctor at the Wollongong Hospital said tonight that Sgt Nash had displayed " magnificent courage " in his fight for life.

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**The Central Queensland Herald ( Rockhampton )**

**Thursday 23 August 1956**

**page 11 of 32**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/79267850>

### **GEORGE MEDAL AWARD FOR POLICE HERO?**

**SYDNEY, August 16.** -Port Kembla police hero, Constable Allen

Nash, would almost certainly be recommend for the George Medal, a senior police official said to-day.

Nash is in hospital critically wounded after shooting dead crazed Czech gunman. Nikolaj Russin, in gun duel on Thursday.

The police official said the Police Department was waiting until Constable Nash was off the danger list before interviewing him about the shooting.

Until Constable Nash gave a report on the shooting, the question of an award could not be considered.

Doctors at Wollongong Hospital said today Nash had rallied slightly during the night, but it would be several days before they could know if he would survive.

#### **PROMOTED**

Nash was yesterday promoted from senior-constable to sergeant, 3rd class.

The Police Commissioner (Mr Delaney) told him of his promotion when he visited his bedside today.

Mr Delaney told him that the promotion was in recognition of his courage and devotion to duty.

Nash smiled at the news and said weakly: "Thank you, sir!" He was very weak and could not say anything more.

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**The Argus ( Melbourne )**

**Thursday 23 August 1956**

**page 1 of 22**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/71653431>

**Police hero dies**

**SYDNEY, Wednesday:** Police hero Sergeant Alan Nash died in Wollongong Hospital at 5.30 p.m. to-day.

Sergeant Nash was critically wounded last Thursday in a gun battle at Primbee with crazed Czech migrant Nicholaj Russin, whom he shot dead. Mr. Delaney, Police Commissioner,

promoted him from senior constable last Saturday in recognition of his bravery.

Mr. Delaney said to night: "It was with profound regret that I learned of the death of Sergeant Nash. "He gave his life in the service of the community, and was a classic example of a courageous police officer."

### **Curtain falls in gun duel drama – P. 5**

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**page 5**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/71653505>

### **CURTAIN FALLS IN GUN DUEL DRAMA SYDNEY, Wednesday:**

A migrant was discharged in Wollongong Court today on a charge of assaulting Nicholaj Russin, who was shot dead last week in a gun duel with Sergeant Nash, who died today.

He was Ladeus Skora, 35, laborer.

Police said he jabbed a broken beer glass in Russin's face in a Port Kembla hotel on July 23.

### **'Beer glass'**

Constable J. M. Gudgeon said Skora told him: "I lent Russin £30, but when I asked him for the money: he said, 'You will not get a penny,' and abused me."

Skora denied he had broken a glass and jabbed Russin with it.



He said he hit Russin with a full glass of beer.

Gudgeon said Russin had been known to him as a man given to violence.

Commenting, "No jury on earth would convict on the evidence," Mr. Lake, S.M., discharged Skora.

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**The Canberra Times**

**Friday 24 August 1956**

**page 1 of 16**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/91221244>

**Police Hero To Be Buried At Home Town**

**WOLLONGONG, Thursday.** —Police Sergeant Allen Nash, 40, who died in Wollongong Hospital yesterday, will be buried at Wagga on Saturday.

A service will be held at Wollongong to-morrow and the body then taken by train to Wagga, where Sergeant Nash's parents live.

Sergeant Nash shot dead a Czech migrant in a gun dual last Thursday at Primbee.

Before Sergeant Nash shot the man, Nikolaj Russin, the Czech wounded him in the stomach.

Russin had terrorised a woman and her children with a .22 rifle.

The woman, Mrs. Mildred Mary Pearce, 24, said to-day she would attend the funeral at Wagga.

"If he had not fired at this maniac, I am sure my children and myself would not be alive to-day."

The Police Commissioner, Mr. Delaney, said he had made an urgent recommendation that Sergeant Nash be decorated for his bravery.

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**The Canberra Times**

**Saturday 25 August 1956**

**page 1 of 16**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/91221352>

### **Police Honour Dead Hero**

**WOLLONGONG, Friday;** -More than 130 police to-day escorted a coffin bearing the body of police hero; Sergeant Allen Nash, 40, to Wollongong Railway station to-day.

Sergeant Nash's body will be taken to Wagga and buried there with full police honours to-morrow.

Sergeant Nash was wounded in a gun duel with Czech migrant Nikolai Russin near Port Kembla last week and died in Wollongong Hospital two days ago.

Although critically wounded Nash shot Russin dead.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. George Smith, represented the Commissioner, Mr. Delaney, at the funeral, service to-day.

The Minister without portfolio, Mr. Gollan, represented the Premier, Mr. Cahill.

Sergeant Nash's father, Mr. Albert Nash, of Wagga and other relatives also attended the service.

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**The Argus ( Melbourne )**

**Saturday 25 August 1956**

**page 3 of 38**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/71653974>

### **15,000 AT POLICE HERO'S FUNERAL**

**SYDNEY, Friday:** More than 15,000 people attended the funeral at Wollongong today of police hero, Sergeant Alan Nash.

Members of Parliament marched in the funeral procession, which was given full police honors. [ Sergeant Nash was shot last week in a gun battle with a crazed man, whom he shot dead. ]

His body was taken today to Wollongong railway station.

He will be interred at Wagga tomorrow.

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**The Central Queensland Herald ( Rockhampton )**

**Thursday 30 August 1956**

**page 16 of 32**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/79267937>

### **10,000 At Police Hero's Funeral**

**SYDNEY, August 24.-**Ten thousand people today saw the funeral procession for the police hero, Sgt. Alan Nash.

Crowds lined the streets of Wollongong after the funeral service.

A police band, a motor cycle escort and 100 uniformed policemen led the process on to the Wollongong railway station after the service.

Another service will be held tomorrow at Wagga, Southern New

South Wales, before Sgt Nash's body is buried there.

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**The Argus ( Melbourne )**

**Saturday 22 December 1956**

**page 6 of 30**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/71772885>

### **POLICE HERO DIED WHEN GUN JAMMED**

**SYDNEY, Friday:** Police sergeant Nash's pistol jammed during a duel with a Ukrainian migrant, Wollongong coroner was told today.

Mr. W. Musgrave, Coroner, was conducting an inquest on Sergeant Allan William Nash, 39, of Port Kembla, and Nikolaj Russin, 34, of Primbee.

Both were fatally shot in a gun duel at Wollongong on August 15.

Detective-constable W. Ross, C.I.B, ballistics expert, told the coroner that 50% of N.S.W. police used the same type of pistol Nash used, which was obsolete.

He said Nash's pistol had failed to fire four times in a test when 50 shots were fired.

Mr. Musgrave said this type of pistol should be replaced.

He said most Australians respected the police force, who rarely had to draw their batons or pistols.

"A few quiet words is all that is necessary at most times," he said.

"Some recent arrivals in Australia, unfortunately, carry life cheaply, and although they are in the minority, it is a matter

members of the force should keep in mind.”

Mr. Musgrave found Sgt. Nash died as the result of complications following gun shot wounds inflicted by Russin.

He said Sgt. Nash had “upheld the valor and tradition of the N.S.W. police force.”

He found Russin died when justifiably shot by Sgt. Nash in self-defence.

Det.-sgt. J. Davenport said when, with Det. V. Marrott, he interviewed Nash in his hospital soon after the shooting Nash told him he had been called to the home of Mrs. Mildred Pearce, at Primbee, where Russin was firing shots at the back door.

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### **The Canberra Times**

**Friday 28 August 1956**

**page 1 of 8**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/91230726>

### **Queen's Medal Awarded To Sgt. Nash**

**SYDNEY, Thursday.**

Sergeant Allan Nash, formerly of Wagga, has been posthumously awarded the Queen's Police Medal for gallantry.

Sgt. Nash, 40, who was stationed at Port Kembla, was fatally wounded in a gun battle with a beserk Czech, Nokolaj Russin, at Primbee, near Port Kembla, early on August 16, after the man had terrorised a married woman and her family with a rifle.

Sgt. Nash, although shot in the stomach, shot the .22 rifle

from Russin's hand and then shot him through the heart.

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Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995), **Saturday 28 December 1963**,  
page 6

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### **Police Seek New Pistol**

**SYDNEY, Friday.** -The **Police Association of N.S.W.** will press the **Police Department** to **replace all Webley and Scott** issue automatic pistols following the death last week of **Constable Cyril Howe** at **Oaklands**.

The secretary of the association, **Mr. F. C. Laut**, said today his organisation had been pressing for a replacement of this type of pistol "for many years".

Two police officers had lost their lives in recent years when using these pistols, he said.

Both had fired their pistols twice and the mechanisms had jammed at the third shot. They were Constable Howe and Sergeant Nash, who lost his life several years ago at Wollongong.

Mr. Laut emphasised that the failure of the pistols could not necessarily be claimed to have been the cause of the officer's deaths.

The department, however, apparently admitted a flaw in the issue type of pistol when it permitted officers to arrange for "personal replacements" of weapons.

Mr. Laut said the association had "pinned its hopes" on an

Italian made .38 calibre automatic pistol.

Officers had to carry pistols when on duty and could be called to use them at any time.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/104283713>

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# **Cecil William James ELLIS**

**Sergeant 2nd Class Cecil William  
James ELLIS**

**aka Cecil**

**Regd. # 2353**

**Heart Attack**

**Sydney**

**29 April, 1956**

On the evening of the 18 April, 1956 Sergeant Ellis and Sergeant Fitzpatrick arrested two men in Liverpool Street, Sydney. The offenders were then marched off toward Central Police Station, one to be charged with drunkenness and the other with indecent language. Nearing the courtyard of the

police station the offender detained for indecent language began to resist violently, punching and kicking the police. After being subdued and taken inside, the offender continued to climb out of the dock and attempt to assault any police near enough to him. The assault, followed by the effort of constantly restraining the offender exhausted Sergeant Ellis, and the following day he was suffering from severe chest pains. He was placed on sick report on 20 April and unfortunately died nine days later.

The sergeant was born in 1898 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 3 February, 1927. At the time of his death he was stationed at Central Police Station.