

Queensland Rifle Association
ROLL of HONOUR TRIBUTE



Arthur Laughton HALLIDAY
ANZAC Day 2022

Soldier and Rifleman in the
Great War 1914 - 1918

Arthur Laughton HALLIDAY

He was born in Nundah, Brisbane on the 18th of November 1891, to parents John William Laughton and Eleanor Garget HALLIDAY. He went to Nundah school and the family lived in Wride Street Woolloowin. After finishing school, he worked as a clerk and was single.

In 1908, at the age of 17, Arthur joined the City of Brisbane Rifle Club and went on to win several club championships and many other trophies.

He began representing Queensland in 1911 when he competed as a member of the Queensland rifle team in Western Australia, then in 1912 when he competed as a member of the Queensland rifle team in Hobart, and again in 1913 as a Queensland rifle team member at the Commonwealth match, which was held in Brisbane.

In 1913 he was selected in the Australian Rifle Shooting Team to compete at Bisley in the U.K. where he came a very credible 8th and won the Stock Exchange Cup, which was presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Robert Inglis, V.D., for the best Australian Score.

On his way home from England, Arthur stopped at Melbourne for the Victorian Association Shoot and won the Victorian King's Prize at age 22 years.

Again in 1914 he was one of Queensland's representatives at Bisley, and on his selection he was congratulated "on the position he had attained in the shooting world which, for one so young, was worthy of all praise, and spoke volumes for his steadiness of nerve and keen of sight". At Bisley that year he came 4th in the King's Prize Shoot.

The annual Bisley competition is an internationally revered rifle shooting competition that attracts many hundreds of shooters from all over the world and one that many shooters only dream of competing in. To be selected to shoot at Bisley once was a credit to Arthur, but to do so at only 21 years of age was an even more notable achievement. Then to be selected the following year and come 4th was a testament to Arthur Halliday's outstanding marksmanship.

While Arthur was in England for the Bisley Prize Shoot in 1914, war was declared, and on his return to Brisbane he was engaged as a musketry instructor in the A.I.F. camps, until he enlisted on the 16th of September 1916, when he joined the 20th Reinforcements of the 25th Battalion as a Private at age 24 years 10 months. It is interesting and appropriate to note that Arthur signed his Army Attestation Papers at the rifle range.

His Service Number was 6818 and on the 14th of June 1917 he embarked from Sydney on HMAT Hororata with the 25th Battalion. He disembarked at Liverpool in the United Kingdom on the 25th of August 1917, where he was attached to 7th and then 5th Training Battalion in Wiltshire, England, until the 28th of April 1918 when he left for France. At that time, he re-joined his Unit with the 25th Battalion on the French battlefield on the 4th of May 1918 where his Battalion was involved in the actions around Morlancourt in the Somme in northern France, to help defend the line against the Germans in their Spring Offensive of 1918.

On the 5th of June 1918 Arthur Halliday was killed from shell fire that he received while on duty burying cable in the vicinity of Heilly, Mericourt.

He was buried at the Bonnay Communal Cemetery Extension, Picardie, France and is commemorated at the Australian War Memorial.

He was honoured by being posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After the death of Arthur Halliday, his uncle, Major Woods, attended the Q.R.A. Council meeting in October 1918 where he handed over the shield and badges that had been won by Arthur at Bisley in 1913 and 1914, and which had been bequeathed to the Association. At this meeting, the City of Brisbane Rifle Club proposed to present to the Q.R.A. a shield to be known as the Halliday Memorial Shield, to be awarded at their annual prize meetings. In turn the Q.R.A. assured the club that every effort would be made to perpetuate the memory of the late rifleman. As a result, in December 1919 the Q.R.A. added the A. L. Halliday Memorial Match to the May program to be shot in 1920. It was agreed that the winner would hold the Halliday Memorial Shield for 1 year and they would also receive a gold medal from the Association.



This Shield has been presented to the winners of the Halliday Memorial Match from 1920 through to 1962. The match often comprised of 7 shots at both 300 yards and 600 yards. Notable winners include Percy Pavey who was a champion of the sport of rifle shooting over many years. Also, of note among the winners, includes D.W. Cadden (who won multiple times) and A. R. Duncan. Their sons, Rob Cadden and Gordon Duncan, are regular shooters here on the Duncan range today. They have each retained the gold medals that their fathers were awarded on winning the Halliday Memorial Match and being presented with this Shield.

It is fitting that on the 60th anniversary of the last time the Halliday Shield was competed for, the QRA has committed to reintroducing this trophy to the QRA Queens competition this coming August.

