

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**2382 PRIVATE**

**A. J. HALLIDAY**

**23RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**26TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 36**

*A Noble Life*

*Called To A Higher Service*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. J. Halliday is located in Grave Plot # 257  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Arthur James HALLIDAY

Arthur James Halliday was born at South Melbourne, Victoria to parents Charles & Catherine Halliday around 1876.

Arthur James Halliday married Marion Miller Howson Attenborough (nee Gray) in 1913. Marion had previously married Edgar Augustine Attenborough in 1909 & a daughter - Phyllis Marion Attenborough was born in 1911. Ruth Isobel C. Halliday was born in 1915.

Arthur James Halliday was aged 34 years, married with 2 children & a Cycle & Motor Mechanic from North Brunswick, Victoria when he enlisted on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1915 with the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2382 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as C. Halliday of 612 Dawson Street, North Brunswick, Victoria. Arthur James Halliday stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 3 years with Senior Cadets.

Pte Arthur James Halliday embarked from Melbourne on RMS *Osterley* on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt. He was taken on Strength at Tel-e-Kebir, Egypt on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1916.

Pte Arthur James Halliday proceeded from Alexandria, Egypt with British Expeditionary Forces to France on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles.

Pte Arthur James Halliday was charged 6/9 - the cost of replacing a water proof sheet while in France on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1916.

Pte Arthur James Halliday was wounded in action in France on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1916. He was transferred from Casualty Clearing Station to No. 19 Ambulance Train & was admitted to 26<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Etaples on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. He embarked on the Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* from Calais, France for England on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 with a Gunshot wound to left hand.

Pte Arthur James Halliday was admitted to 1/4<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital, Lincoln, England with a gunshot wound left hand – slight on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Pte Arthur James Halliday was to report to No. 1 Command Depot on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & then proceeded on furlough until 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1916. He was marched in to 6<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1916. Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Arthur James Halliday was classified as "B2A" on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1916. (Each Category – A, B & C had sub categories but generally - Category A was fit for Active Service; Category B was for Garrison Service, Labour or Sedentry Work - Abroad; Category C was for Garrison Service, Labour or Sedentry Work – At Home; Category D – unfit but likely to become fit within 6 months; Category E – unfit & unlikely to become fit within 6 months.

Pte Arthur James Halliday was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital at 3 p.m. on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1917, in an unconscious state suffering from injuries from a motor cycle accident.

Pte Arthur James Halliday died at 6.50 p.m. on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital as a result of a fracture to base of skull.

An inquest was held into the death of Pte Arthur James Halliday on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 (with thanks to [Salisbury Inquests](#)):

*A rather unusual story of how the skidding and overturning of a motor cycle caused the death of an Australian soldier, named Arthur James Halliday, was related to the Coroner for South Wilts (Mr F H Trethowan) at an inquest held at Fargo Military Hospital yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.*

*Halliday was 36 years of age, was a private in a battalion stationed at Rolleston Camp, and came from West Brunswick, Victoria, where in civilian life he was a motor mechanic.*

*Private Holyrood said that at 2pm on Wednesday he saw him riding a motor cycle on the Salisbury Road, in the parish of Winterbourne Stoke. The machine was wobbling very much, and after it passed him it skidded and the rider fell underneath, the machine badly injuring him and rendering him unconscious.*

*Capt Richmond, RAMC, of Fargo Military Hospital, said death was caused through fracture of the base of the skull and fracture of the ribs.*

*A verdict of accidental death was returned.*

A Court of Inquiry was held at Rolleston on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 – President Capt. J. H. Fletcher of 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion was enquiring into an accident which resulted in the death of Pte Halliday which occurred when riding a motor cycle.

*Pte Holyhead, 470 of 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion was sworn in as 1st witness & stated that “About 2 p.m.. on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1917, while crossing a field about 20 yards from the Salisbury – Devizes Road, I saw a motor cyclist coming along the road at a slow pace which I estimated to be under 10 miles an hour. After passing a motor wagon and a civilian on a push bike going in the opposite direction, the motor cycle ridden by the motor cyclist above referred to, began to wobble. After going another 50 yards the motor cycle and rider swerved suddenly to the left with the result that rider came to the ground the rider being underneath the cycle. The rider was carried along for several feet under the machine. I went to his assistance, lifted the motor cycle off him, stopped the engine and commenced \_\_\_\_\_ what I could for the injured rider. As he appeared to be badly injured about the head and left hand and was unconscious I sent for an ambulance which quickly arrived ..... At no time while I was near did the injured rider, Private Halliday, recover consciousness.*

2nd Witness – Capt Richmond, T. H., R.A.M.C. stated that “Pte Halliday was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital at about 3 p.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1917, in an unconscious state, suffering

*from fracture of the base of the skull and laceration of the left lung with fracture of some ribs on the same side. He died at 6.50 p.m. on the same day without regaining consciousness. There were no external wounds or abrasions."*

3rd Witness – Lieut. J. K. Anderson, 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F. stated that *"I am Q.M. of the 6<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion of which the deceased Private Halliday was a member. Pte Halliday was employed in the Q. M. staff as a storeman. On the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1917, Pte Halliday was sent into Salisbury on messing duty. A pass was applied for and procured in the regular way. Being a competent motor cycle mechanic and an experienced motor cyclist he was instructed to bring out a motor cycle from Salisbury.*

The injuries received were fracture of skull, laceration of left lung, with fracture of some ribs. The Court found that Pte Halliday met his death by falling from a motor cycle, that he was on duty at the time he sustained injuries & that the accident was not due to negligence on the part of Pte Halliday & that Pte Halliday was not travelling at an excessive rate of speed.

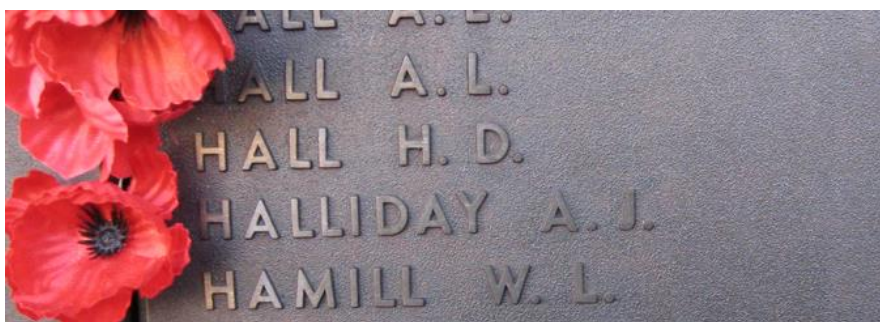
A death for Arthur J. Halliday, aged 36, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire. (Information supplied by Marion M. Halliday, wife of Pte Halliday, for the Roll of Honour states Arthur James Halliday was aged 38 years at the time of his death.)

Pte Arthur James Halliday was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 257 on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 with a Military Funeral.

Pte Arthur James Halliday requested in his Will, dated 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Minnie Halliday of 612 Dawson St, West Brunswick, Victoria.

A War Pension was granted to Marion Miller Halliday, widow of late Pte Arthur James Halliday in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1917. A War Pension was also granted to Phyllis Marion Maud Halliday – stepchild of late Pte Halliday in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 & also for Ruth Isabel Halliday – child of late Pte Halliday in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1917

Private A. J. Halliday is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 99.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte Arthur James Halliday was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Halliday's widow – Mrs M. Halliday (October, 1921 & May, 1923)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur James Halliday – service number 2382 as being 36 years old & served with 23rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles & Catherine Halliday; husband of Marion Miller Halliday of 612 Dawson Street, North Brunswick, Victoria. Born at Victoria.

(75 pages of Pte Arthur James Halliday's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*

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## Newspaper Reports

### **DIED ON SERVICE**

HALLIDAY -On the 26th September 1917, at the "Fango Military Hospital" Salisbury Plain, Arthur, dearly loved son of the late Charles and Katherine Halliday, much loved brother of Reg, Will (on active service), Len, Syd, Daisy, and Lily, and loving nephew of Mr and Mrs A. Harding.

He helped to bring Australia into fame,

To build for her a never-dying name.

A noble sacrifice.

HALLIDAY -On the 26th September 1917, at the "Fango Military Hospital ' Salisbury Plain, Arthur dearly loved husband of Marion 612 Dawson street, West Brunswick, loving daddy of Ruth; also loving step-daddy of Phyllis.

"And now he reaps the great reward

Meted out by Thee, O Lord ."

So dear to us.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria Saturday 6 October, 1917)

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### **THE 343<sup>rd</sup> CASUALTY LIST**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Private A. J. Halliday, Brunswick

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria Wednesday 24 October, 1917)

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#### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(*Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921*)

Pte A. J. Halliday does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*A Noble Life Called To A Higher Service*

Photo of Pte A. J. Halliday's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)