



The Hungarian Major Béla Zulfawski, who had won the silver medal in sabre fencing in London 1908, died in 1914, in Sarajevo. He was laid to rest in the family grave at Kőszeg, in his wife's home town.

Photos: Volker Kluge, Béla Győr Archive



military career, so after he had finished school he was sent to Herzegovina for military group service. When he returned, he received a certificate as Master of Fencing from the Military Faculty Course in Wiener Neustadt. During his service he taught Hungarian, was a fencing instructor, and was also a class officer in the Military Subrealschool in Kőszeg from 1897. During his military carrier he received a 3<sup>rd</sup> class D.S.C. and was also awarded the order of the Iron crown third class.

He competed in two Olympic Games. In the sabre competition at the 1908 London Games, he was tied for the lead with compatriot Jenő Fuchs. Both men had won five bouts. In the deciding bout, Fuchs got the verdict, the first of his four gold medals. Zulfawski had to settle for silver. As an officer of the Hungary–Austrian Monarchy, he was not allowed to participate in the team event so he missed out on a gold medal. In Stockholm 1912 he participated in the individual foil and sabre, but finished outside the medals.

Zulfawski was a member of the Hungarian Team from 1908 to 1914 and enjoyed considerable success. He won gold medals at the big fencing championship at the millennium and at the military championship in 1898. At the Wiener Union Championships he won the sabre and took second in the foil, and he won also gold or gold–framed medal at further seven championships.

He was among the most popular members of fencing society of that time. A man who cheerfully passed on his knowledge to others. For the spectators, watching his fantastic performances on the piste was like a celebration of art. “Those places, where the clearest voice, the ringing of a sabre can be heard, really attract my heart”, he said many times.

By 1912 he was already serving as a captain in the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Székesfehérvár. He also organised a fencing club in that city. On the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1914, only one day after his 45<sup>th</sup> birthday, Major Zulfawski was killed in action in Sarajevo, the very city where a Bosnian

nationalist had shot dead the Austro–Hungarian heir to the throne. The assassination which sparked the war. In accordance with the wishes of his widow, Zulfawski's body was brought back to Hungary and was buried there in her hometown Kőszeg.

## Cecil Healy: not only a war hero

By Harry Gordon

Cecil Healy (1882–1918) was a hero long before he went to the Great War, where he earned the sad distinction of becoming Australia's first and only Olympic gold medallist to die in battle.

In the years before the war Healy was among the founders of the Manly (Sydney) Surf Lifesaving Club, in which unpaid lifesavers patrolled beaches which were often battered by huge seas. He became captain and gold honour badge holder of the Manly club, and was one of a small band who campaigned strenuously and successfully for swimmers to have the right to surf at any hour of the day.

On many occasions he put his life at risk to save swimmers from drowning, and was rewarded with a number of medals for bravery. One such distinction, awarded by the Royal Humane Society in 1911, followed the rescue of two bathers who were swept off their feet and out to sea.

Healy swam to their assistance, but found it difficult to render aid in the deep, rough water; other lifesavers swam out to him carrying three consecutive lifelines from a reel, but each time the lifeline could not stand the strain, and snapped. Healy, nearing exhaustion, bravely held the two swimmers above water until further assistance arrived, and all three were finally towed to shore.

The sturdily built Healy won the 100 yards championship of Australasia in 1905, equalling the then world

Name	Sport	Olympic Games	Date of death	Place of death	Name	Sport	Olympic Games	Date of death	Place of death
Boissière, Renon	ATH	1912	25 SEP 1915	Ville-sur-Tourbe	Jenicot, Albert	FTB	1908	22 FEB 1916	Vacherauville
Bonnefoy, Henri	SHO	1908	19 AUG 1914	Cernay	Lapize, Octave	CYC	1908	14 JUL 1917	Toul
Bouin, Jean	ATH	1908–12	29 SEP 1914	Xivray-et-Marvoisin	Lesseps, Count Bertrand de	FEN	1908	28 AUG 1918	Cauvigny
Cauillé, Joseph	ATH	1912	1 OCT 1915	Souchez	Lesseps, Ismaël de	FEN	1908	30 SEP 1915	Vigny
Champsavin, Louis de	EQU	1900	20 DEC 1916	Nantes	Lutz, Georges	CYC	1908	31 JAN 1915	Bar-le-Duc
Corvington, André	FEN	1900	13 DEC 1918	Reims	Mas Latrie, Jean de	FEN / MPA	1908–12	5 SEP 1914	Rebais
Debax, Felix	FEN	1900	25 AUG 1914	Saint-Maurice, Gussainville	Meignant, Alphonse	ROW	1912	4 NOV 1914	Sint-Elooi
Devendeville, Charles	SWI / WAP	1900	19 SEP 1914	Reims	Motté, Alfred	ATH	1908–12	31 OCT 1918	Sézanne
Fenouillière, René	FTB	1908	4 NOV 1916	Reims	Nézière, Georges	ATH	1896	9 OCT 1914	Mouchy aux Bois
Flameng, Léon	CYC	1896	2 JAN 1917	Ève	Ponscarme, Léon	CYC	1900	24 NOV 1916	Verdun
					Racine, Joseph	CYC	1912	28 OCT 1914	Forêt d'Argonne

record of 58 seconds, and retained the title for six years. An exponent of the crawl stroke, he was one of the great pioneers of Australian swimming – along with Freddie Lane, Frank Beaurepaire, Alick Wickham, Francis Gailey, Harold Hardwick, Bernard “Barney” Kieran and Sarah (Fanny) Durack, his team-mate and fellow gold medallist at the 1912 Olympics.

Healy represented Australia at two Olympic Games – in Athens in 1906 (later dubbed the Interim Games) and in Stockholm in 1912. A major absentee in Athens was Barney Kieran, who had set multiple world records in 1905 but died during surgery for appendicitis at the end of that year. Kieran had beaten the American Charles Daniels easily in London in 1905 and afterwards given him several pointers to improve his stroke. In the 1906 100 metres final, Daniels won from the Hungarian Zoltán Halmai, with Healy third. Afterwards Healy made a successful European tour, winning national titles and setting records in England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. During this tour he went to some trouble to teach the Australian crawl to swimmers from other nations where the technique was practically unknown.

At the Stockholm Games Australia and New Zealand united to compete as one 25-strong team, under the banner of Australasia.<sup>5</sup> Healy combined with Harold Hardwick, Leslie Boardman and the New Zealander Malcolm Champion to win the 4 x 200 m freestyle relay event, then regarded as the symbol of world supremacy. Although the Hawaiian swimmer Duke Kahanamoku was undoubtedly the fastest sprinter at those Games, the Australasians combined well to gain first place, ahead of the United States, Great Britain and Germany.

It was on his way to the 100 m freestyle final that Healy displayed the brand of immaculate sportsmanship that characterised his career. He sacrificed the prospect of an individual gold medal to ensure that his own version of justice was served. It happened after the

three Americans, Kahanamoku, Ken Huszagh and Perry McGillivray, failed to show up on the starting-board for the 100 m semi-finals, due to a misunderstanding about the requirements for the semi-finals.

The races were held, and with the Americans out, the qualifiers for the final were Healy, his fellow-Australian Billy Longworth (who was ill and about to scratch from the final) and the Germans Walter Ramme and Kurt Bretting. On performances, Healy would have been a certainty for the gold medal.



Cecil Healy (second from right) won the silver medal in 1912 in Stockholm in the 100 m freestyle behind the Hawaiian ‘miracle swimmer’ Duke Kahanamoku and became an Olympic champion with the Australasian relay team. At the 1906 Olympic Games he had come third over 100 m.

Photo: Volker Kluge Archive

After the qualifiers had been named, Healy himself intervened, asking that the Americans, and particularly Kahanamoku, be given another chance. The story, unreported at the time and not well known even today, was told in the *Lone Hand* on March 1, 1916: “The position was a difficult one for the officials, and the matter was referred to the International Jury to decide. Healy strongly urged the Australian representative [E.S. Marks] to insist on the Americans being given an opportunity to compete in the final, insisting that it would be un-sportsmanlike to bar their entry. Finally, mainly due

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Raoul-Duval, Maurice	Polo	1900	5 MAY 1916	Verdun	Braun, Hanns	ATH	1908–12	9 OCT 1918	Cambrai
Salomez, Maurice	ATH	1900	7 AUG 1916	unknown	Bretting, Kurt	SWI	1912	30 MAY 1918	Merville
Six, André	SWI	1900	1914	unknown	Burkowitz, Heinrich	ATH	1912	NOV 1918	Flanders
Six, Pierre	FTB	1908	7 JUL 1916	Estrées-Mons	Gaza, Bernhard von	ROW	1908	25 SEP 1917	Langemarck
Soalhat, Michel	ATH	1906	25 SEP 1915	Saint-Hilaire-le-Grand	Goßler, Carl Heinrich	ROW	1900	9 SEP 1914	France
Vialaret, Justin	FTB	1908	30 SEP 1916	Marcelcave	Herrmann, Max	ATH	1912	29 JAN 1915	unknown
Wallace, Edmond	FEN	1900	18 AUG 1915	Paris*	Jesinghaus, Walter	GYM	1912	1918	unknown
<b>GERMANY</b>					Krogmann, Georg	FTB	1912	19 JAN 1915	Warsaw
Bartholomae, Fritz	ROW	1912	12 SEP 1915	unknown	Lehmann, Erich	ATH	1912	9 JUL 1918	unknown
Bönninghausen, Dr. Hermann von	ATH	1908–12	26 JAN 1919	Düsseldorf*	Lütcken, Eduard von	EQU	1912	15 SEP 1914	Chumsk
Bosch, Hermann	FTB	1912	16 JUL 1916	Romania	Lützow, Wilhelm	SWI	1912	1916	unknown



The 8<sup>th</sup> Surf Carnival of 1919 at Manly Beach near Sydney was the memorial to Lieutenant Cecil Healy, who had died the previous year in France. In New South Wales the 'Healy shield for live-saving' is still awarded.

Photo: Volker Kluge Archive

to the Australian's attitude, and in spite of the opposition of the Germans, the Americans were allowed to compete in a special semi-final, with the result that Kahanamoku and McGillivray qualified for the final, in which the Hawaiian swimmer finished first and Healy second. This incident is typical of Healy's chivalry to his opponents on all occasions ..."

Coming away from those Games with one gold medal (4 x 200 m relay), one silver (100 m freestyle) and one fourth placing (400 m freestyle), Healy again toured Europe, winning major events in Belgium, France, Italy and Ireland. In 1913 he visited Germany for the second time, and after spending time in Hamburg (where he inspected the great shipbuilding yards, the Imperator, "the largest ship afloat today" and the latest version of the Zeppelin airship) wrote an article for *The Sunday Times* warning that Germany was preparing for war, and doubting that the scheduled Olympics of 1916 would eventuate.

On 15 September 1915, Healy enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, and after service as a sergeant in Egypt and France, he transferred to the infantry officer training course at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he swam, boxed, rowed and played rugby. In June 1918 he was commissioned as an officer in the 19<sup>th</sup> (Sportsman's) Battalion. He wrote to a friend at the time: "It was against the repeatedly given advice of officer friends that I transferred to the infantry," he wrote at the time to a friend. "I must say that it was out of no love of the military that I took the step, as I hate and detest everything associated with the machine ... I was influenced by a desire to live up to the best expectations of my personal friends. I cherish the hope that I will be able to sell my life dearly, and earn the respect of the men whom I command."

On August 29 1918, in the battle for Mont St. Quentin close to the Somme, Healy was killed by machine-gun fire as he took his platoon forward. A battalion comrade

later wrote: "He displayed splendid coolness and any amount of courage ... He died a true soldier – leading his men, and with his face to the enemy. He has left in the Battalion a name that will be cherished by all who knew him, just as his record in the athletic world can always be recalled with feelings of admiration and respect."

## Wyndham Halswelle – The Man Who Ran Alone

By Colin Shields <sup>6</sup>

In over 100 years of track and field athletic competition in the Olympic Games, every event has been fiercely contested, with competitors striving and straining with all their effort to win the supreme accolade of an Olympic gold medal and the universal acknowledgement of being the world's best athlete at that particular event. Only once in Olympic history did this not happen. The setting was the 1908 Olympic Games in London. There, in the White City Stadium when the 400 metres final came under starters order, only one athlete lined up, the Scottish sprinter Wyndham Halswelle. He won the Olympic title in an unchallenged, solo "walk over" in 50.0. This was a re-run in the absence of any opposition after the first final had been declared "no race". The obstructive tactics of John Carpenter (USA) had resulted in his disqualification, and his two fellow countrymen withdrew from the re-run race in sympathy with him, in protest against decision made by the British judges which they disputed harshly. With feelings running high between American and British teams, the Scot was the solitary competitor in the race, making history in an unusual and unwelcome manner.

He had been born in Albemarle Street, London in May 1882, to an English father and a Scottish mother. His father Keeley Halswelle was born in Richmond of

Name	Sport	Olympic Games	Date of death	Place of death	Name	Sport	Olympic Games	Date of death	Place of death
Martens, Hermann	CYC	1908	1916	unknown	Tietgens, Waldemar	ROW	1900	28 JUL 1917	Hooglede
Mickler, Georg	ATH	1912	14 JUN 1915	Tarnów	Warncke, Arthur	ROW	1900	21 OCT 1914	unknown
Person, Jacques	ATH	1912	15 JUL 1915	Flanders	Wilhelm, Richard	ATH	1908	1916	unknown
Plaskuda, Hermann	FEN	1912	21 MAR 1918	St. Quentin	Ziegler, Heinrich	FEN	1912	unknown	unknown
Preußen, Prince Friedrich Karl	EQU	1912	6 APR 1917	Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>				
Rieder, Josef	CYC	1912	13 JUL 1916	Verdun	Alexander, Gordon	FEN	1912	24 APR 1917	Villers-Plouich
Schneidereit, Heinrich	TOW/ WLT	1906	30 SEP 1915	France	Anderson, Laurie	ATH	1912	9 NOV 1914	Ypres
Staats, Alfred	GYM	1912	30 APR 1917	France	Anderson, William	ATH	1906	APR 1915	France
Steuernagel, Curt	GYM	1908	30 JUL 1917	Krzywcze	Ashington, Henry	ATH	1912	31 JAN 1917	Combles
Thiel, Otto	FTB	1912	10 JUL 1915	unknown	Bentham, Isaac	WAP	1912	15 AUG 1914	Arras
					Bury, Edmund	RAC	1908	5 DEC 1915	Laventie
					Butterfield, George	ATH	1908	24 SEP 1917	France