



The 8th 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 19th (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 ⁶

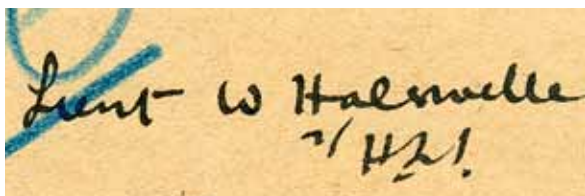
In over 100 years of track and field athletic competition in the Olympic Games, every event has been fiercely contested, with competitors striving and straining with all their effort to win the supreme accolade of an Olympic gold medal and the universal acknowledgement of being the world's best athlete 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	GREAT BRITAIN				
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

Scottish parents and lived in Scotland between 1856 and 1871. He was a successful painter and book illustrator, who contributed sketches to the *Illustrated London News*, was press illustrator at the famous and notorious Scottish trial for murder of Madeleine Smith in 1857 and was an Associate of the Royal Scottish Academy. He moved from Duddingston, near Edinburgh, to London where he exhibited at the Royal Academy. His mother, Helen, came from Wylmington Hayes, Honiton in Devon, having been born in Edinburgh.

Wyndham Halswelle was educated at Charterhouse School where he displayed athletic ability as a runner, possessing both speed and stamina. He was trained for his intended army career at Sandhurst Military Academy, from where he was commissioned in 1901 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Highland Light Infantry. A year later, serving with the British forces in the Boer War in South Africa, he took part in mounted infantry operations in the Transvaal between February and May 1902. He was decorated with the Queen's Medal for his services.



Whilst in South Africa his performances in regimental sports attracted the attention of Jimmy Curran, a Galashiels man well-known in Scottish "pedestrian" running circles, who was also serving there. Curran was an expert at spotting running talent and coaching promising athletes to success, and the advice and help that Halswelle received from him at that time was of great benefit in future years competition.

He returned to Aldershot in 1904 and later his regiment was stationed in Edinburgh where Curran

persuaded his young officer to become interested in serious competition. Training regularly at Edinburgh's Powderhall Stadium, the results were quickly encouraging. He won the Army 880 yards title in 2:00.2 – a promising performance as the 1904 Scottish national championship race was won in 2:01.8 by John McGough who, two years later, competed with Halswelle in the 1906 Olympics at Athens. This was the start of a crowded and successful period of just four years of competition which resulted in Halswelle becoming one of the finest athletes the Army ever produced.

Throughout his brief, but highly successful career, Halswelle had been a remote and withdrawn figure, even in Scotland where he ran the majority of his races. His appearances in London had been infrequent and his retirement attracted little attention. What was remembered most was his power and the sheer length of his stride. He was described as being of "strange physical construction. Above the waist he was a normal man, his strength lay in his legs. He had a great, raking stride ... longer than that of any athlete of his time." Like Eric Liddell, he ran many races in the handicap events so popular at the time and contemporary observers recalled that he was a magnificent handicap runner from the scratch mark, passing his rivals who had huge starts with ease."

He was modest about his achievements and when a contemporary sports reporter went to interview him at Edinburgh Castle, he refused to talk about his races, saying it was not the done thing for an officer. However, with a quiet chuckle, he handed over a scrapbook sent to him by a relative of his mother in which, he said, "everything of interest about his athletics was contained."

There was doubt about the spelling of his surname, whether it was with or without the final 'e', and many contemporary reports reported his name as Halswell. This was something this enigmatic character enjoyed.



Scotland's Captain Wyndham Halswelle in the uniform of the Highland Light Infantry. Left: his signature as lieutenant.

Photos: The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum, Glasgow; Volker Kluge Archive

Name	Sport	Olympic Games	Date of death	Place of death	Name	Sport	Olympic Games	Date of death	Place of death
Carver, Oswald	ROW	1908	7 JUN 1915	Gallipoli	Gillespie, Thomas	ROW	1912	18 OCT 1914	La Bassée
Chalmers, Ralph	FEN	1908	8 MAY 1915	Ypres	Goldsmith, Henry	ROW	1908	9 MAY 1915	Fromelles
Chavasse, Noel	ATH	1908	4 AUG 1917	Brandhoek	Halswelle, Wyndham	ATH	1906-08	31 MAR 1915	Neuve-Chapelle
Coles, Geoffrey	SHO	1908	27 JAN 1916	Festubert	Hawkins, George	ATH	1908	22 SEP 1917	Ypres
Courtman, Percy	SWI	1908-12	2 JUN 1917	Neuville-Bourjouvai	Hawkins, Harold	SHO	1908	16 JUN 1917	Arras
Crank, Harry	DIV	1908	22 OCT 1917	Ypres	Hutson, George	ATH	1912	14 SEP 1914	Venizel
Davies, Robert	SHO	1912	9 DEC 1916	Somme	Kelly, Frederick	ROW	1908	13 NOV 1916	Beaucourt-sur-l'Ancre
Dines, Joseph	FTB	1912	27 SEP 1918	Ribecourt	Kenna, Paul	EQU	1912	30 AUG 1915	Suvla Bay
Durant, Hugh	SHO/ MPA	1912	21 JAN 1916	Vermelles	Kirby, Alister	ROW	1912	29 MAR 1917	France
Fairbairn, George	ROW	1908	20 JUN 1915	Bailleul	Kitching, Frederick	ATH	1908	1914	Dunkerque
Flaxman, Alfred	ATH	1908	1 JUL 1916	Gommecourt	Laing, Ivan	HOK	1908	30 NOV 1917	Metz-en-Couture
Gayler, Bert	CYC	1912	23 JUN 1917	Kotkai Bozi Khel	Leeke, Henry	ATH	1908	29 MAY 1915	Gallipoli

When a journalist once wrote to him asking for the correct spelling, he received a courteous reply showing how the name was spelt, but unfortunately it was impossible to detect whether the signature ended with a final 'e' or a flourish of the pen! However, the mystery was finally resolved by examination of his birth certificate which definitely includes the final 'e', stating he was born in London on 30th March, 1882.

Promoted to Captain in September 1911, he gained command of his company, he was soon in action with his regiment in France when the First World War started. He was wounded on 12th March, 1915, in the fighting around Neuve-Chapelle but, as soon as doctors allowed, he returned to the 1st Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, in the front line. Halswelle wrote an account of the fighting for the HLI regimental magazine. "I called on the men to get over the parapet," he wrote. "There is a great difficulty in getting out of a trench, especially for small men laden with a pack, rifle and perhaps 50 rounds in the pouch, and a bandolier of 50 rounds hung around them, and perhaps four feet of slippery clay perpendicular wall with sandbags on the top. I got about three men hit actually on the top of the parapet. I made a dash at the parapet and fell back. The Jocks then heaved me up and I jumped into a ditch – an old trench filled with liquid mud – which took me some time to get out of." His men gained 15 yards and dug in for over three hours before retreating to where they had started from. 79 men were lost in the struggle.

Just nineteen days later he was mortally wounded by a sniper's bullet and died at just thirty-two years of age. The contemporary regimental bulletin described the scene: "Everything was quiet and peaceful as the dawn broke on the morning of March 31st, when Captain Halswelle, passing a part of the trench that had suffered from the shelling of the previous night, dropped from a bullet wound in the head. Four men carried his body back some 300 yards behind the line

for burial near a farm." After the Armistice, his body was lifted from his temporary grave and re-interred with full military honours, in the Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard at Laventie, 7 miles south of Armentieres, in the Pas-de-Calais, administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

His fellow Scottish Olympian from 1906, William Anderson, was killed in action the following month, while serving as a private with the Canadian contingent. In the space of a month, Scotland had lost two of their first three Olympic athletes, less than 10 years after the Games, and both before their 35th birthdays.

Halswelle's reputation lived on in the annals of Scottish athletics and the Wyndham Halswelle Memorial trophy was presented after the Second World War for award to the winner of the Scottish national junior (under-20) 440 yards/400 metres championship. It was a colourful tradition that an officer of the Highland regiment, in full dress uniform, attended the championships to present the trophy to the successful athlete.

Lightfooted runner, sculptor and flying teacher

By Volker Kluge

The most popular German sportsman before the First World War was the middle distance runner Hanns Braun. He was the first German athlete of true world class. On the photos however we see a gaunt, ascetic type with narrow shoulders, who did not look like a sportsman. Yet the opposite was true: with a height of 1.80 m and weighing 60 kg he had an ideal runner's build, combined with a natural talent. His lightfooted running style brought him the nickname "the soundless one".

Johannes "Hanns" Braun was born on 26 October 1886 in the castle of Wernfels in Middle Franconia. His father Louis Braun had acquired the castle in 1882 and

Name	Sport	Olympic Games	Date of death	Place of death	Name	Sport	Olympic Games	Date of death	Place of death
Macintosh, Henry	ATH	1912	26 JUL 1918	Albert	Robinson, John	HOK	1908	23 AUG 1916	Roehampton*
Mackinnon, Duncan	ROW	1908	9 OCT 1917	Ypres	Roche, Patrick	ATH	1908	7 JUN 1917	France
Maclagan, Gilchrist	ROW	1908	25 OCT 1915	Pilckem Ridge, Ypres	Sanderson, Ronald	ROW	1908	17 APR 1918	Gommecourt
Nash, Edward	EQU	1912	21 FEB 1915	unknown	Somers-Smith, Robert	ROW	1908	1 JUL 1916	Gommecourt
Ommundsen, Harcourt	SHO	1908-12	19 SEP 1915	Ypres	Vigurs, Charles	GYM	1908-12	22 FEB 1917	France
Patterson, Alan	ATH	1908-12	14 MAR 1916	Vermelles	Wilde, Arthur	SHO	1908	21 JAN 1916	Arras
Philo, William	BOX	1908	7 JUL 1916	Albert	Williams, Edward	ROW	1908	12 AUG 1915	France
Powell, Kenneth	ATH/ TEN	1908-12	18 FEB 1915	Ypres	Wilson, Harold	ATH	1908	1916	France
Pridmore, Reginald	HOK	1908	13 MAR 1918	Piave River	Wilson, Herbert	Polo	1908	11 APR 1917	Ypres
Raddall, Thomas	SHO	1908	9 AUG 1918	Méharicourt	Yorke, Richard	ATH	1908-12	22 DEC 1914	France