

Roll of Honour

Connected to Chicklade



Lest we Forget

World War I



CAPTAIN

J. A. HALLIDAY

11TH (PRINCE ALBERT'S OWN) HUSSARS

13th NOVEMBER, 1914

John Alexander HALLIDAY

John Alexander Halliday was born on 10th April, 1875 in London to parents John & Maria Halliday (nee Brown). His birth was registered in the June quarter 1875. John Alexander Halliday was baptised on 29th May, 1875 at St. Jude's Church, South Kensington in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea, London.

The 1881 Census recorded John A. Halliday as a 5 year old living with his family at 11 Mostyn Terrace, Eastbourne, Sussex. His parents were listed as John Halliday (Retired Merchant, aged 41, born Scotland) & Maria Jane Halliday (aged 31, born Wales). John was one of six children listed on this Census, all born in London – Maria (aged 8), Gwendoline L. (aged 7), then John A., Richard W. E. (aged 4), James George (aged 3) & Susan G. (aged 1). Five other people were listed as part of the household – 1 Butler, 3 Nurses & a Maid.

John Alexander Halliday was educated at Harrow where he excelled at cricket, football and boxing. He won the second prize for Heavy-weight Boxing in the Public School's Competition in 1893 & first prize in 1894.

The 1891 Census recorded Alec (John) Halliday as a 15 year old scholar, living with his family at 1 Mostyn Terrace, Grand Parade, Eastbourne, Sussex. His parents were listed as John Halliday (Eastern Mercht., aged 51) & Maria Halliday (aged 41). Alec (John) was one of eleven children listed on this Census, all born in London – Ruth (aged 18), Gwendoline (aged 17), then Alec (John), Ruthven (aged 14), Osman (aged 13), Gladys (aged 11), Margaret (aged 9), Victor (aged 7), Dorothy (aged 6), Corrie (aged 4) & Rupert (aged 2). Six other people were listed as part of the household – 1 Footman, 2 Nurses, Maid, Lady's Maid & a Governess.

John Alexander Halliday was accepted into Trinity College, Cambridge, where he won the hammer-throwing prize at the Inter Varsity Sports in 1897.

John Alexander Halliday joined the 11th Hussars in March, 1898. The 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) was a Cavalry Regiment of the British Army. John Alexander Halliday became Lieutenant in March 1900 and Troop Commander in March 1905. He took part in the South African War in 1901 on special service, and afterwards on the Staff as signalling officer. He was present at operations in the Transvaal, Orange River and Cape Colonies, receiving the Queen's South Africa medal with 5 clasps which were issued on 15th July, 1904.

From *The London Gazette* dated 15th May, 1900:

11th Hussars, The undermentioned Second Lieutenants to be Lieutenants:-

C. S. Rome, vice P. D. Fitzgerald, seconded. Dated 25th October, 1899.

J. A. Halliday, vice C.S. Rome, seconded for service in South Africa. Dated 3rd March, 1900

[The 1901 Census recorded the Halliday family living at 4 & 5 Hollam Park, Kensington, London. The family consisted of parents - John Halliday (Merchant, aged 61) & Maria J. Halliday (aged 51). Five children were listed on this Census – Gwendoline (aged 27, Living on Own Means), James G. O. (aged 23, Living on Own Means & James' wife Muriel - aged 32), Marion M. (aged 19), Dorothy (aged 16), & Davis R. J. (aged 12). Ten servants were listed as part of the household.]

From *The London Gazette* dated 25th October, 1901:

Lieutenant J. A. Halliday, 11th Hussars, to be a Signalling Officer, graded for pay Rate XV, Scale B, Article 115, Royal Warrant 26th October, 1900, whilst so employed. Dated 23rd August, 1901.

From *The London Gazette* dated 13th January, 1903:

11th Hussars, Supernumerary Lieutenant John A. Halliday to be Lieutenant, vice R. J. P. Anderson, D.S.O., promoted. Dated 22nd November, 1902.

Captain John Alexander Halliday was Adjutant to the 11th Hussars from April, 1908 to February, 1911 and appointed Adjutant to the Leicester Yeomanry from March, 1911 to February, 1914.

From *The London Gazette* dated 7th April, 1908:

Cavalry - 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars, Captain John A. Halliday to be Adjutant, vice Lieutenant A. E. S. L. Paget, M.V.O. Dated 1st April, 1908.

The 1911 Census recorded John Alexander Halliday as a 35 year old, single Cavalry Officer – Captain Army, living at 11th Hussars, Silely Road, Barrow on Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire which was a 10 roomed dwelling. At the time of the Census Ernest Reilly, a 23 year old visitor was also recorded at the same address. He was listed as a Cavalry Private.

[The Kelly's Directory for 1911 records John Halliday – John Alexander Halliday's father- as living at Chicklade House, Chicklade, Wiltshire. The 1911 Census recorded 2 servants, both housemaids, as occupiers of Chicklade House, Wiltshire. It contained 30 rooms. The 1911 Census Address Schedule was listed as The Caretaker, Chicklade House, Hindon, Salisbury.]

From *The London Gazette* dated 14th April, 1914:

11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars, Supernumerary Captain John A. Halliday is restored to the establishment. Dated 1st April, 1914.

[The Kelly's Directory for 1915 records Mrs Halliday – John Alexander Halliday's mother- as living at Chicklade House, Chicklade, Wiltshire. John Halliday died on 13th February, 1915 at Chicklade, Wiltshire]

The 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars were based in Aldershot in August, 1914 & were part of 1st Cavalry Brigade in Cavalry Division (This was renamed as 1st Cavalry Division.) The 11th Hussars sailed to France on 15th August, 1914 and were Commanded by Lt.-Col. T. T. Pitman. "A" Squadron was commanded by Capt. A. B. Lawson, "B" Squadron by Capt. J. A. Halliday & "C" Squadron by Major W. J. Lockett. There were 26 officers, 523 N.C.O.'s and men, and 608 horses.

Information below from the [British Empire – 11th Hussars:](#)

The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) under Field Marshal Sir John French was on the left of the 5 French armies. The cavalry were commanded by Major-General Allenby and the 11th were in the 1st Cavalry Brigade, heading towards Mons. The area round Mons was secured but a forced night march was made when the cavalry were ordered further west.

When the right flank of the British army was exposed by the French reversal, the great retreat from Mons began. This was a fraught and arduous movement for everyone and morale was low because things seemed to be going so well at Mons. Units became cut off from their parent unit. 'A' Squadron, under Capt Lawson had lost more than two thirds of his men and were fired on by British troops as well as German. He found 30 of

them when he rejoined the regiment. One man, Private Patrick Fowler of the 11th was lost for most of the war and hid with a French family until October 1918.

The 1st Cavalry Brigade reached Nery, south of Compiègne (50 miles north east of Paris) on 31st August, 1914 and shortly after came under heavy artillery bombardment and machine gun fire.....

The region right in the north of France near Lille and the Belgian border was where the 11th Hussars fought their next historic battle. It was part of the British Expeditionary Forces struggle to hold the line at Ypres. Between October 19th and 23rd, 1914 the 11th Hussars fought successfully in the Ploegsteert area, helping to stop the advance of 3 German cavalry divisions. Then Allenby ordered them to a small Belgian village called Messines which stood at the southern end of a ridge 2 miles south-east of Wystschaete. The Messines Ridge offered a good vantage point over the surrounding flat countryside and it was a barrier to the Germans wishing to pass south of Ypres.

The 11th Hussars were no longer mounted. They fought in the trenches just like the infantry. At the end of October the Germans brought in 6 new divisions to make an all-out assault on the British line between Messines and Gheluvelt. The British were heavily outnumbered. On the 30th Oct a heavy German bombardment of Messines started at 8am. Capt Halliday staggered into the HQ shelter to report the destruction of 'B' Squadron's trench and that half of them had been buried. Sergeant T. Frane had managed to rally the remainder, earning himself a D.C.M.

At 5pm the 11th were relieved by the 9th Lancers. The big German attack came the next day, Oct 31st at 4.30am. They drove back the 57th Rifles, an Indian regiment, but a counter-attack by the 57th, 5DG and 'C' Squadron under Captain Lakin regained lost ground. The town came under attack from infantry as well as artillery fire. One of the 11th's machine-guns proved very effective from a top window in one of the buildings. This was a dangerous place to be as houses all around were being destroyed. The shelling devastated regimental HQ where most of the senior officers, including Col. Pitman were wounded.

The town was now a place where every man fought with rifle and bayonet. The streets were barricaded and holes hacked in walls to shoot through. Luckily the 11th prided itself on more than its fair share of marksmen, so their firing with the new Mark III Lee Enfield rifle was deadly. The battle lasted for two days until Nov 1st when the Germans succeeded in capturing Messines, but they had paid a heavy price.

Captain John Alexander Halliday was wounded on 31st October, 1914 when the trench he was occupying was blown in (see above recount). He was taken to Duchess of Westminster's Hospital (also known as No. 1 British Red Cross Hospital) at Le Touquet.

Captain John Alexander Halliday died in the Duchess of Westminster's Hospital at Le Touquet on 13th November, 1914, from wounds he had received.

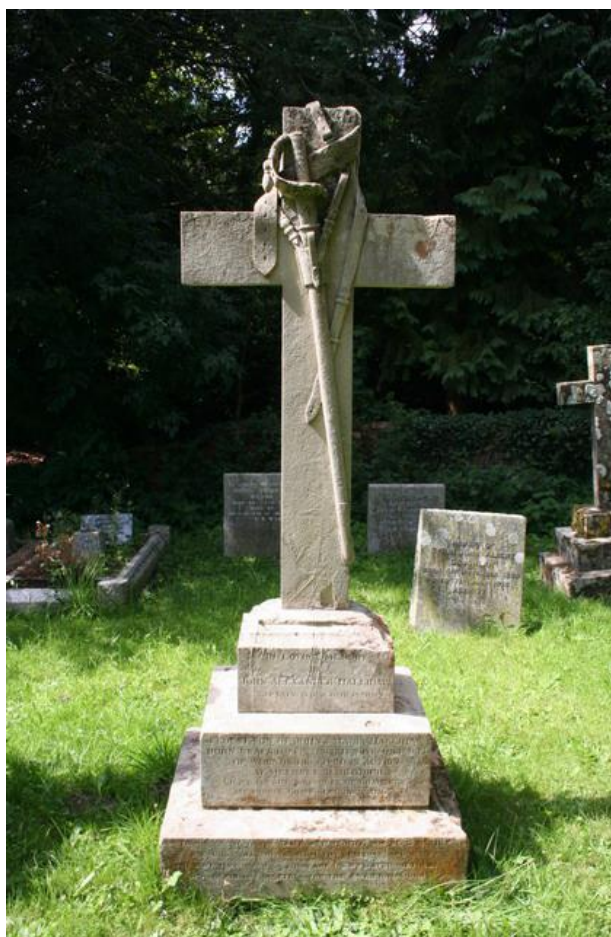


Duchess of Westminster's Hospital at Le Touquet

Captain Halliday's family were able to repatriate his body back to England. Repatriations were allowed until mid 1915, at the cost to the relatives. The bodies of only about 30 men, all officers, were brought home from France and Belgium.

Captain John Alexander Halliday was buried in the Churchyard of All Saints, Chicklade, close to the family home, Chicklade House, Salisbury, Wiltshire. There was a firing party from the 11th and the last post was played. He was described as one of the most cheery, lion-hearted Englishmen that ever lived. The funeral took place on 18th November, 1914 at Chicklade, Wiltshire.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission acknowledges the death of Captain John Alexander Halliday but he does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. He was entitled to the 1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Headstone of Capt. John Alexander Halliday



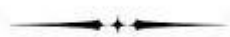
Capt. John Alexander Halliday's Headstone (Photo courtesy of David Eason)

In Loving Memory

Of

John Alexander Halliday

Captain XI (P.A.O.) Hussars



Eldest Son Of John & Maria Halliday

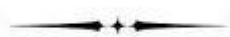
Born 10 April 1875 –Died 13 November 1914

Of Wounds Received In Action

At Messines 31 October.

"I Have Fought a Good Fight, I Have Run

My Course, I Have Kept the Faith"



Thou Art Gone To The Grave But We Will Not Deplore Thee

Whose God Was Thy Ransom Thy Guardian And Guide;

He Gave Thee He Took Thee And He Will Restore Thee

And Death Has No Sting For The Saviour Hath Died

A Memorial Plaque to John Alexander Halliday (Alec) is located inside All Saints Church at Chicklade, Wiltshire.



Memorial Plaque to Capt. John Alexander Halliday *(Photo courtesy of David Eason)*

In Loving Memory

JOHN ALEXANDER HALLIDAY (ALEC)

Captain XI (P.A.O.) Hussars

Who Lies In This Churchyard

Born April 10th 1875 Died In Hospital

At Le Touquet November 13th 1914

Of Wounds Received At Messines On October 31st

He Served In The South African War On Special Service

And With His Regiment From Mons To Marne, At The

Battle Of The Aisne And The First Battle Of Ypres.

*It Is No Doubtful Music That They Make
Who Go To Meet Adventure With A Song,
The Brotherhood Of Hearts That Never Break
The Wardens Of The Land Of Nothing Wrong,
..... And When The Solemn Bell
Beats Out A Slow Lament For One That Falls;
In Fierce Reply A Pealing Trumpet Calls
The Challenge Of Their Watchword", "All Is Well".*

Obituary Notice from *The Times* 16th November, 1914 :

Captain John Alexander Halliday (Alec), 11th Hussars, who died in the Duchess of Westminster's Hospital, Le Touquet, on November 13, from wounds received in action at Messines on October 31, was the eldest son of Mr John Halliday of Chicklade House, Wilts. Born on April 10, 1875 and educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, he was a good all round athlete. He was in both cricket and football elevens at school, champion heavy-weight boxer at the Public School's competition, Aldershot, 1894, and threw the hammer for Cambridge in the University sports, 1896-97.

He joined the 11th Hussars in 1898 and served in India and on special service in the South African War (medal). He obtained his captaincy in 1905, and was adjutant to the Leicestershire Yeomanry for three years. He went out with the Expeditionary Force at the beginning of the war and fought all through the retreat from Mons. He was well known in the hunting field in Ireland and South Wilts. The funeral will take place tomorrow, at Chicklade.

Another newspaper notice (source not known):

HALLIDAY – In loving memory of John Alexander Halliday (Alec), Captain, 11th P.A.O. Hussars, died Nov. 13, 1914, of wounds received during the First Battle of Ypres.

J. A. Halliday is remembered in the Casualties of World War 1 Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for the parish of Chicklade.

Capt. J. A. Halliday is also remembered in *Harrow Memorials of the Great War – Volume I*.

Capt. J. A. Halliday of 11th Hussars is remembered in the War List of the University of Cambridge 1914 -1918 (Trinity College) & the Trinity College War Memorial located in the College Chapel.



Trinity College War Memorial

Capt. J. A. Halliday is also remembered on the Barrow-upon-Soar War Memorial, Leicestershire.



Barrow-upon-Soar War Memorial

(Photo with permission from Barrow-upon-Soar War Memorial [website](#) -Ralph Bowles)

Captain John Alexander Halliday is included in the UK. De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1918.



Photo of Capt. J. A. Halliday from De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1918



This was one of the last photos taken of Captain John Alexander Halliday in August, 1914 before he went to the Front.

(Photo from [British Empire – 11th Hussars](#))