

Gunner of Renown



Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

Second Lieutenant James William HALLETT, MSM

(1864-1961)

James Hallett was born in 1864 at Singleton, NSW, the son of John and Mary. On enlistment in the NSW Artillery on 30 October 1882, he was a sheep striker, 18 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, with blue eyes, light brown hair, fair complexion and Roman Catholic.

When a gunner in the NSW Artillery he married to Sophia May Pearson on 4 June 1884, at the Garrison Church of St Matthias, Paddington, Sydney and they had two children.

Hallett was acting bombardier in the NSW Artillery Sudan Contingent. He disembarked at Colombo, sick, on the return voyage to Australia. Hallett was promoted bombardier in 1886, corporal in 1888, sergeant in 1891 and Company Sergeant Major in 1894. He was a member of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Contingent in 1897 and he was awarded the Queen Victoria Jubilee Medal.

Hallett was the first RSM of the NSW Citizen's Bushmen Contingent to the South African War. He embarked for South Africa at Sydney on 28 February 1900 and disembarked in Sydney on 11 June 1901. He was also awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (1902) and the Meritorious Service Medal (1908).

He served in Australia during WWI and retired in 1927. Hallett died c. 1961. The 'Statement of Accounts' (11 June 1901) for Second Lieutenant J. W. Hallett, is held by the Army Museum, Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

Source: R. Grebert (Compiler), *NSW Sudan 1885: Some Biographical Details (Statistics)*, NSW Military History Society Inc. p.54.