



Lieutenant Colonel W. G. ALLSOP CMG, DSO, VD

[1874 – 1951]



Colonel Allsop was elected to Life Membership of the Club, pre-1928
Colonel Allsop was Honorary Secretary of the Club 1924 - 26

William Gillian Allsop was born to Ellen and William Allsop in Lancashire England, on 31 January 1874. He was baptised on 2 May 1874, in Heaton Norris Christ Church, Lancashire.

On 6 October 1879, aged 4, he commenced his education at the Pilgrim School.

In 1888, with his parents and siblings, William embarked for Australia. They landed on 13 March 1888 and settled in Oxley. They later moved to Dornoch Terrace, Highgate Hill and he resided in that area, apart from absences on war service, for the rest of his life.

William commenced employment as a clerk. By 1913 he was an accountant and he continued in that profession and in real estate. He was also the Chief Clerk of the War Service Commission for a period until December 1922.

William enlisted in the Queensland Defence Force on 21 April 1892. He was posted to the number 1 (Horse) Qld Battery, as a Gunner and he served until 24 March 1905, rising to the rank of Sergeant. He had served in the ranks for 12 years, 337 days, was 31 years of age and he was awarded a Long Service Medal.

Sergeant Allsop was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 25 March 1905 and promoted to Lieutenant on 16 January 1906. He served in the Militia, Queensland Field Artillery from 1 July 1907 to 1 April 1911 and was promoted Captain on 18 February 1908 and to Major on 24 August 1914. For this service, he was awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Decoration (VD).

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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Major Allsop transferred to the 1st AIF, with the rank of Major, on 28 October 1915. He embarked for France on the HMAT Wiltshire on 20 November 1915 and he then served on operations in Egypt from 15 December 1915 to 14 March 1916. On 31 December 1916, he was transferred to France and he served in that country and Belgium until the Armistice in 1918. He received a Special Mention in Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch of 9 April 1917.

On 10 July 1916, Major Allsop was appointed the Commander of 23 Field Artillery Brigade and he was promoted to Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. He served in that capacity until 6 January 1917.

On 16 January 1917, Lieutenant Colonel Allsop was appointed Commander of 8th Field Artillery Brigade and he served in that role for the remainder of the war. On 24 September 1917, he was appointed a Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, for especially meritorious service rendered on active service. He also acted as the Commander 3rd Division Artillery on several occasions.

Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) William Gillian Allsop CMG DSO,
Commanding Officer from Brisbane, Queensland - seated in
centre front row - Aust War Memorial photo



On 6 March 1917, Lieutenant Colonel Allsop was recommended for the Distinguished Service Order and this award was granted on 3 June 1917. On 19 September 1918 he was recommended to be a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) and this award was conferred on 1 January 1919. He was also Mentioned in Despatches again, on 31 December 1918.

His AIF appointment was terminated on 23 June 1919 and he was appointed to the Reserve of Officers. He continued serving with the Militia and, on 1 January 1922, he was promoted Colonel. He was transferred to the Retired List on 8 February 1924.

During his extensive military service, Colonel Allsop was awarded a CMG, DSO, VD, British War Medal, 1914/15 Star and Victory Medal. He also had been Mentioned in Despatches twice.

William joined the United Service Club in 1905. He was the Honorary Secretary from 1924 to 1926 and in 1928 he became the first paid Secretary, on a part-time basis. He was later elected to Life Membership, possibly in 1928 after his term as Honorary Secretary concluded.

Colonel William Gillian Allsop CMG DSO VD died in Brisbane on 1 June 1951. His funeral was conducted at the Mt Thompson Crematorium.

Sources included:

- Various web pages, including Ancestry.Com
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- AWM and NAA archives