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## Went With 1910 Bisley Team to England

Since his magnificent performance in winning the King's prize in -Brisbane recently, congratulations from many parts of the Commonwealth have been pouring in upon Murwillumbah's veteran rifleman, Mr. O. e. Boyd. In a sensational finish, Mr. Boyd -won the honour under conditions that would have tested the nerve of any marksman and proved beyond quibble that old shooters like old soldiers, never die. Mr. Boyd now has been handling a rifle in competitive events for 34 years! During that space of time, he has performed with remarkable consistency; and success, and is one of the few Australians who has won his way to Bisley, the Mecca of the rifle world. That was in 1910, when, in a field of 1500, in the Bisley King s Prize, he. ran into fortieth place, eclipsing over 1400 of the world's crack shots of that day.

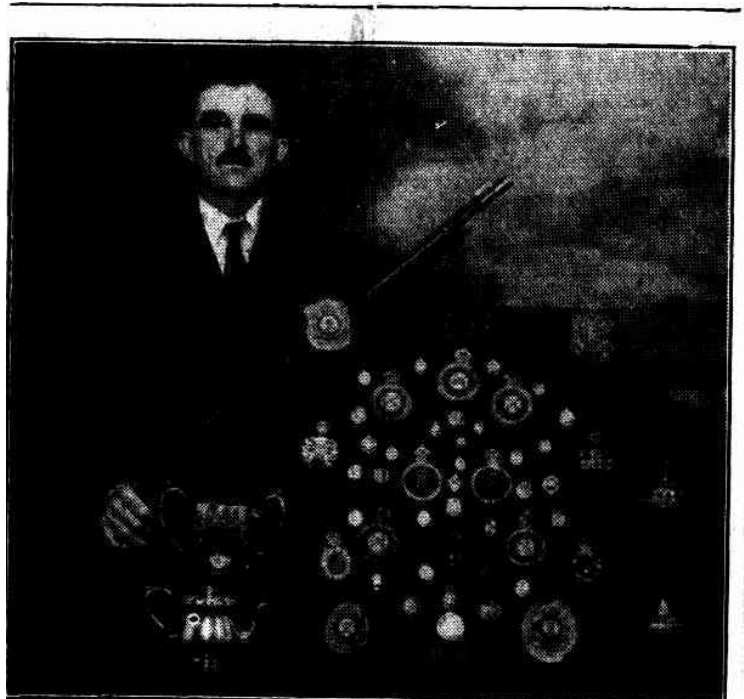
Born on the Tweed and. the son of the late. Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Boyd, two of the district's most notable pioneers, Mr O. E. Boyd appropriately enough commenced shooting on his native river, as a youth in his 'teens being a foundation member of Murwillumbah Rifle Club, which was formed about the beginning of the century. The range then was situated on Mr. G. E: Love's property at Kynnumboon, two miles: from town, and the Captain was the late Mr. W. J. ("Dad") Grime, Murwillumbah Postmaster of the day. Mr. Boyd early showed an aptitude with the rifle but did not perform conspicuously during the years of his early shooting, for the reason that cricket largely occupied his time as a sport. Riflemen in those days used the old Martini Henry rifles, which fired a very heavy bullet and had a reputation for kicking like a mule. Not long afterwards the Martinis were superseded by the .303, which rifle, with various improvements, is used to this day.

FOUNDATION MEMBER OF  
MURWILLUMBAH RIFLE CLUB

"O. E. BOYD'S CAREER  
WITH THE RIFLE"

## FIRST KING'S BADGE

Mr. Boyd's first essay afield was at the Brisbane meeting in 1904, when he gained second place in the B series aggregate, which performance led to his being regraded into A class. Then-followed a period of steady shooting. The valuable experience he gained. during these years was responsible for the winning of his King's badge— in Brisbane in 1908. In October the following year ' Mr. Boyd repeated the performance of winning a King's badge: in Sydney, where he performed so- . i creditably that he came under the -eye of the State selectors for the Bisley team. This led to his receiving, in January 1910, an invitation to proceed to Sydney to shoot in the Bisley elimination test. This was an epoch-making; event in the life of the young marks-man for the reason that, by his meritorious performance in heading the



Mr. O. E. Boyd photographed early this year with a number of the trophies which he has won in his career as a rifleman. Since the photograph was taken, Mr. Boyd has won the King's Medal, two other medals, his 17th King's Badge, and the Governor's Cup.

State, he was chosen as one of N.S.W's three representatives in the Australian team for Bisley, which consisted of 12 members, comprising three; riflemen from N.S.W., three from Victoria, two from Queensland, two from South Australia, one from Tasmania, and one from West Australia. The Federal Government then financed the. Bisley team had £3000 annually was allotted for the purpose.

## I LED THE FIELD

Nineteen men were chosen by the selectors for the test shoot and at the end of the. third day Mr. Boyd, with 539 points, was- clear ahead of the next in line, G. Fisher, of Sydney, with 530. A. Cutler (Bathurst) was included as the third member.

Immediately after the shoot a New South Wales, team was chosen for a New Zealand tour and' it - was, on this occasion that Mr. Boyd secured his first inclusion in a State team. On return from New Zealand, the ' three N.S.W. Bisley representatives barely had time to prepare for the overseas trip, the team being scheduled <to sail on the Omrah. Messrs.' Boyd, Cutler and Fisher duly joined the Queensland representatives on the boat at Sydney and the remainder of - the team was picked up piecemeal as- the journey round, the coast was made. Capt. Pye, of Queensland, was appointed Shooting Captain and Col. Paine, now Brigadier-General Paine, .was appointed Manager,

The team at Bisley did not win any of the big teams matches, but they Won over £400 individually. O. E. Boyd himself collected £40 in cash, a King's ' badge, the St. George's Cross and four bronze medals, in all representing a fine achievement, considering that the pick of the world's riflemen had to be contended against.

## IN FINAL 100

There were 15.00 competitors in the King's and the merit of the performance of Murwillumbah's representative can be gauged from the fact' that he reached the final 100— he outshot 1400 j of the world's crack marksmen. Every one of the 100 received £5 at l least and qualified for the King's badge. The first ' stage of the shoot, in Which 300 of the 15.00 starters qualified, was seven shots over 200, 500 and 600 yards; the 300 then shot over 300 and 600 yards (10 shots) and the final comprised 10 shots at 800, 900 and 1000 yards. There were five Australians, including Mr. Boyd, in the final 100. Jim Halligan, of West Australia, led the Australians, running into fourth place, and O. E. Boyd was next in line iii the 40th position. He scored a possible 50 at the 800 yards.

## FATE'S TEST

Mr. ' Boyd tells an interesting story of the circumstances which preceded his selection in the Bisley team. A Murwillumbah postal employee by the name of Kelly met him one Friday on the Kynnumboon road and advised that there was a telegram at the post office for him. Mr. Boyd returned to town and obtained the message, which was an invitation for him to shoot in the Bisley tests on the following Monday. He hurried home and packed, and caught the train next day to Byron Bay, where he embarked for Sydney by boat, arriving in the city on Sunday night.

## IT WAS FATE

If not for a casual meeting, Boyd would never have known there was an invitation for him to shoot in the Bisley tests

“O. E. BOYD'S CAREER WITH THE RIFLE”

Though seasick on the way down, Mr. Boyd shot at Randwick on Monday morning. He established a lead of nine points the first day, increased it to 12 on Tuesday and finished up on Wednesday with 9 points clear ahead. A stroke of misfortune cost Mr; Boyd three points on the third day— his rifle exploded prematurely and a miss; was recorded against him. Fortunately, the loss was not sufficient to deprive him of the lead. Mr. Boyd explains that, had he I not met Kelly, he would not have received the invitation in time and thus would have missed out of the tests and, as a result, the trip to the Old Dart.

### **23 YEARS CAPTAIN**

In 1912 Mr. Boyd was elected captain of the Murwillumbah Club and has been captain ever since; with the exception of one year when Mr. J. Pallier, now of Sydney, occupied the position. Mr. Boyd in the intervening years has performed brilliantly in many shoots in various States and has represented N.S.W. on a number of occasions. He also has been a member of two N.S.W, teams to New Zealand, the last occasion being in 1928. . In all, he has won 17 King's prize badges, over 30 medals, 3 cups and almost, innumerable trophies. A period of 25 years, however, separated his two major achievements— winning his way to Bisley in 1910 and now, in 1935, his success in annexing the Brisbane King's. Perhaps rifles hooting runs in the Boyd blood, for his son, Ossie, now 19, in his three years' membership oi Murwillumbah Club has shown outstanding form and promises to follow his notable father in the sport. Who knows, perhaps the Tweed has another Bisley performer in the making!



**“OSSIE” BOYD**