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## FOREWORD

Time marches on. I feel honoured in being asked to pay tribute in the shape of this "foreword" in this souvenir book, compiled to help Arthur Daniels' Testimonial Fund.

Rugby League supporters of Halifax need no introduction but to others less familiar Arthur Daniels, a quiet unassuming chap, a good sportsman, a star player in our great game, and a gentleman on and off the field, is an example that is "all that is best in sport."

I know of no other player more worthy of a Testimonial Match in recognition of his services to the club and the game.

This souvenir book is intended to serve a dual purpose. Firstly, as a tribute to a grand player, it places on record, for all time, his achievements with club and country up-to-date. Secondly, to give everybody an opportunity of contributing to the testimonial, and at the same time obtaining value for money by way of an interesting souvenir booklet.

A short while after he joined the Halifax club, Arthur Daniels was called to the Services, and his football career, like that of many others of his generation, suffered in consequence. Upon his return, he again became one of the personalities in the team. This he brought about through strict attention to training.

The efforts were not in vain as he became a prolific scorer, and his form in 1950 gained for him a place on the Australian Tour of that year.

Before passing you forward to the pages of the book proper, I ask you to join with me in wishing Arthur Daniels a highly successful testimonial, and express the hope that he will be the proud wearer of the "Blue and White" for many years to come.



Chairman.

# A. H. DANIELS

(Great Britain, Wales and Halifax)

## His many fine achievements

By Frank Williams

IN 1945, three Welshmen came to Thrum Hall for a trial. They all hailed from Llanelly, South Wales, a centre of the Principality which has reared many great Rugby Union stars in the past.

Included among the trio were J. Davies, W. T. Pritchard and Arthur Harper Daniels. All three were signed, but only one, A. H. Daniels, was destined to gain fame in the Rugby League game.

Arthur came from Pontyberem, a village outside Llanelly, but nevertheless steeped in football history. Arthur, like so many footballers who have come North, was a miner, and he followed a similar occupation for a time after coming to Halifax.

In his first year at Thrum Hall, Arthur Daniels did not greatly impress the critics, mainly because he appeared to be short of the necessary speed and zip so essential in a wing threequarter who hopes to reach the top class.

### FIRST MATCH.

His first match at Thrum Hall was against Huddersfield, a good test for any newcomer.

He scored a try that day, but in subsequent matches, the general impression was that he lacked speed. Arthur Daniels was, however, determined to make good, and following a period of service with the British Forces, in which he served overseas in Egypt, Tripoli, Gibraltar and France, Daniels set about improving his style, rhythm and above all, speed.

This required a good deal of determination and restraint, but Daniels conquered and gradually overcame one bad habit of putting his head down when approaching a rival, which prevented him using a natural swerve he possessed.

### GREATER SPEED.

This and the fact that he increased his speed to the surprise of many critics, brought Daniels into favour with Thrum Hall followers. Following a good season in 1948-9, Daniels came into his rightful own in 1949-50.

Just after he returned from the Forces, there was a danger of Halifax losing his services. He returned home and was contemplating going into business with his brother as a haulage contractor.

Daniels was persuaded to change his mind, and Halifax was to benefit considerably by the change of front.



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Many were the brilliant tries he scored, and such magnificent form was compelled to appeal to the selectors of the international teams. Daniels represented Wales and then came a cherished ambition, a trip to Australia, which is a desire of all Rugby League players.

Daniels deserved the honour, when picked for the 1950 tour of Australia. He had trained laboriously and conquered, and when a footballer does this he is worthy of recognition.

Unfortunately, the tour was to prove disastrous for Daniels in a playing sense. He had the misfortune to break his collar-bone and played very few matches. Consequently he was brought home by plane before the tour was completed.

When he restarted with Halifax, he showed a lack of confidence, a feature which attacks players who have suffered severe injury. He was fast recovering when again misfortune took a hand and against Huddersfield during Christmas, 1953, Daniels broke his arm, an injury which kept him out of the field a long time.

Recovery again meant the necessity to beat fear. This did not come all at once—it never does—but Daniels did succeed and this season he was for a long time in the forefront for a second trip to Australia. A poor display in a trial at Leeds weakened his chance, and when the team for “down under” was chosen Daniels was not included.

His omission, however, has not affected his play, and the Halifax right winger has played many fine games for Halifax since the British team was chosen. In fact he has been one of the prominent figures in the team's quest for the dual honour of winning the Challenge Cup and the League.

Not only has Daniels proved a fine attacking player when at his best, but in defence, he has no superior as a wing threequarter in the League. Few rivals have had the better of Daniels in this feature of play.

All footballers during their career have one match which stands out more prominently than others. When Daniels was asked if there was such a game in his career, he picked out a match in 1953.

This was the first Test in that season against Australia at Leeds. Owing to injuries to Turnbull and Cracknell, Daniels was called upon to fill the right wing position in the British team.

### **GREATEST THRILL.**

In this match Daniels scored a try, his first in a Test, after the Australians had heeled the ball from the scrum. This was brought about through a blunder on the part of Churchill, the Australian captain and full-back. That try was Daniels' great thrill.

The Committee hope, therefore, that the benefit match arranged for Daniels will prove the best ever given a Halifax player. The individual record is in the region of £500, but it is up to the Thrum Hall followers to see this figure is left well behind.

The officials appreciate the sporting gesture of the Oldham club in bringing a representative side to play Halifax and all look forward to a fine game on behalf of a grand player.



## Milestones.

- Aug. 18th, 1945.—Daniels joined Thrum Hall Staff.  
 1945-6.—Played in 30 matches and scored 1 goal and 8 tries (26pts.).  
 1946-7.—In the Forces.  
 1947-8.—In the Forces.  
 1948-9.—Played in 40 matches and scored 18 tries (54pts.).  
 Oct. 22nd, 1949.—Played for Wales v. Other Nationalities in Abertillery.  
 Nov. 12th, 1949.—Played for Wales v. France at Swansea.  
 Mar. 1st, 1950.—Played for Wales v. England at Wigan.  
 1949-50.—Played in 33 matches and scored 36 tries (108 pts.).  
 1950.—Toured Australia with British R.L. Team.  
 1950-1.—Played in 28 matches and scored 21 tries (63pts.).  
 May 19th, 1950.—Played for Wales v. Empire XIII. at Llanelli.  
 1951-2.—Played in 41 matches and scored 29 tries (87 pts.).  
 Sept. 19th, 1951.—Played for Wales v. England at St. Helens.  
 Nov. 2nd, 1951.—Played for Wales v. New Zealand at Bradford.  
 April 6th, 1952.—Played for Wales v. France, in France.  
 1952-3.—\*Played 16 matches and scored 12 tries.  
 Sept. 17th, 1952.—Played for Wales v. England, at Wigan.  
 Oct. 4th, 1952.—Played for Great Britain v. Australians, at Leeds.  
 Oct. 25th, 1952.—Played for Wales v. France, at Leeds.  
 Nov. 8th, 1952.—Played for Great Britain v. Australians, at Swinton.  
 Sept. 16th, 1953.—Played for Wales v. England, at St. Helens.  
 Oct. 7th, 1953.—Played for Wales v. Other Nationalities at Bradford.  
 Oct. 13th, 1953.—Played for Wales v. France, in France.

\* Was Captain of Halifax until he broke his arm against Huddersfield in December, 1952.



## Arthur Daniel's Benefit Match HALIFAX v. OLDHAM

### HALIFAX

- 1.—GRIFFITHS
- 2.—DANIELS
- 3.—LYNCH
- 4.—TODD
- 5.—BEVAN
- 6.—DEAN
- 7.—KIELTY
- 8.—THORLEY
- 9.—ILLINGWORTH
- 10.—OLSON
- 11.—PEARCE
- 12.—SCHOFIELD
- 14.—CLARKSON

Referee:  
Mr. FRANK SEED  
(Halifax)

### OLDHAM

- 1.—GANLEY
- 2.—CRACKNELL
- 3.—FEARIS
- 4.—DAVIES
- 5.—BARROW
- 6.—FEATHER
- 7.—STIRRUP
- 8.—SMITH
- 9.—KEITH
- 10.—JACKSON
- 11.—TOMLINSON
- 12.—LITTLE
- 13.—GOLDSWAIN

Touch Judges:  
Messrs. JACK SCAIFE &  
W. HEMMINGS.



# Arthur Harper Daniels

A PEN PORTRAIT.

By K. V. A.

"An immaculate athlete" was the description I once heard applied to this perfectly built son of the Welsh Valleys and search of the dictionary's adjectives could provide no more fitting a eulogy.

Arthur makes a serious business of the most important factor in all sport—FITNESS. His training is conscientious and planned and the sense of balanced co-ordination one gets when he runs on to a football pitch reflects his methods.

When, recently, Arthur appeared at the Shay, one of the first to comment on this feature was Alan Ure, the Town trainer and an accepted Yorkshire authority on physical culture. "What an athlete—see how he runs on his toes," Alan told his charges afterwards. Unsolicited admiration from an expert judge.

But Arthur is immaculate in his personal appearance too—an attribute, which, when combined with perfect physical fitness and outstanding football skill, gives you something to "lionise." And lionise him they do.

A man of few words, Arthur typifies the truth that "actions speak louder."

He conveys much with eyes which are framed in creases of the born smiler. They are eyes which light up quickly and mirror the fun he derives from life.

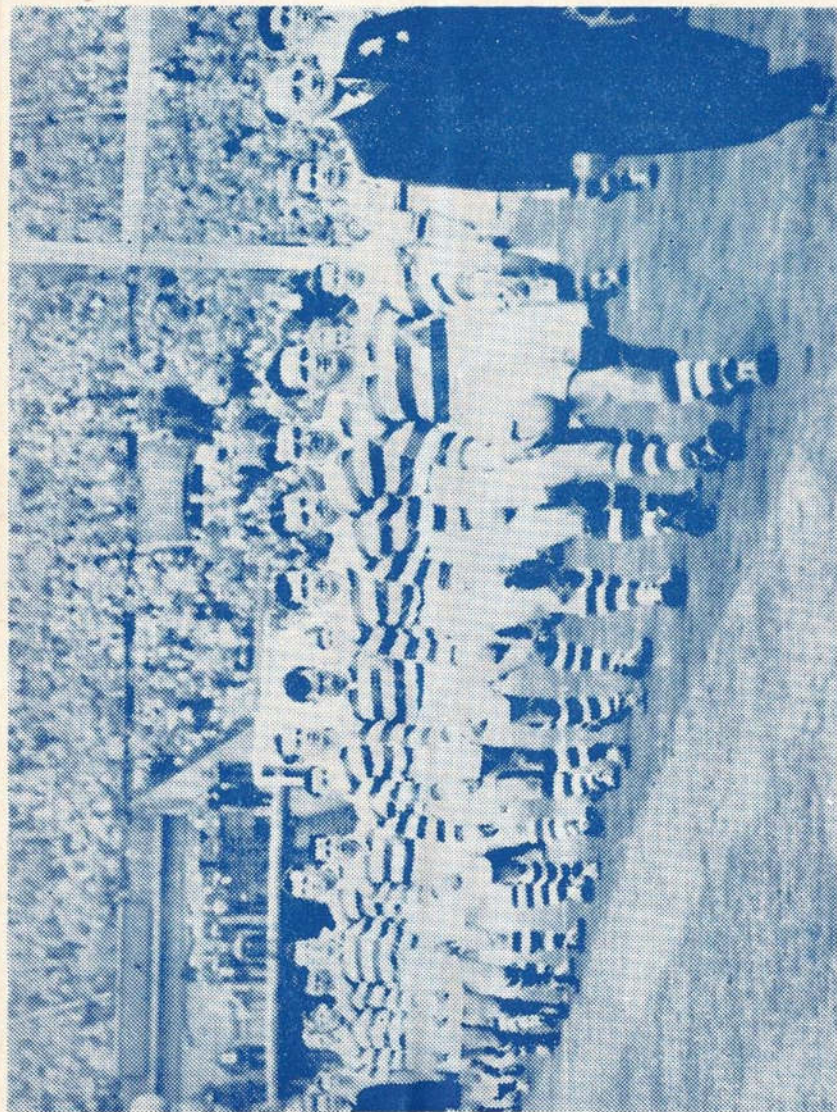
A broad, high, forehead and a resolute jay line contribute to the features known so well in the Rugby League world.

And these two features are again so very typical of the man himself.

Intelligence and quick thinking are evidenced by the forehead—purpose and courage by the jaw.

What is more, Arthur does things in the manner of an accomplished performer. He is the sort of footballer we would go miles to see any day. The Immaculate Athlete.

*Herbert L. Gifford*  
*T. Gifford*  
*A. Pickley*  
*J. Dawson*  
*J. Wilkinson*  
*W. Bennett*  
*P. T. Ash*  
*Des Clarkson*  
*W. B. B. B. B.*  
*W. Hughes*  
*Leo Pearce*  
*Ken Dean*  
*John Daniel*  
*P. M. Kelly*  
*John Harley*



Halifax players entering the field at Wembley for the 1954 Rugby League Challenge Cup Final.

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Among the spectators at Wembley, 1954.

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