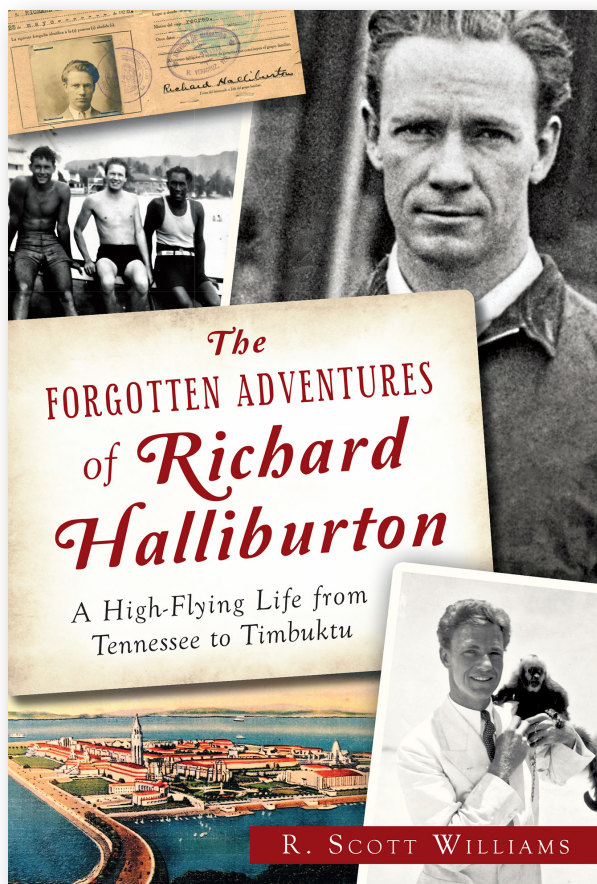


# NEW TITLE

## NOW AVAILABLE



978.1.62619.720.6  
{ Paperback, 192 pp, \$19.99 }

NOVEMBER 2014

THE HISTORY PRESS • CHARLESTON, SC  
WWW.HISTORYPRESS.NET





Richard Halliburton with a monkey he purchased in Buenos Aires so he could experience the life of a street entertainer. The story appeared in *New Worlds to Conquer*. Courtesy of the Rhodes College Archives and Special Collections, Memphis, Tennessee.

October 7, 2014

I am pleased to announce the publication of *The Forgotten Adventures of Richard Halliburton: A High-Flying Life from Tennessee to Timbuktu* by R. Scott Williams.

Wander through the captivating, jaw-dropping and almost unbelievable life of adventurer and travel writer Richard Halliburton. Born in Brownsville, Tennessee, in 1900 and raised in Memphis, at the age of nineteen he left home to lead an extraordinary and dramatic life of adventure.

Against the backdrop of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, Halliburton's exploits around the globe made him an internationally known celebrity and the most famous travel writer and lecturer of his day. From climbing Mount Olympus in Greece to swimming the Panama Canal, and literally flying all the way to Timbuktu, Halliburton experienced and wrote about adventures that others never even believed possible.

"Halliburton was among the first American personalities to create an entertainment brand and then perpetuate it in order to achieve validation, media attention and financial reward. While Charlie Chaplin became the 'little tramp with a big heart,' Amelia Earhart was the 'female flyer making it in a man's world' and Charles Lindbergh was the 'handsome daredevil,' Richard Halliburton was the 'boy adventurer' who, like Peter Pan, refused to grow up. The only problem was that when he grew tired of that image, he found it impossible to shake," said R. Scott Williams in the book's foreword.

Williams's *The Forgotten Adventures of Richard Halliburton* will appeal to anyone who loves travel, adventure and American history.

Join R. Scott Williams as he uses personal letters, seventy-plus stunning vintage images (many never before published) and excerpts from Halliburton's own writing to tell this extraordinary life story. *The Forgotten Adventures of Richard Halliburton: A High-Flying Life from Tennessee to Timbuktu* will retail for \$19.99 and be available throughout Tennessee and online at [www.historypress.net](http://www.historypress.net).

Many thanks,

Sarah Falter

*Sarah Falter*

Publicity at The History Press



The Flying Carpet on Pontoons in the Heart of Borneo Visiting the Head Hunting Dyaks



## Richard Halliburton

*Youthful Adventurer*

*Author : Raconteur*

Direct from His Two Year Airplane Tour of the  
World in His "The Flying Carpet"

.....

LECTURE SUBJECTS:

*"The Flight of the Flying Carpet"*

*"From the Foreign Legion to Devil's Island"*

*"New Worlds to Conquer"*

*"The Royal Road to Romance"*

**Tuesday, Oct. 17, 8 P. M.**

**MORGAN HALL**

**Admission 50c**

**Presented By Woman's Athletic Association**

**THE ALKAHEST BUREAU**

S. R. Bridges, President and General Manager

Mortgage-Guarantee Bldg.

ATLANTA :: GEORGIA

Printed in U. S. A.

Flyer promoting a Richard Halliburton lecture. *Courtesy of the Rhodes College Archives and Special Collections, Memphis, Tennessee.*



“He was Marco Polo and Indiana Jones wrapped up in one, with P.T. Barnum’s flippancy and James Bond’s bravado, capped off by F. Scott Fitzgerald’s aristocratic good looks and manners.”

—*David M. Schwartz, Smithsonian magazine*

**R**ichard Halliburton ran away from his hometown in Memphis at the age of nineteen to lead an extraordinary and dramatic life of adventure. Against the backdrop of the Golden Age, the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, Halliburton’s exploits around the globe made him an internationally known celebrity and the most famous travel writer of his time. From climbing Mount Olympus in Greece to swimming the Panama Canal and literally flying all the way to Timbuktu, Halliburton experienced and wrote about adventures that others never even believed possible. His youthful spirit and bohemian lifestyle won the hearts of millions. Author R. Scott Williams details the spectacular exploits of a true adventurer.

THE HISTORY PRESS IS PROUD TO PRESENT THIS NEW TITLE:

*THE FORGOTTEN ADVENTURES OF RICHARD HALLIBURTON:  
A HIGH-FLYING LIFE FROM TENNESSEE TO TIMBUKTU*

BY R. SCOTT WILLIAMS

978.1.62619.720.6 { Paperback, 192 pp, \$19.99 }

NOVEMBER 2014

---

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**R**. Scott Williams is an advertising, marketing and public relations executive with a passion for researching and recording unpublished stories of the early American South. After receiving his degree in journalism from the University of Memphis, he worked a variety of jobs until landing at Graceland, where he helped take care of business for the king for more than twelve years. Currently, he leads the marketing and communication initiatives at the Newseum, a museum of news and history in Washington, D.C. He resides in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife, Michelle, and daughters, Alex and Liv. In his spare time, Williams explores the historic sites around Washington, D.C., on his road bike and researches and records the lives of his West Tennessee ancestors.



**SERVICIO DE MIGRACION**

Forma C. B.  
ORIGINAL

**TARJETA ESPECIAL PARA TURISTAS**  
y personas comprendidas en la frac. IV del art. 26 de la Ley

Talleres Gráficos de la Nación.—Méx.—183.

TARJETA NUM. <u>120</u> expedida por <u>Consulado</u> <u>Gral. de Mexico, New Orleans, La.</u> 1. Sr. <u>RICHARD HALLIBURTON</u> el <u>25</u> de <u>Mayo</u> de 192 <u>8</u> .	Edad <u>29</u> años. Estado civil <u>soltero</u> Profesión u oficio <u>escritor</u> Nacionalidad actual <u>norte-americano</u> Domicilio <u>Parkview Hotel, Memphis, Tenn.</u> Lugar a donde se dirige <u>Mexico, D.F.</u> Motivo del viaje <u>recreo</u> Otros datos _____ _____ _____ Al reverso indíquese el número de personas que constituyen el grupo familiar. _____ <u>H. VERACRUZ, VER.</u> <u>Richard Halliburton</u> Firma del Interesado o Jefe del grupo familiar.
---	--

La siguiente fotografía identifica a la (s) persona (s) aludida (s).




Richard Halliburton's "recreational" travel document issued on May 25, 1928, used as he explored South America for *New Worlds to Conquer*. Courtesy of the Rhodes College Archives and Special Collections, Memphis, Tennessee.



Opposite, bottom: Pancho Barnes poses with Stephens and Halliburton in this photo taken by Hollywood glamour photographer George Hurrell. Courtesy of Moye F. Stephens.

## Preface

May 13, 1945

*For six years the Pacific Ocean has kept locked in its depths the mystery of the fate that overtook Richard Halliburton, adventurer and writer, who disappeared when his Chinese junk, the Sea Dragon, vanished midway between Hong Kong and San Francisco in March 1939. Speculation on the fate of Halliburton and his crew was revived the other day when the water-logged hull of a small vessel obviously of the same type as Halliburton's was washed ashore at Pacific Beach, near San Diego, Calif. Little remained of the ship, only a flat-bottomed section of heavy timbers, held together with huge brass bolts.*

—American Weekly

By the time remnants of what possibly was the *Sea Dragon* (but most likely wasn't) washed up on a beach near San Diego, California, on May 13, 1945, Richard Halliburton and the crew of the Chinese junk had been dead more than six years. During that time, the nation had been focused on fighting the Second World War, so by the time it was suggested a piece of Halliburton's boat had washed ashore, it wasn't the big news it would have been just a decade earlier.

Born in the very first days of the twentieth century, this son of the well-to-do cotton culture of West Tennessee eventually became the most-famous adventure writer of his day. Halliburton inspired millions of readers, young and old alike, to add a little travel and adventure to their lives. And because he lived from 1900 to 1939, his life and career was lived out against the backdrop of a world going through dramatic growth and change. With

books on the bestseller lists for years at a time and selling well over a million copies, he made and spent huge sums of money during the Jazz Age and then the Great Depression. As a lecturer and radio personality, millions of individuals personally heard him share his stories in a unique style that was unlike anything anyone had ever heard before.

In his lifetime, Halliburton climbed Mount Olympus in Greece, the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps and Fujiyama in Japan. He swam the length of the Panama Canal and plunged into the Hellespont in Turkey. He was arrested in Gibraltar, slept on top of the Great Pyramid in Egypt and was the first to photograph both Mount Everest and the Taj Mahal from the air. Halliburton rode a donkey over the Pyrenees and, in homage to Hannibal, rode an elephant across the Alps. He spent time with convicts on Devil's Island and a month on the island of Tobago pretending he was Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe. Halliburton joined the Foreign Legion, dove seventy feet into a Mayan well of death at Chichen Itza and flew all the way from here to...yes, Timbuktu—literally, right across the middle of the Sahara Desert in an airplane he christened the *Flying Carpet*.

During that time, the articles about his adventures helped sell a lot of newspapers and magazines. When radio was still in its infancy, and before movie theaters sprang up around the country, Americans escaped the boredom of their everyday lives and explored the world around them through ink on paper. With a combined weekly circulation of nine million, Halliburton's syndicated articles appeared in newspapers around the country. While some critics rolled their eyes at his obvious tendency to embellish and an overly enthusiastic and youthful writing style, his fans flocked to hear him speak at public appearances, and teachers applauded him for bringing to life historic events and introducing young readers to the enjoyment that can be found in a good book.

Halliburton was also popular with the rich and famous. His friends included fellow adventurers, journalists, painters, writers, politicians, musicians and entertainers. Known for his unique sense of personal style, good looks and carefree attitude, it was good to have Richard Halliburton at your party. At the height of his career, his fame was equal to well-known personalities like Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, Charlie Chaplin, Rudolph Valentino and F. Scott Fitzgerald.



If you had been in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 11, 1927, you would have unfolded your copy of the *Kansas City Star* and read an editor's introduction to an article by Richard Halliburton that provides a great summary of the Halliburton image, especially at the beginning of his career:

*Richard Halliburton typifies the romantic spirit of youth—the desire to do-and-dare, to fulfill dreams regardless of consequences, attempting feats that older heads have declared impossible. Seemingly throwing caution to the winds, he has experienced enough thrills to last a normal man a lifetime. A recent Princeton graduate and reared in most comfortable circumstances, he has lived the life of a vagabond in a tour of the world—brother to a prince and fellow to a beggar if he be found worthy.*

Halliburton was among the first American personalities to create an entertainment brand and then perpetuate it in order to achieve validation, media attention and financial reward. While Charlie Chaplin became the “little tramp with a big heart,” Amelia Earhart was the “female flyer making it in a man’s world” and Charles Lindbergh was the “handsome daredevil,” Richard Halliburton was the “boy adventurer” who, like Peter Pan, refused to grow up. The only problem was that when he grew tired of that image, he found it impossible to shake.

His last adventure, and the one that resulted in his death at age thirty-nine, took place on an ancient Chinese junk he had built in Hong Kong and was sailing with a crew to the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco. In late March 1939, the crew of the *Sea Dragon* encountered a typhoon, and tragically, all aboard were lost. Although the expedition was driven by exhaustion, desperation and a misplaced sense of confidence, with a small shift in the weather or the timing, things could have turned out differently and Halliburton would have, once again, defied the odds. But this time, it didn’t work out that way.

It’s impossible to sum up Richard Halliburton’s life in a neat little “happily-ever-after” package. Eventually, although he achieved great success, fame and pop-culture notoriety, he felt loved by very few, and his life became one of great contradictions. It’s also difficult to understand how someone who became so famous could disappear so completely

from history. For an article in *Smithsonian Magazine*, David M. Schwartz wrote, “He was Marco Polo and Indiana Jones wrapped up in one, with P.T. Barnum’s flippancy and James Bond’s bravado, capped off by F. Scott Fitzgerald’s aristocratic good looks and manners.” In a 1977 issue of *City of Memphis* magazine, Guy Townsend wrote, “Richard Halliburton was in his own way a remarkable man who lived an interesting and eventful, if incomplete, life; and for a decade and a half, anyway, he was the most famous Memphian in the world.” Those descriptions work well. But perhaps Halliburton’s father, Wesley, described him best when, many years after his son’s death, emotion cracking in his voice, he said, “Richard

was a meteor...that blazed across the heavens...and was gone.”



*Left: Autographed promotional photograph, 1929. Courtesy of the Rhodes College Archives and Special Collections, Memphis, Tennessee.*

*Top right: Richard Halliburton posing in front of the Sea Dragon on December 29, 1938. Photo taken by Dr. and Mrs. J.M. Lapp, missionaries Halliburton had written about in his first book in a chapter titled “Tiger Tales.” Courtesy of the Rhodes College Archives and Special Collections, Memphis, Tennessee.*

*Bottom right: Richard Halliburton with a group of children from an orphanage in Hong Kong. Courtesy of the Michael M. Blankenship Collection of the Halliburton Archives, Rhodes College.*



## —OUR MISSION—

The History Press brings a new way of thinking to history publishing—preserving and enriching community by empowering history enthusiasts to write local stories for local audiences. Our books are useful resources for research and preservation, but it is their value as touchstones for community identity that drives us to publish works that national houses and university presses too often have ignored. Infused with local color, our books are highly readable, often brief and aimed at a general readership.



Media review copies,  
high-resolution photographs  
and interviews available  
upon request.

If you would like to schedule an interview with the author,  
please contact:

*Sarah Falter*  
Publicity

843.577.5971 ext. 227  
sarah.falter@historypress.net



Follow us on Facebook!  
The History Press



Follow us on Twitter!  
@historypress

645 Meeting Street • Suite 200 • Charleston, SC 29403 • 843.577.5971  
publishing@historypress.net • www.historypress.net