

# Toowoomba Railway Roll of Honour Board 1914-19

## Dedication

*This research is dedicate to all those who are recorded on the roll of honour board but especially to 425 Pte David McCarthy, 9<sup>th</sup> Bn, killed in action on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915.*

## Introduction

This research was started after a visit to Toowoomba station in July 2015 and discovering that the 559 names on the impressive roll of honour board appeared not to have been identified or, if this work has been done, was not readily available. The aim of this initial research was to get basic details of those men listed; it is not intended to be a comprehensive account of the soldiers on the roll of honour board or railways in the Darling Downs region.

Sources used included records held by the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, and the National Archives of Australia. Consequently, there may well be errors and conflicting detail; the entries for each man are headline information only – anyone wishing to drill deeper should consult sources such as the soldiers' personal papers, newspapers, unit war diaries and histories etc. In some instances, the 'identified' soldier may prove to be incorrect but at this stage the most likely identification is listed; details generally have been used verbatim from sources. One hindrance was 'occupation' as many do not have an obvious railway trade; it is possible that some had other jobs in addition to their railway employment.

A line was drawn under this work in late 2016 still with eighteen names unidentified despite trying various sources. Most of the other names were identified with a good degree of confidence but readers are invited to take this work and refine it further. Researchers are, of course, most welcome to use this output but if any of this material is used for papers etc, *please do cite the source* as would be expected of any serious writer.

I would be interested to receive details of any further information coming to light and have set up this email account:

Email – [Toowoombahrb@outlook.com](mailto:Toowoombahrb@outlook.com)

There is also a YouTube clip/ PowerPoint presentation – <https://youtu.be/F71fRkhj6eE>

Copies of this work have been lodged with:

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • AWM, Canberra                | • Toowoomba City Library         |
| • Queensland Rail Archivist    | • Toowoomba station              |
| • State Archives of Queensland | • Toowoomba Family History Group |

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The Western Front Association 1914-18 (1953)/ Gallipoli Association (1081)

**Reid, D.** - 6797 Pte David Reid was 35, single, Presbyterian and a labourer from Toowoomba when he enlisted on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1916. Sailing on HMAT *Marathon* A74, he went overseas from Sydney on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1916 with 22<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements to 9<sup>th</sup> Bn, returning to Australia on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1919. His next of kin was his father - Mr D. Reid, Garget Street, Toowoomba, Qld.

**Reid, J.D.** - 668 Pte John Donald Reid was 32, a labourer, single and Presbyterian when he enlisted on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1914; no home address was recorded. He left from Melbourne on HMAT *Ceramic* A40 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1914 in the original establishment of D Coy, 15<sup>th</sup> Bn. He returned to Australia on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1915 but as his papers do not appear to be available it is not possible to determine the reason for his early return; his next of kin was James Reid, Kirriemuir, Forfarshire, Scotland, though the relationship was not given.

**Rider, W.** - 5095 Pte William Thomas Rider was 27, single, C of E and a labourer from Chinchilla when he enlisted on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1917. He left from Sydney on HMAT *Hororata* A20 on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1917 with 14<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to 31<sup>st</sup> Bn, returning to Australia on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1917 on medical grounds (failing eyesight). His next of kin was his sister - Mrs Thomas McGregor, Chinchilla, West Qld.

● **Ridgway, E.D.** - 1703 Pte Edward Drayton Ridgway was 22, single, C of E and a fireman from Morse Street, Drayton, when he enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1915. He departed from Sydney on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1915 on HMAT *Mashobra* A47 as part of 11<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Field Ambulance. He died of wounds on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1918 and is buried in Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France, in plot IV, row A, grave 2. His next of kin was his father - T. Ridgway, Drayton, Qld. He is not shown as 'killed' on roll of honour board. CWGC records confirm he was the son of Thomas and Amy Ridgway, of Mort (sic) St, Drayton, Queensland, Australia.

**Riggall, F.J.** - 1727 Pte Francis Joseph Riggall was 18, single, Methodist and a labourer from Amby, via Roma, Western Line, when he enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He departed from Sydney on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1915 on HMAT *Mashobra* A47 as part of 11<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse, returning to Australia on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1916. His next of kin was his mother - Mrs Susanah Riggall, Amby, via Roma, Western Line, Qld.

**Rigley, C.E.** - This soldier's entry is another error on the board. He is believed to be 1364 Cpl Curtis Edwin Rigby aged 19, single, C of E and a clerk from Palmerin Street, Warwick. He enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1915 and left from Sydney on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1915 on HMAT *Suffolk* A23 with 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt, returning to Australia on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1919. His next of kin was his father - James Hayes Rigby, Palmerin Street, Warwick.

**Riley, A.** - 2701 Pte Albert Riley was 42, married, RC and a ganger from Wanko, Great Western Line, who enlisted on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1916. He left from Brisbane on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1916 on HMAT *Seang Choon* A49 with 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to 4<sup>th</sup> pioneer Bn, returning to Australia on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1918. His next of kin was his wife Mrs Alicia Jane Riley, Wanko, Great Western Line, Qld.

**Ritchie, A.** - 9633 Gnr Alexander Ritchie was 21, single, C of E and a labourer from James Street, Toowoomba. He enlisted on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1915 and left from Sydney on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1915 on HMAT *Berrima* A35 in 13<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Bde. He returned to Australia on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1919. His next of kin was his father - A. Ritchie, Plains of Thornton, Forfarshire, Scotland (not 'Torton' as shown on the embarkation roll).

**Roberts, T.E.** - 3461 Pte Thomas Eycott Roberts was 18, a clerk from Bridge Street, Toowoomba, single and C of E when he enlisted on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1915. He left from Brisbane on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1915 on HMAT *Warilda* A69 in 1<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements to 9<sup>th</sup> Bn, returning to Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1919. His next of kin was his father - T.R. Roberts, Bridge Street, Toowoomba, Qld.

**Robinson, H.F.** - 3896 Pte Herbert Freemont Robinson was 22, single, C of E and a railway guard who gave his address as State School, Yarranlea, via Pittsworth when he enlisted on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He left from Brisbane on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1916 on HMAT *Wandilla* A62 as part of 9<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to 25<sup>th</sup> Bn. No return date is given. His next of kin was his father - State School, Yarranlea, via Pittsworth, Qld.

**Rolls, W.H.** - 5403 Pte William Henry Rolls was 26, single, Presbyterian and a railway fireman from Perth Street, Toowoomba, when he enlisted on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1916. He left from Brisbane on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1916 on