

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5421 PRIVATE

T. J. RICKARD

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH SEPTEMBER, 1916

Thomas James RICKARD

Thomas James Rickard was born at New Jerusalem, Daly, South Australia on 28th January, 1878 to parents John & Jane Rickard (nee Drew). (He stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born near the town of Kadina, South Australia).

The 1903 & 1906 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of James Street, Western Australia listed Thomas James Rickard, Ironmonger, 27 Bertram Street.

Jane Rickard, mother of Thomas James Rickard, died on 10th June, 1905 at Croydon, South Australia.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Fremantle, Western Australia listed Thomas James Rickard, Pipe Moulder, of 118 Cantonment Street.

Thomas James Rickard married Alice Byrnes in 1909 at Ravensthorpe (district of Phillips River), Western Australia.

The 1910 & 1912 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Dundas, Western Australia listed Thomas James Rickard, Miner & his wife Alice Rickard, of Elverdton.

The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Fremantle, subdivision of Claremont, Western Australia recorded Thomas James Rickard, Moulder, & his wife Alice Rickard, of Keane Street, Cottesloe Beach.

John Rickard, father of Thomas James Rickard, died in July, 1915 at Broken Hill, New South Wales.

Thomas James Rickard was a 39 year old, married, Moulder from Keane Street, Cottesloe, Western Australia when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 28th February, 1916 (date as per Embarkation Roll, however date on Attestation Papers written as 15th February, 1916) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs A. Rickard, Keane Street, Cottesloe, Western Australia.

Private Thomas James Rickard was posted to 1 Area on 28th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 16th Battalion on 1st April, 1916.

Private Thomas James Rickard, Service number 5421, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 17th April, 1916 with the 16th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements.

Private Thomas James Rickard embarked from Alexandria on H.M.T. *Ionian* on 7th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 14th June, 1916. He was posted to 4th Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France & proceeded from there on 17th August, 1916 to join 16th Battalion. Private Rickard was taken on strength of 16th Battalion in France on 19th August, 1916 from Reinforcements

Private Thomas James Rickard was wounded in action in France on 30th August, 1916. He was admitted to 49th Casualty Clearing Station on 1st September, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Thigh & Leg then transferred to Ambulance Train 12. Private Rickard was admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen on 1st September, 1916 with G.S.W. to Leg & Arm. He was transferred to Ambulance Train on 13th September, 1916 & embarked for England from Havre the same day on Hospital Ship *Asturias*.

16th Battalion

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.

.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there the AIF expanded and was reorganised. The 16th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 48th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

.....

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley, where Private Martin O'Meara won the battalion's first Victoria Cross.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 16th Battalion

Battalion Headquarters – 30/31st August, 1916:

16th Battalion relieved by 47th Battalion (12th Australian Infantry Brigade) during the night. The relief was very slow owing to the sloppy nature of trenches. Relief was however completed by 5 am 31st August. Moved to BRICKFIELDS. Our casualties for second phase of operations were:- Officers killed 3, wounded 6, Missing Nil. Other Ranks Killed 27, Wounded 144, Missing 51.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas James Rickard was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England on 14th September, 1916 with Bomb wound/s to Left Leg (Amputated foot) – severe.

Private Thomas James Rickard died on 24th September, 1916 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. Left Leg & Septicaemia.

A death for Thomas J. Rickard, aged 39, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Kings Norton, England.

Private Thomas James Rickard was buried on 27th September, 1916 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – Grave site B. 10 Grave No. 408. (Note: some forms have 408 (crossed out) & 292 written in red). His name is now remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 292 as those in this Plot do not have headstones.

Private Thomas James Rickard requested in his Will, dated 3rd August, 1916, that *“in the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to Alice Rickard (Wife).”*

The address on the Attestation Papers for Next of Kin was crossed out & replaced with *“C/o Mrs K. E. Morris 1032 Hay St, West Perth, West Aust. Advised by letter 2/2/17.”* Another copy of the Attestation Paper has the address 235 Roberts Road Subiaco, W.A. 3.9.18 crossed out & replaced with Silverton Lodge Belmont.

Private Thomas James Rickard was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Rickard's widow – Mrs A. Rickard, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent April, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Thomas James Rickard – service number 5421, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private T. J. Rickard is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 81.



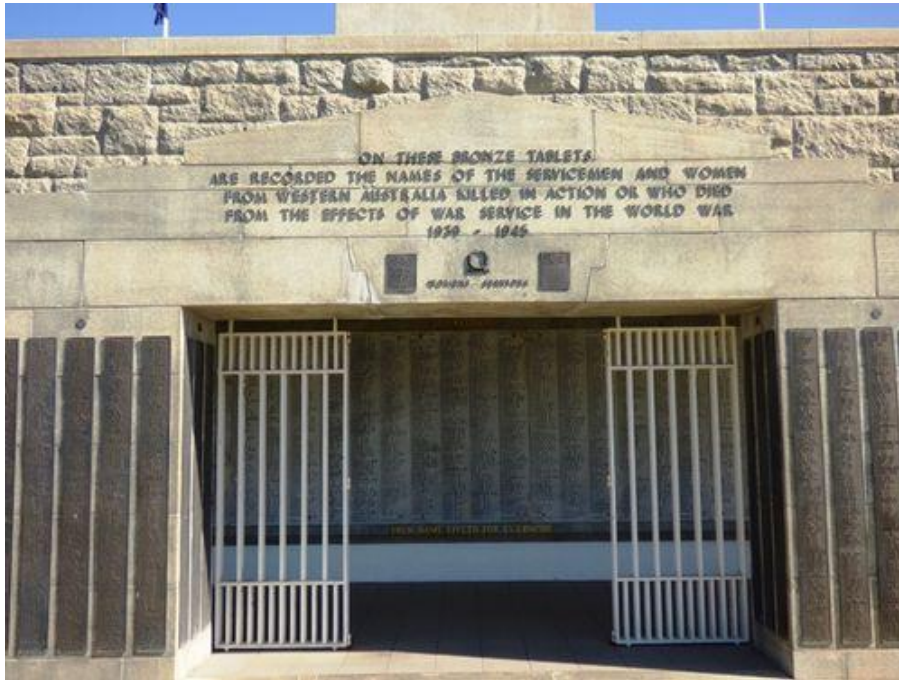
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. J. Rickard is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



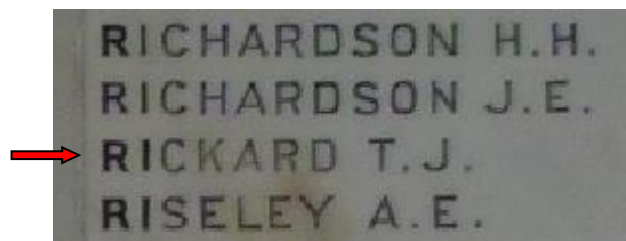
Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names
 (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



16th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



(31 pages of Private Thomas James Rickard's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H05788

Private Thomas James Rickard



Newspaper Notices

KILLED IN ACTION

RICKARD – Died of wounds, September 24, 1916, at 1st General Hospital, Thomas James Rickard, loved husband of Alice Rickard, Keane-street, Cottesloe Beach, aged 39.

His duty nobly done.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 7 October, 1916) & (*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 13 October, 1916)

228th CASUALTY LIST

5TH MILITARY DISTRICT

WOUNDED

T. J. Rickard (Cottesloe Beach)

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 6 October, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

233rd CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

T. J. Rickard (Cottesloe Beach), severely, previously reported seriously ill

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 13 October, 1916)

235th CASUALTY LIST

5th MILITARY DISTRICT

DIED OF WOUNDS

T. J. Rickard (Cottesloe Beach), previously reported severely wounded

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 20 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

RICKARD – In sad and loving memory of Private Thomas James Rickard, No. 5421, who died of wounds received in action on September 24, 1916.

He sleeps not in his native land,
 But under foreign skies;
Far, far from those who love him,
 In a hero's grave he lies.

He never shunned his country's call,
He gladly gave his life, his all;
He died the helpless to defend,
An Australian soldier's noble end.

-Inserted by his loving wife, Alice Rickard.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 24 September, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

RICKARD – In proud and ever-loving memory of my dear husband, No. 5421 Private Thomas James Rickard, 16th Battalion who died in the First Southern General Hospital Birmingham, of wounds received in action at Pozieres on September 24, 1916.

When the day of battle is ended,
 And the cruel suspense is past,
And the hours of anguished waiting
 Are over for all at last.
When those who are reunited
 Will offer their praise to God;
But the husband I've waited and longer for
 Lies voiceless under the sod.
When the flags are over the roadways,
 And the troops are marching home;
Oh! God have pity on the watching ones
 Whose husband can never return.

Inserted by his loving and sorrowing wife, Alice Rickard.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 24 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

RICKARD – In sad and loving memory of my dear husband, No. 5421 Private Thomas James Rickard, 16th Battalion, who died in the First Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, of wounds received in action at Pozieres on September 24, 1916.

Thus it is ever to those that are dear,
Death soonest severs the dearest ones here;
Those that are nearest entwined round the heart,
Those that are dearest the soonest depart.
I think I see your smile, dear Tom,
Through a mist of falling tears,
But a wife's part is a broken heart,
 And a burden of lonely years.
There is one more blow I have still to bear,
When the boys come home and you're not there.
Could I have raised your dying head,
Or heard your last farewell;
The blow would not have been so hard
 To one who loved you well.
Three sad and lonely years have now gone by
 Since my great sorrow fell.

Inserted by his loving wife, Alice Rickard.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 September, 1919)

**Notices were placed in the newspapers in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 & 1930

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private T. J. Rickard does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



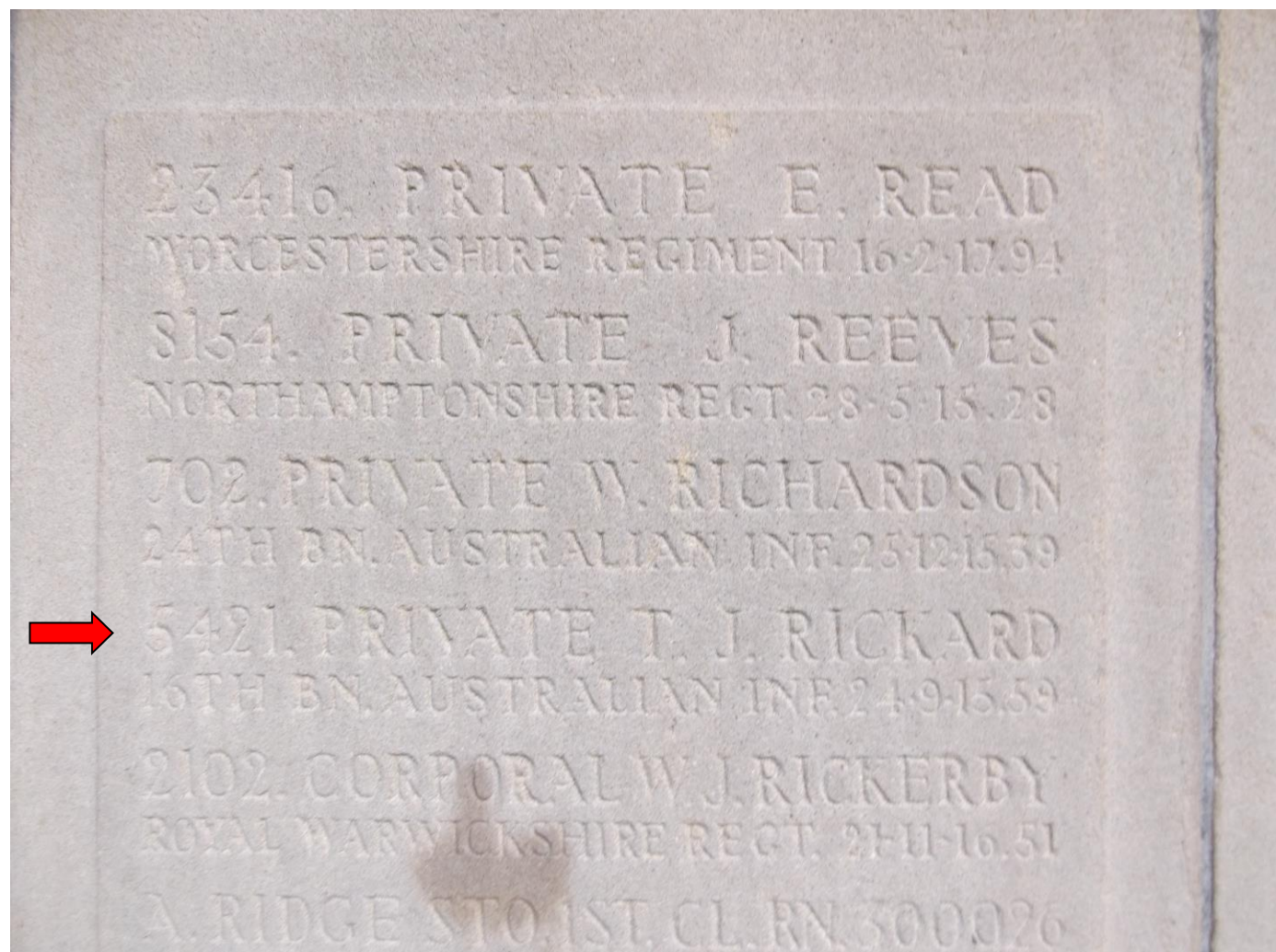
(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



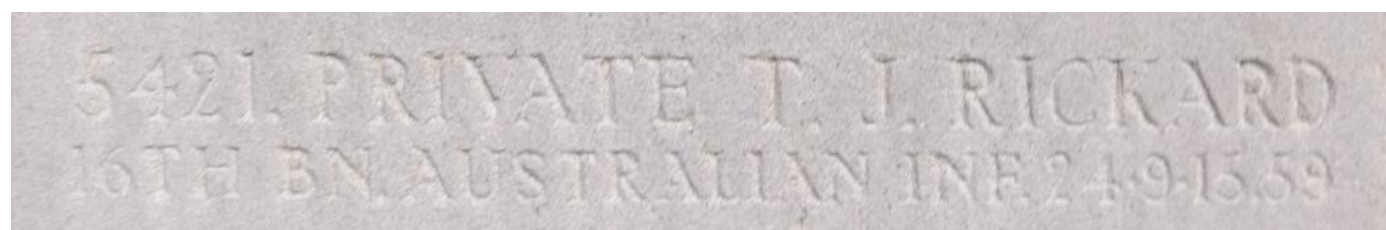
Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham (*Photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Private T. J. Rickard's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)





WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

Lodge Hill Cemetery

