

**Thomas Hamilton KEEGAN
N15418 – Dubbo Depot Battalion**

Thomas Hamilton Keegan is listed on Cumnock’s WW1 Honour Board but should not have been listed. He did enlist in the AIF at Cumnock on 11 April 1916 and was sent to Dubbo Depot Battalion. However, he was absent without leave from the military camp on 12 June 1916 and a warrant for his arrest for desertion was issued by the AIF on the 26 June 1916. There is no information in his war dossier if he was subsequently apprehended.

Thomas Hamilton Keegan was born in Sofala, Bathurst in 1867 to Patrick and Rosaline Keegan. His name was actually Hamilton Riley Keegan and he was the youngest of around six children. His father Patrick was born in Dublin, Ireland, and immigrated to Australia in 1841, aged 22 years.

Thomas Keegan’s attestation file states that he was 45 years old (actually 49 years), his occupation was a labourer and that he was once apprenticed as a blacksmith at Bathurst. His postal address was Forbes and his next of kin was his sister, Mrs Annie Caples, of Bathurst. He was medically examined at Cumnock by Dr Ivie Aird and was noted to be 5 feet 9¾ inches tall, had blue eyes, fair hair and complexion and was of the Catholic religious denomination.

Hamilton Riley Keegan is noted in the Australian Electoral Rolls as living in East Sydney and working as a labourer from 1933-1937. He died aged 72yrs and was buried in a grave with other members of his family in the Catholic Cemetery, Rookwood on 1 Aug 1939.

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Cumnock War Memorial Gates and WW1 Honour Plaque, Obley Street, Cumnock, NSW.