

THOMAS DAY

Thomas Day was never mentioned at the initial inquiry and was only presented as a suspect at the Police Commission in late 1899.

The enigmatic itinerant Thomas Day was about 22 years of age at the time of the murders, he said he was born in Cunnamulla, but this was never substantiated.

He arrived in the Gatton district on the Wednesday the 14th December 1898 saying he came to Gatton via Brisbane from NSW where he had worked for a man named Wilson.

He commenced work for Arthur George Clarke a Gatton butcher on the Friday the 16th December 1898.

It was said he was a strong man who was fond of reading.

His hut was about 300 yards from the fateful sliprails of Moran's paddock.

Saying he wasn't fond of the food he was given he gave Clarke a weeks notice on the 4th of January on was due to finish on Wednesday the 11th of January.

He asked to be let go earlier than the 11th and Clarke refused.

He abused Clarke in front of his children and was paid up and finished on Tuesday the 10th of January.

He went to the police to see if he was required to stay for any reason and being told no he left Gatton by train on the 10th of January 1899 with the police paying his fare as they wanted him to look in on Burgess and report to them if he had seen him before.

He went from Gatton to Toowoomba and returned about 1 week later. He visited the police in Gatton and informed them he had never seen Burgess and stated he was heading for Brisbane.

Sometime between the 17th of January and the 13th May, 1899 he joined the military.

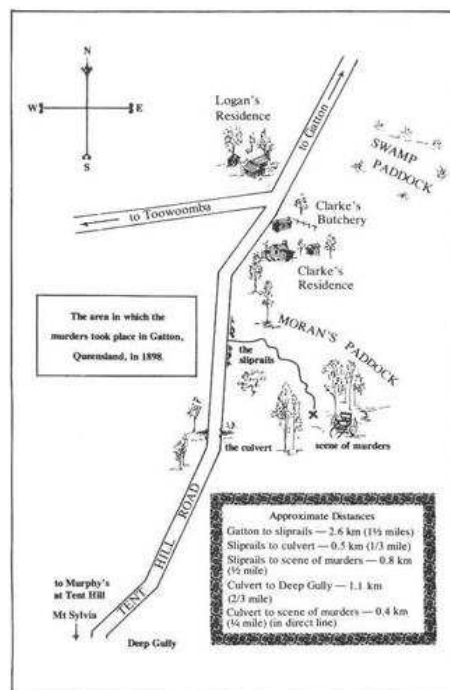
He deserted from "A" Battery, *Queensland Permanent Artillery, at Lytton Fort, on the 13th instant, Thomas Day, gunner. Description :-22 ½ years of age, 5 feet 8 ½ inches high, medium build, fresh complexion, dark-brown hair, hazel eyes; a labourer, and native of Cunnamulla, Queensland. Said to be known to Mr. Clark, Tent Hill.*

After his desertion from the military he is never heard from or about since that day.

He simply vanished.

It was later suspected he was in some way implicated in the murders at Gatton and also the murder of young Alfred Stephen Hill at Oxley on the 7th of December 1898.

These suspicions became a bone of contention at the Police Commission held in late 1899.



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