

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OF SERGEANT RICHARD LIPSEY
TO ACCOMPANY A COLLECTION OF HIS WWI LETTERS**

(Compiled by his great nephew Jeff Ray - October, 2020)

Richard Lipsey was born July 15, 1898 in Riverside, Illinois, U.S.A. Other than a collection of letters written to family during his active duty in service of the U.S. Army as a member of Battery C of the 15th Field Artillery during WWI, only minimal information has been found in family records regarding his life.

The following excerpts from Richard's obituary in a Riverside, Illinois, newspaper might best serve to provide something of Richard's life. Richard died on March 31, 1925, thus the date of the obituary cited here is likely shortly thereafter:

The many friends of Richard Lipsey were shocked to learn of his death Monday night at Camp Kearney, California. He was born in Riverside twenty seven years ago and lived here all his life until he went to France in the war.

He went through the grammar school and would have graduated with the Riverside-Brookfield high school class of 1917 if the war had not broken out that spring. He stopped school to train with the other high school boys who enlisted immediately. He was very soon after sent to France with the 15th Field Artillery, where he was wounded, and was in the hospital twice with pneumonia.

When he returned to Riverside at the end of the war his family knew that he was not well although he had never told them of his illnesses in France. After the death of his mother, Mrs. Andrew Lipsey, Richard went to New Mexico to join his brother Walter who was on a ranch there. His sister Gertrude Lipsey went down to keep house for him a year ago last fall.

Richard was thought by his friends to be getting on very well, but a few months ago they heard that he had gone to California to a hospital. He did not seem to improve and a week ago took a definite turn for the worse.

He is survived by his father, Andrew Lipsey of Riverside, who left for California Tuesday night where his son will, by his own wish, be buried. He is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Rinnander of New Mexico, and Mrs. Richard Heyne of Kansas City, and two brothers, Walter and Gardiner, both of New Mexico.

Richard was a great favorite in the school among his classmates and in the Episcopal Sunday School of which he was a faithful member. He was a fine, upright man, intelligent and very modest. One of his teachers said of him that he was a "boy without a fault".

The following unverified handwritten notes regarding Richard's military service were found in family records:

Enlisted May 11, 1917
Sailed December 12, 1917
Returned April 2, 1919
Discharged Camp Grant, Illinois, May 26, 1919
Sgt. Battery C, 15th Field Artillery; Character Excellent