

**St. Paul's Churchyard,
Rusthall, Kent
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4293 PRIVATE

A. R. SMITH

7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

29TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 19

No Fear Of Self

Saving The Lives Of Others

His Life He Gave

Albert Richmond (Bert) SMITH

Albert Richmond Smith was born at Milawa via Wangaratta, Victoria to parents James and Ellen Smith (nee McNab). His birth was registered in 1897.

Albert Richmond Smith attended the State School at Bonegilla, Victoria.

Albert Richmond Smith stated he was aged 21 years & 7 months, single and a Labourer from Bowling Brake, Pascoe Vale, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne on 27th July, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4293 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Smith of Bowling Brake, Pascoe Vale, Victoria.

Private Albert Richmond Smith was posted to Camp on 27th July, 1915 with "B" Company, 10th Battalion. He was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 25th November, 1915.

Private Albert Richmond Smith embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) on 29th December, 1915.

Private Albert Richmond Smith embarked for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 on Troop ship *Transylvania*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916.

Private Albert Richmond Smith joined Base Depot at Etaples, France on 8th April, 1916.

Private Albert Richmond Smith was marched out from 1st Division Base Depot to join his Unit on 16th June, 1916 & was taken on strength with 7th Battalion in France on 17th June, 1916.

Private Albert Richmond Smith was wounded in action in France between 22-25th July, 1916. Private Albert Richmond Smith was admitted to 26th General Hospital, Etaples, France on 25th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to face & shoulder. He embarked on Hospital Ship *Dieppe* from Calais, France for England on 30th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to shoulder.

According to information supplied by Mrs Ellen Smith, mother of Albert Richmond Smith, for the Roll of Honour "though severely wounded himself his main artery in neck being shot through, he refused to be put on a stretcher till his comrade who was wounded was taken first."

7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the A.I.F. during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front and entered the front line trenches for the first time on 3 May. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley where it fought between 23-27 July and 15-21 August. After Pozieres the battalion manned trenches in the Ypres salient in Belgium, before returning to the Somme valley. It saw out the horrendous winter of 1916-1917 rotating between training, working parties and duty in the trenches.

(Information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 7th Battalion

22nd July, 1916 – LA BOISELLES

Brigade Order issued. 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde to move up in close support to remainder of Division via West side of SAUSAGE VALLEY. South of and inclusive of Trench from X14.d.29 to X.15.C.34. 7th Battalion Operation Order issued. 7th Battalion moved from bivouac at 1830 via road mentioned above and occupied old German fourth line running from X.15.c.23 to X.14.d.29 and old German third line running from X.14.d.91 to X.14.d.07. On the Battalion arriving at trenches at 2000 it was discovered that the units that were supposed to move up along the line had not

evacuated so the men occupied the shell craters in rear of the parados of the trenches until they moved out. The whole Battalion was in the trenches by 2315. The Officers left behind as per Bde. Order were Major A. J. C. Hart, Lieut. W. Campbell, Lieut. A. N. Hamilton, Lieut. F. Hoad, 2/Lieut. W. H. Hamilton, 2/Lieut. K. Purbrick, 2/Lieut. B. Hillard, 2/Lieut. E. J. Hopkins. S

Strength. 34 Officers 968 O'Ranks. (4) O'Ranks from Base Kit guard. (2) O'Ranks to Hospital – sick.

2400 – Assault on POZIERES by 1st and 3rd Infantry Brigades.

23rd July, 1916 – LA BOISELLES and CONTALMAISON

0345 – Officer from Berks reported POZIERES captured, required picks and shovels to dig in. Tools of C and D Coy sent forward, and replaced soon afterwards from GORDON DUMP.

0425 – Instructions received for 2 coys to move forward to BLACK WATCH ALLEY as reserve to 3rd Inf. Bde. A and B Coys under Captain C. H. Swift and 2/Lieut. S. V. Burrow respectively cleared for resting trenches by 0505 and moved via SUNKEN ROAD – BLACK WATCH ALLEY.

0545 – Instructions received for remainder of Battalion to move to and along BLACK WATCH ALLEY and its junction with old German firing line which was reached at 0645.

Battn. Hqrs. Signallers and L.M.G. established in the open behind bank S of the road at X 16 a 8.4. Enemy shelled incessantly during the day and frequently searched the valley between BAILIFF WOOD and CONTALMAISON with H.E. of large calibre.

1205 – A.Z.B. 401 attaching Battn. to 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. C/O to 3rd Bde. Hqrs, CONTALMAISON.

1357 – Word received that R.M.O. Captain J. C. Campbell had been wounded.

1530 – Attachment of Hqrs. and C and D Coys to 3rd Brigade cancelled.

1855 – Word received Lieut, Trawin L.E. wounded.

2016 – G.R.13. sent to 2nd Bde. asking if 7th Battalion was still on reserve to 3rd Bde. as instructions were still being received from that Office. Reply received at 2140 that only A and B Coys. were under orders of 3rd Bde.

2010 – Captain S. P. Lyttle A.M.C. reported as R.M.O. Heavy and consistent shelling during the night A and B Coys. carrying rations, ammunition and Bombs for 3rd Bde.

(Information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Albert Richmond Smith was admitted to Rust Hall V.A.D. Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, England on 30th July, 1916 with bullet wounds to neck.

The Commanding Officer of Rusthall Hospital reported on 27th August, 1916 that Private Albert Richmond Smith was not expected to live.

Private Albert Richmond Smith was reported on 29th August, 1916 to be dying due to severed artery caused by shrapnel wounds.

Private Albert Richmond Smith died at 10.45 am on 29th August, 1916 at Rusthall V.A.D. Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England from wounds received in action in France – died of Secondary Haemorrhage – shrapnel wounds to neck causing severed artery.

A death for Albert Smith, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Tonbridge, Kent, England.

Private Albert Richmond Smith was buried in St. Paul's Churchyard, Rusthall, Kent, – Plot number 9. 19 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P12499.002

The funeral of Private Albert Richmond Smith



The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Albert Richmond Smith contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death & burial of Pte Smith. A letter from Rachel M. Ard, Commandant (Rusthall) Voluntary Hospital, dated 16th August, 1916 reads: "No. 4293, Private Albert R. Smith, of the 7th Aus. I.F., A Coy. was brought in here with a severe gunshot wound in the neck. He

got secondary haemorrhage on Friday last and in Saturday Colonel Sir Frederick Eve operated on him. We have a special night and day nurse sister with him and he is doing splendidly. I reported him to the Commandant by wire on Saturday as we thought his relations might know. I hope to be able to report that he is out of danger in a few days. In the meantime I wish you could communicate with his father and mother at Bollingbrooke Rd, Pascoe Vale, via Coburg, Melbourne. The worst danger is passed.

The Commandant Rust Hall V.A.D. Hospital wrote on 17th August, 1916: *"Still serious – but advise mother worst over."*

The Commandant Rust Hall V.A.D. Hospital wrote on 21st August, 1916: *"Still serious but advise Mother. A relapse condition dangerous."*

A letter from Rachel M. Ard, O.C. V.A.D. Hospital, Rust Hall, Tunbridge Wells reads: *"Pte A. Smith, No. 4293, 7th A.I.F., A. Coy. died at 10.45 am on 29th Aug. /16 from secondary haemorrhage. The shrapnel which entered his throat at the back of the tongue caused it to go septic and his carotid artery (right) was severed. This was tied by Colonel Sir Frederick Eve, who operated on 12/8/16. Pte Smith was not in any great pain and he had a very nice ward to himself and the best surgical sister for night and another for day that anyone could have. For nine days all went well and then on the 20th the tying sloughed off, the artery being so septic and again gave way. The Surgeons came at once and plugged his throat, saying if they tied the artery higher up it would cause him to be paralysed, the plugging lasted seven days and then it gave way too, the throat having been so poisoned and the surgeons tied the artery again on the 24th. Smith was quite conscious and not in any very great pain, but after the last operation was quite paralysed down the side and could not lift his hand or foot, and on the 25th, one side of his face was also paralysed. He was conscious up to midnight on the 25th, when he fell into a sleep from which he never awoke.*

The funeral was from here on Thursday last and was a full military one. The church is only a quarter of a mile away and the coffin was borne to the church by six men of the A.I.F. Over one hundred of our wounded patients followed and all the detachment, and the Australian Red Cross Officer. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and was preceded by fifteen men of the 3/5 Queen's, with arms reversed. The Vicar and choir met the coffin at the church door and we had a beautiful service with hymns. There was a firing party at the grave and the Last Post was sounded. I will forward a copy of our local paper. I have written a full account for the relatives and sent his mother photos, and a lock of his hair, also his personal belongings."

List of men of the A.I.F., who carried the coffin:-

No. 2814, Pte C. P. Henley, 59th Battalion

No. 3301, Pte L. P. Welch, 57th Battalion

No. 3120, Pte H. J. Pressley, 58th Battalion

No. 850, Pte G. Campbell, 50th Battalion

No. 4908, Pte D. M. White, 54th Battalion

No. 5382, Pte C. G. Harris, 54th Battalion

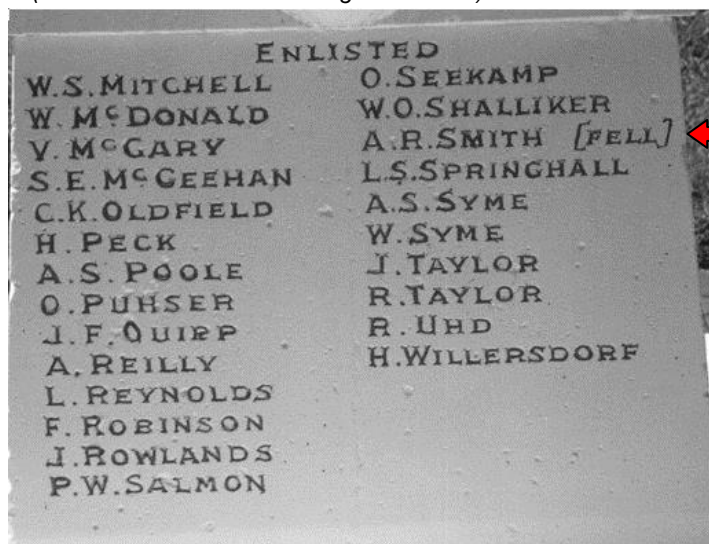
Pte Albert Richmond Smith was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Smith's father - Mr J. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Richmond Smith – service number 4293, aged 19, of 7th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Ellen Smith, of 1 Rock Brook, East St. Kilda, Victoria. Born at Oxley Flats, Wangaratta, Victoria.

A. R. Smith is remembered on the Pascoe Vale War Memorial Fountain, located in Rogers Reserve, Cumberland Road, Pascoe Value, Victoria.



Pascoe Vale War Memorial Fountain (Photos from Victorian Heritage Database)



Private A. R. Smith is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 51.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(51 pages of Pte Albert Richmond Smith'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Pte Albert Richmond Smith

Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

198th LIST

WOUNDED

VICTORIA

A. R. SMITH, Pascoevale

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

214th AND 215th LISTS ISSUED

DIED OF WOUNDS

VICTORIA

SMITH, Pte A. R., Pascoe Vale, 29/8/16

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 September, 1916)

FOR THE EMPIRE

A cable message has been received that Private Albert Richmond Smith, fourth son of Mr Jas. Smith, of Strathlinden, Pascoe Vale, Melbourne, died on 29th August in the Rusthall Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, England, from wounds received while fighting in France. The late Private Smith was only 19 years of age, and was twelve months on service. He was the brother of Miss Nellie Smith, late of Beaufort.

(*Riponshire Advocate*, Victoria – 23 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In sad & loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte A. R. Smith, 7th Battalion, who died in Voluntary Hospital, Rust Hall, Tunbridge Wells, on the 29th August, 1916, from wounds received in France.

Duty nobly done.

Under the flag of the five-starred cross,

The pride of the southern sea,

He laid down his life in the deadly strife

To keep Australia free.

But we know the grief we'll have to bear

When the boys come home and he is not there.

- Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brother.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Albert Richmond Smith, 7th Battalion, who died of wounds in Rusthall Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, 29th August, 1916, aged 19 years.

Duty nobly done.

-(Inserted by his loved ones, Pascoevale)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In proud & loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte A. R. Smith, 7th Batt., who died of wounds 29th August, 1916, at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England.

He rests in a shroud of glory,
Every debt of honour paid.

-(Inserted by his loved ones, "Larowane," Riponlea.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private A. R. Smith, 7th Batt., who died of wounds received at Pozieres, 29th August, 1916.

Ever remembered.

-(Inserted by his loving sister, Victoria)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of our dear brother, Albert Richmond, died of wounds received in France 29th August, 1916.

A beautiful memory left behind
Of a loving brother, true and kind,
One of the best the world contained
We have lost, but heaven has gained.

- (Inserted by his loving sisters, Rene and Dot.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of my dear brother, Albert Richmond, who died of wounds 29th August, 1916.

Memories.

- (Inserted by his loving sister Rene, Olive grove, Pascoevale.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1923)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Pte A. R. Smith does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

No Fear Of Self

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His Life He Gave

St. Paul's Churchyard, Rusthall, Kent, England

St. Paul's Churchyard, Rusthall contains 15 Commonwealth War Graves – 13 relate to World War 1 & 2 are from World War 2.



(Photo by js – Find a Grave)

Photo of Pte A. R. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Paul's Churchyard, Rusthall, Kent, England.



(Photo by js – Find a Grave)