

**Sutton Veny,  
Wiltshire, England  
War Graves  
World War 1**



*Lest We Forget*



**2873 PRIVATE**

**A. L. T. SMITH**

**46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**27TH FEBRUARY, 1917**

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. L. T. Smith is located in*

*Grave Plot # 284. C. 9. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Arthur Leslie Thomas SMITH

Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was born at Tamworth, NSW in 1894 to parents Thomas Joseph & Bridget Smith (nee Dignam).

Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith attended St. Joseph's Convent, Warialda, New South Wales.

Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Kywarrah, Topwater via Barraba, NSW when he enlisted at Armidale, NSW on 1st November, 1916 of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – T. J. Smith of Kywarrah, Topwater via Barraba, NSW.

(The Embarkation Roll & one of the Attestation Papers states Kywarrah, Topwater via Barraba, NSW. Another copy of Attestation Paper shows "Barra" crossed out & "Bingara" written instead & the Application to enlist in the A.I.F. form states "Topwater near Bingara" & the War Pension form also has the address "Bingara". The personal effects of Private Smith were sent to "Topwater via Barraba". The Roll of Honour information supplied by his father recorded he was connected to Bingara, New South Wales,)

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith, Service number 2873, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on SS *Port Napier* on 17th November, 1916 with the 46th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th January, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was marched in to 12th Training Battalion, Camp No. 14 at Codford, Wiltshire from Australia on 30th January, 1917.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was sent sick to Hospital on 15th February, 1917.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith died on 27th February, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Arthur L. Smith, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was buried on 3rd March, 1917 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 284.

A War Pension was granted to Thomas Joseph Smith, father of the late Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith in the sum of £1/10/- per fortnight from 4th May, 1917.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Smith's father – Mr T. J. Smith (Scroll sent August, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith, Service number 2873, of 46th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.. He was the son of Thomas Joseph and Bridget Smith of Kywareah, Topwater, Barraba, New South Wales. Born at Tamworth.

Private A. L. T. Smith is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 142.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

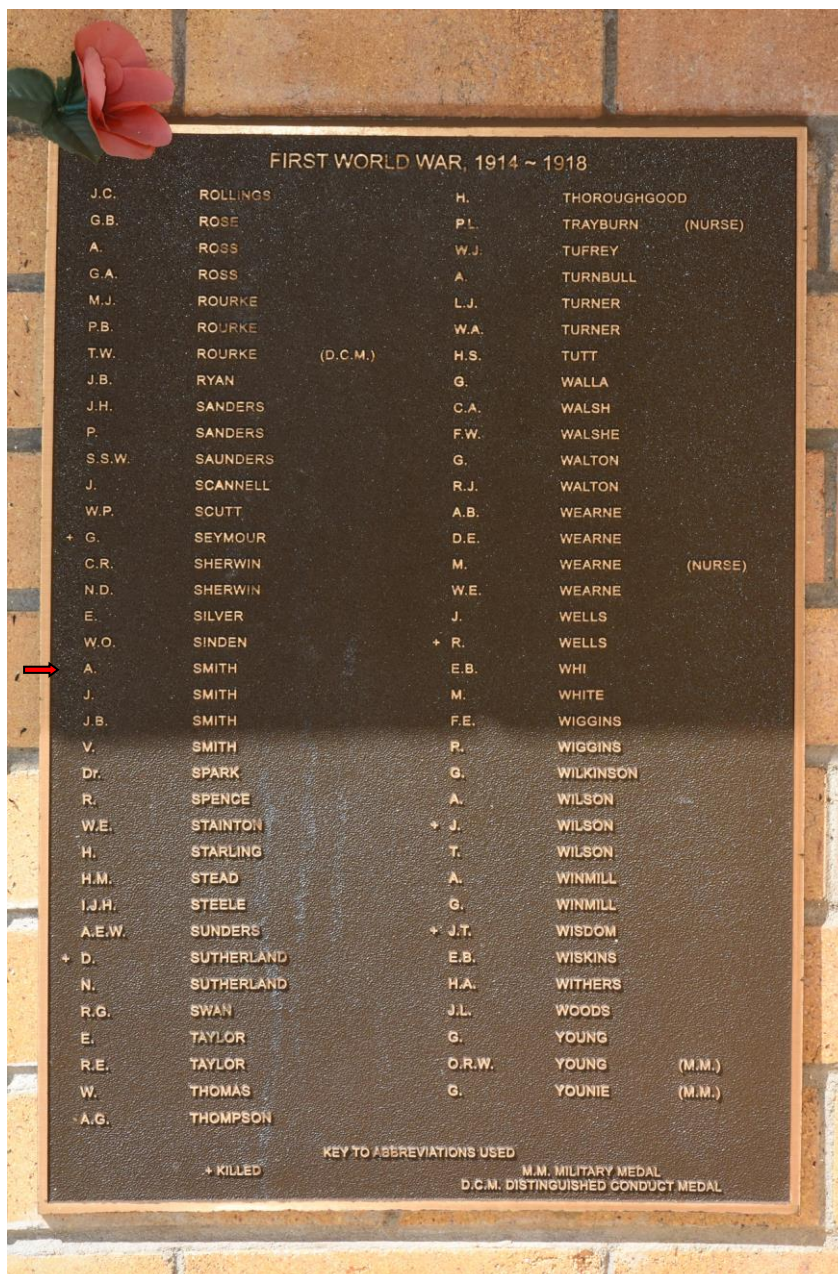
A. Smith is remembered on the Bingara Honour Roll for 1914 – 1918, located in Bingara Memorial Park, Finch Street, Bingara, New South Wales.



**Bingara Memorial Park** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Bingara Honour Roll for 1914 – 1918



(35 pages of Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



**Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith**

## **Newspaper Reports**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **LIST No. 279**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Private A. L. T. Smith (Barraba)

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – Friday 16 March, 1917)*

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### **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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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)*

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England**

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. The 26th Division was concentrated at Sutton Veny in April 1915 and No 1 Australian Command was there from the end of 1916 to October 1919. There was also a hutted military hospital of more than 1200 beds at Sutton Veny for much of the war and No 1 Australian General Hospital was stationed there after the Armistice. Sutton Veny (St John) Churchyard contains 168 First World War burials, 167 of them in a plot at the north west corner of the church. Of these, 143 are Australian. There is only one Second World War burial in the churchyard.

*(Information & colour photos from CWGC)*



**War Graves at Sutton Veny**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376





Photo of Private A. L. T. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*