

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2821 PRIVATE

CLIVE PERCIVAL SMITH

20TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 29

*He Gave His Life
For King & Country*

Clive Percival SMITH

Clive Percival Smith was born at Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW in 1889 to parents William Henry and Amy Mary Louisa Smith.

Clive Percival Smith attended Bourke Street Public School, (Surry Hills) Sydney, NSW.

Clive Smith was a 26 year old, single, Painter from 30 Chelsea Street, Redfern, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 19th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2821 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Smith, of 30 Chelsea Street, Redfern, NSW. Clive Smith stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been apprenticed with his father for 5 years.

Private Clive Percival Smith was posted to 6th Reinforcements of 20th Battalion for recruit training (no date recorded).

Private Clive Smith embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 2nd November, 1915 with the 20th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private Clive Smith was taken on strength of 20th Battalion at Australia Hill on 5th February, 1916.

Private Clive Smith embarked from Alexandria on H.M.T. *Ingoma* on 18th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th March, 1916.

Private Clive Smith was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 6th November, 1916 suffering from exhaustion. He rejoined his Battalion in the Field on 14th November, 1916.

Private Clive Smith was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 25th November, 1916 with Laryngitis. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 25th November, 1916 then transferred & admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station between 3rd & 5th December, 1916 with Influenza. Pte Smith was transferred to No. 17 Ambulance Train & admitted to 2nd General Hospital at Havre, France on 6th December, 1916 with Influenza. Pte Smith was transferred from 2nd General Hospital to No. 4 Convalescent Depot at Havre, France on 18th December, 1916 with Bronchitis.

Private Clive Smith was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France from Convalescent Depot on 31st December, 1916. He was marched out to his Unit from 2nd A.D.B.D. on 25th January, 1917 & rejoined 20th Battalion in the Field on 26th January, 1917.

Private Clive Smith was sent to Field Ambulance on 13th February, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 19th February, 1917.

Private Clive Smith was wounded in action in France on 20th September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 20th September, 1917 – cause N.Y.D.N. (not yet diagnosed neurosis (shell shock)) & transferred the same day to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Smith was admitted to New Zealand Stationary Hospital on 23rd September, 1917 (N.Y.D. - not yet diagnosed). A report on soldiers "*without any visible wounds*" was completed at New Zealand Stationary Hospital on 26th September, 1917 on Pte Smith. The Report recorded that Pte Smith stated he was in support trenches on 20th September, 1917 when at 10 pm a shell burst near him & buried him. His condition on admission to the New Zealand Stationary Hospital was listed as "*had general nervousness with slight tremor of hands & tongue.... no sign of injury to body....*". The O.C. "C" Coy stated that a shell had landed near Pte Smith "*& buried him. The same shell killed one man & wounded three others, two of which have since died of wounds.*" Pte Smith was transferred to Ambulance Train 14 on 28th September, 1917. He was admitted to 1st S. A. General Hospital at Abbeville, France on 29th September, 1917 then transferred to 2nd Convalescent Depot on 4th October, 1917.

Private Clive Smith was diagnosed as Shell Shock (wounded) in France (not date recorded).

War Diary – 20th Battalion

Westhoek Ridge – 20th September, 1917:

The battalion attacked and took its objective. Repelled & counter attack.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Clive Smith was admitted to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Cayeux on 4th October, 1917 then discharged to Base on 20th October, 1917.

Private Clive Smith was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France from Cayeux on 21st October, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 1st November, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion from Hospital in 3rd November, 1917.

Private Clive Smith was on leave to England from Belgium from 12th February, 1918 & rejoined 20th Battalion from leave on 2nd March, 1918.

Private Clive Smith was wounded in action in France (2nd occasion) on 7th April, 1918 (Note – the Medical Case Sheet states that Pte Smith was wounded 9th April, 1918). He was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance on 9th April, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to both legs then transferred the same day to 41st Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Smith was transferred & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 12th April, 1918. Pte Smith embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 18th April, 1918 with gunshot wounds to legs & back.

War Diary – 20th Battalion

7th April, 1918 – In The Line:

Weather – Heavy showers in the morning.

Operation – “C” Coy attacked HANGARD WOOD in accordance with Order no 40. Objectives were reached. Owing to failure on left flank and heavy enemy counter attacks, attacking Coy was forced to withdraw to the WOOD.

Reinforced by “D” Coy at 8.30 am heavy fighting took place causing us 150 casualties and the enemy casualties estimated at 750 killed

7.30pm – Attacking Coy’s withdraw to original line suffering casualties from snipers 2 machine guns and 3 prisoners taken 30 o.rs killed in action..... and 50 o.rs wounded. 5 men were evacuated to hospital sick...

9th April, 1918 – In The Line:

Weather – Fine.

Enemy shell fire in the Sector heavy. The enemy making a feint attack on Right Coy Sector with a view to securing HANGARD on our right. 1 Platoon of “B” Coy assisted French in HANGARD

Relief – 36th Battalion A.I.F. relieved us from the line commencing 10 pm.

CO. Advised Bde on operation

1 man killed and 16 o.rs wounded and 1 to hospital sick. 13 men rejoined Unit from Hospital.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

20th Battalion

The 20th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.

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After further training in Egypt, the 20th Battalion proceeded to France. It entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time in April 1916 and in the following month had the dubious honour of being the first Australian battalion to be raided by the Germans. The 20th took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 20th Battalion provided reinforcements for the attack near Flers

between 14 and 16 November, launched in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.

In 1917, the 20th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost five times as strong, at Lagnicourt. The Battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

The spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive. The 20th Battalion was one of many Australian battalions rushed to stop it, and it encountered some particularly severe fighting when ordered to attack at Hangard Wood on 7 April. With the German Army's last desperate offensive defeated, the 20th participated in the battles that pushed it ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaurevoir Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle of the war. It was disbanded on 20 April 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Clive Smith was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 19th April, 1918. He was operated on 26th April, 1918, again operated on 6th May, 1918 – ankle joint & operated on again on 4th June, 1918. Pte Smith was placed on the dangerously ill list at 12.30 pm on 19th July, 1918. He was operated on 29th July, 1918 with the amputation of left foot. Pte Smith was operated on again on 5th August, 1918.



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private Clive Percival Smith died at 5.40 am on 14th August, 1918 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action – gunshot wounds to ankle, left amputated; gunshot wounds to right foot & gunshot wounds to back, Empyema & Septicaemia.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Clive Percival Smith contains a letter from Sister G. St. G. Horne for Matron, Royal Victoria Hospital Netley which reads: *“Re the above named soldier, who died in this Hospital on the 14-8-18. He was admitted on the 19-4-18 with a very severe gun shot wound of foot which necessitated, after he had been in Hpl about 6 weeks, having it amputated. Soon after this was done, he developed serious chest troubles and had an operation for Empyema. After this, he showed a very slight improvement for a few days, but gradually got*

worse and worse. The Surgeons considered that he really died from general Septicaemia caused from the very bad condition of his wound. He was buried in the Military Cemetery at Netley. The No of his grave being 1960."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Clive Percival Smith contains another letter from Private R. Stenbridge, 6178, 20th Battalion (Private address – "Mascotts, Anglesea Street, Bondi), regarding Private Clive Percival Smith, which reads: "I was in "A" Company. I knew Smith in "C" Company. We called him "Monk". He was about 5ft. 5" in height, dark and medium build. I saw him in Royal Victoria Netley Hospital Southampton in August 1918. He landed there on the 19th August. We both landed together. He died in the Hospital. He had his foot amputated. He said he was wounded at the Dressing Station at Hangard Wood. If this is the right Smith I would like to go and see his people."

A death for Clive P. Smith, aged 27, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private Clive Percival Smith was buried at 2 pm on 16th August, 1918 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number C.E. 1960 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Clive Percival Smith - *Coffin was good, polished Elm with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party and Bugler were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack". The service at the graveside was conducted by Chaplain the Rev. A. E. Lane Sansam, and the "Last Post" was sounded. No relatives were present at the funeral. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Private Clive Percival Smith was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Smith's father – Mr W. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Clive Percival Smith – service number 2821, aged 29, of 20th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Henry and Amy Mary Louisa Smith, of 30 Chelsea St., Redfern, New South Wales.

Private C. P. 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 92.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Smith is remembered on the Memorial Gates at the entrance of the former St. Paul's Anglican Church, located at Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 242 Cleveland Street, Redfern, NSW.



Memorial Gates at the former St. Paul's Anglican Church, Redfern (Photos from Monument Australia)



C. P. Smith is remembered on the Redfern Town Hall Honour Roll, located at Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt Street, Redfern, NSW.



Redfern Town Hall Honour Roll (Photo from *Register of War Memorials in NSW*)

(82 pages of Private Clive Percival 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



Newspaper Notices

MORE CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wounded

Pte CLIVE SMITH, Redfern

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 2 November, 1917)

CASUALTY LISTS

The following casualties are contained in the 397th and 398th lists:-

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wounded

Pte CLIVE SMITH, Redfern

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 10 May, 1918)

427th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte CLIVE SMITH, Redfern

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 6 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In fond memory of my dear son, Private Clive Smith, of Redfern, 20th Battalion, died of wounds, Netley Hospital, England, August 14, 1918.

Could I, his mother, have clasped his hand,
The son I loved so well;
And kissed his brow when death was near,
And whispered, "My son, farewell."
I seem to see his dear sweet face
In a mist of anxious tears
But a mother's part is a broken heart,
And a burden of lonely years.

Inserted by his loving mum, dad, brothers and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Clive Smith, died of wounds in England, August 14, 1918.

To-day as I look at your photo,
A likeness so loving and true;
Do you know how our hearts are aching
And longing, dear Clive, for you.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, Will and Amy, and brothers and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 August, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of our my dear son, Private Clive T. Smith, died of wounds, August 14, 1918.

He sailed on his last commission
In a beautiful boat called Rest;
He was an Australian hero,
One of the bravest and best.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, brothers and sisters. Redfern

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 August, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Clive Smith, Redfern, died of wounds in England, August 14, 1918.

Some day we'll meet again, Clive;
Some day, we know not when,
To clasp your hand in a better land,
Never to part again.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, brothers and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 August, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of my dear son, Clive Smith (Redfern), died of wounds on August 14, 1918, in Netley Hospital, England.

When last I saw your smiling face
You looked so strong and brave;
I little thought how soon you'd be
Laid in a soldier's grave.

Inserted by his loving mother and father, Amy and Will Smith, brothers, and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 August, 1923)

**** Amy Mary Smith, mother of the late Private Clive Percival Smith, died on 16 September, 1923.**

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of my dear son and brother, Private C. P. Smith, 20th Battalion, died of wounds, August 14, 1918.

Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten.

Inserted by his loving father, brothers, and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 August, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Private Clive P. Smith, 20th Battalion, died of wounds, August 14, 1918.

Just a memory, fond and true,
To show, dear Clive, we think of you.

Inserted by his loving father, sisters and brothers.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 August, 1925)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of my our dear son and brother, Private Clive Smith, died of wounds, August 14, 1918.

Inserted by his loving father, sisters and brothers.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 September, 1928)

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)

Private Clive Percival Smith does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Gave His Life For King & Country

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private Clive Percival Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery