

**Chingford Mount Cemetery,  
Essex  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

**H. C. SMITH**

**2ND/1ST QUEEN'S OWN OXFORDSHIRE HUSSARS**

**10TH OCTOBER, 1916    Age 21**

## Harold Crawford SMITH

Harold Crawford Smith was born around 1895 to parents Bertha & Thomas Crawford Smith. (A birth for a "Harold Smith" was registered in 1895 in Broken Hill, NSW to parents Thomas & Bertha Smith).

Harold Crawford Smith left South Australia in April, 1914 for South America according to a newspaper report (see below). Frederick Crawford Smith (listed on Harold's Probate as a beneficiary) was recorded in a passenger list as a Landowner travelling from Buenos Aires, Argentina & arriving at Southampton, England on 25th May, 1913.

Harold Crawford Smith gained a commission in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars & according to Commonwealth War Graves Commission was with 2nd/1st Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars.

From the *London Gazette* – 27 April, 1916:

*Oxfordshire (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars); Harold Crawford Smith to be Second Lieutenant. Dated 28th April, 1915.*

### **2/1st Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars**

The 2nd Line regiment was formed at Oxford in September 1914. In January 1915 it was with 2/2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade and in April 1915 it joined 2/2nd Mounted Division at King's Lynn in Norfolk. On 31 March 1916, the remaining Mounted Brigades were ordered to be numbered in a single sequence; the brigade was numbered as 11th Mounted Brigade and the division as 3rd Mounted Division.

In July 1916, the regiment was converted to a cyclist unit in 9th Cyclist Brigade, 1st Mounted Division (3rd Mounted Division renamed). The brigade was renumbered as the 5th Cyclist Brigade at Bridge near Canterbury. In February 1917, it joined the 4th Cyclist Brigade at Ipswich, in July at Wivenhoe, in November at Frinton and then to Manningtree. About January 1918 it went to Ireland with the 4th Cyclist Brigade and was stationed at Dublin until the end of the war. (*Information on 2/1st QOOH from Wikipedia*)

Second Lieutenant Harold Crawford Smith died on 10th October, 1916 at Walthamstow, Essex, England as a result of a motor cycle accident.

F. Collins, Coroner, completed an Inquest on 13th October, 1916.

Newspaper Article – Essex Newsman, England – 14 October, 1916:

### **MOTOR CYCLIST KILLED**

*Lieut. H. Crawford Smith, Oxfordshire Hussars, while motor cycling in the Woodford New Road on Tuesday, ran into a motor lorry, and was thrown on this his wrecked machine. The petrol tank was ripped open and Mr Smith was drenched with the spirit, which immediately ignited. The driver of a passing motor 'bus subdued the flames with a chemical fire extinguisher, but was too late to save the officer's life. The body was taken to Walthamstow mortuary.*

A death for Harold Crawford-Smith, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of West Ham, Essex, England.

Second Lieutenant Harold Crawford Smith was buried on 16th October, 1916 in Chingford Mount Cemetery, Essex, England – Plot number C10. 3513 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper Article – *The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia - 25 January, 1917:

**LATE LIEUT. H. C. SMITH**

*News has been received of the death, as the result of a motor accident, of Second Lieut. Harold Crawford Smith, a son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Crawford Smith, of Kirkcaldy road, Grange. The deceased officer left South Australia for South America in April, 1914, and when war was declared he went to England and gained a commission in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars. He served for two years with this regiment, which was then disbanded. At the time of his death, he was keenly preparing himself for service with the Royal Flying Corps. Lieut.-Col. Charles Nichole, of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, writing to Mrs. Smith, said her son was highly popular among the officers and men, and the country had lost a most promising officer. Lieut. Smith was killed instantly, as the result of an accident while riding a motor cycle in England. The Coroner at the inquest said this was one of the saddest cases he had ever investigated. The young fellow had come from one of the dominions to give his life for his country, and no doubt would have been quite willing to sacrifice himself, but he had been taken another way. The deceased officer was buried with military honours at Chingford Mount Cemetery. His brother, Cpl. W. H. Smith, of South Australia, was one of the mourners. Lieut. Smith was 21 years of age. While in South Australia he was a member of the Henley Beach Sailing Club, and took a keen interest in all forms of sport.*



**LATE LIEUT. H. C. SMITH**

Probate details:

Smith, Harold Crawford, of the Estancia Picarya province of Cordoba, Argentine, died 10 October, 1916 at Walthamstow, Essex, on active service. Probate – London 27 December, to Arthur Humbert, Sherry Shipper, and Arthur Williams and Frederick Crawford Smith, esquires. Effects £4,100 14s. 9d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Harold Crawford Smith, aged 21, of 2nd/1st Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars. He was the brother of Corporal William Harold Smith. Born in Australia. Arrived in England late 1914.

Second Lieutenant Harold Crawford Smith is now remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

*UPDATE – Second Lieutenant Harold Crawford Smith’s name was submitted to the Australian War Memorial for possible eligibility on the Commemorative Roll by myself in May, 2019.*

*The Australian War Memorial advised me in December, 2019 that The Australian War Memorial’s Director had approved the addition of Second Lieutenant Harold Crawford Smith’s name to the Commemorative Roll.*



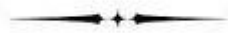
**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (Capital Photographer)





**Harold Crawford-Smith**  
2nd. Lieut., Q. O. Oxfordshire  
Hussars.

*(Photo courtesy of Keith Brain)*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **FATAL ACCIDENT TO AN OFFICER OF THE OXFORDSHIRE HUSSARS BURNT TO DEATH**

Lieutenant Crawford Smith, Oxfordshire Hussars, was killed on Tuesday in the Woodford New Road. A motor-cycle which he was driving came into collision with a motor lorry and was wrecked. The petrol tank was ripped open and the spirit ignited and enveloped the injured man in flame. The driver of a passing omnibus subdued the flames with a chemical fire extinguisher, but was too late to save life.

*(Banbury Guardian, Oxfordshire, England - 12 October, 1916)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **THE LATE LIEUTENANT H. SMITH**

Mr T. Crawford Smith, of the Grange, has had news that his son, Lieutenant Harold Smith, of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, has been killed in an accident.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 October, 1916)*

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### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HEROES**

#### **LIEUT. H. C. SMITH**

News has been received of the death of Lieut. Harold Crawford Smith, who was practically the fountain head of the Henley Beach Sailing Club, and did much for sport in that popular seaside resort before he heard his country's call. It appears the deceased officer was killed as a result of a motor accident.

*(Winner, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 January, 1917)*

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### **Death Notices for Harold Crawford Smith's father & brother:**

#### **DEATHS**

SMITH – On the 26th June, at his residence, 120 Cambridge-terrace, Malvern, Thomas Crawford, beloved husband of Bertha Smith (late of Grange), aged 64 years.

*(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 29 June, 1920)*

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#### **MARRIAGES**

SMITH – SUTTON – The marriage was recently celebrated at St. Paul's Church, Bristol, England, by the Rev: H. J. Gulley, of Lieut. William Harold Smith, M.C., second son of Mr T. Crawford Smith, late of the Grange, South Australia and Louisa Adelisa, third daughter of Mr J. R. Sutton, F.R.I.B.A., late of St. Vincent's Hall, Clifton, England.

*(The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 June, 1919)*

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## DEATHS

SUTTON-SMITH – On the 31st May, at Roehampton, the result of a riding accident, Capt. William Harold Sutton-Smith, M.C., (formerly of Estancia La Picasa, Washington, Argentine), second son of the late Mr and Mrs Crawford-Smith, of Orford, Surbiton, and dearly beloved husband of Addie Sutton-Smith, in his 38th Year.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 July, 1928)

## Chingford Mount Cemetery, Essex, England

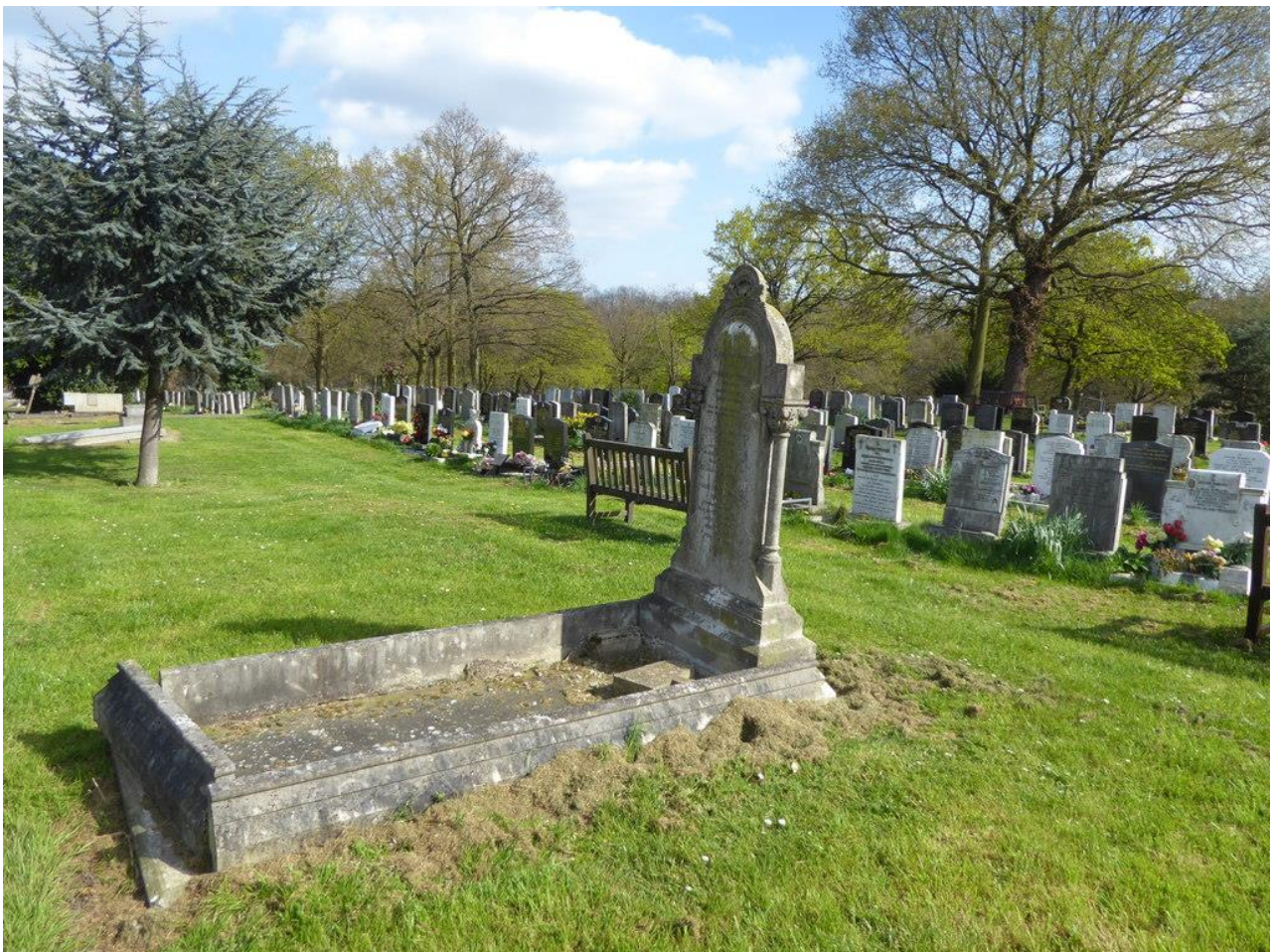
There are 139 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 182 from the 1939-1945 war, throughout the cemetery. There is also 1 non war service burial. Those whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a low Screen Wall Memorial surrounding the main War Graves Plot, (Section F.13.) The Cross of Sacrifice is located at the end of Plot E8. (*Information from CWGC*)



(Photo by Christine Johnstone– Find a Grave)



*(Photo by Christine Johnstone– Find a Grave)*



**Chingford Mount Cemetery** *(Photo by Marathon – Find a Grave)*



## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Second Lieutenant Harold Crawford Smith does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone.

Photo of Second Lieutenant Harold Crawford Smith's Private Headstone in Chingford Mount Cemetery, Essex, England.



(Photo by Claire- Find a Grave 2017)



(Photo by julia&keld – 2010))

*In*  
*Affectionate Remembrance*  
*Of*  
**HAROLD CRAWFORD SMITH**  
*Lieutenant, Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars*  
*Who Was Killed By Accident On The 10TH October, 1916,*  
*Aged 21 Years.*

*And Of His Sister*  
*RUBY CRAWFORD LEWIS,*  
*Beloved Wife Of Robert Lewis*  
*Of Adelaide, South Australia,*  
*Who Died April 6TH, 1930,*  
*Aged 36 Years*