

**Cambridge City Cemetery,
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2694 PRIVATE

H. C. N. SMITH

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH JUNE, 1917 Age 22

Pro Deo Et Patria

Greater Love

Hath No Man Than This

Harry Crombie Newton SMITH

Harry Crombie Newton Smith was born at Malvern, Victoria in 1895 to parents Harry Crombie Smith and Florence Helena Smith (nee Newton).

Harry Crombie Newton Smith attended the State School at Toorong Road, Malvern, Victoria.

Harry Crombie Newton Smith was a 20 year old, single, Labourer from "St. Heliers", Eskdale Road, Caulfield, Victoria when he enlisted on 22nd April, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2694 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs F. Smith, "St. Heliers", Eskdale Road, Caulfield, Victoria.

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith was posted to Depot – 14th Company on 28th April, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 28th May, 1915 then transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 1st July, 1915 (a second Statement of Service form has the date transferred to 8th Reinforcements as 16th July, 1915).

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on SS *Makarini* on 15th September, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith was admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital at Cairo on 31st December, 1915 with Mumps. He was discharged to duty on 21st January, 1916.

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith was taken on strength from Reinforcements on 22nd February, 1916 at Serapeum.

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith embarked from Alexandria on 25th March, 1916 on *Briton* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th March, 1916.

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith was sent to Field Ambulance in France on 17th December, 1916. He was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance on 20th December, 1916 with Trench Feet. Private Smith was transferred & admitted to No. 4 General Hospital at Camiers on 1st January, 1917. He embarked for England from Havre on 3rd January, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle*.

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith was admitted to County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, England on 5th January, 1917 with Trench Feet.

Mrs Smith, of "St. Heliers" Eskdale Road, Caulfield, Victoria, mother of Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith, was advised on 15th January, 1917 that Private H. C. N. Smith had been admitted to the County of Middlesex Hospital, suffering from Trench Feet – mild.

5th Battalion

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

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders then returning to the Somme for winter.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith was transferred to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England on 27th February, 1917.

Mrs F. Smith, of Pine Hill, Yarra Road, Croydon, Victoria, mother of Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith, was advised by Base Records on 6th March, 1917 that Private H. C. N. Smith had been admitted to the 1st Eastern General Hospital on 27th February, 1917 suffering from suspected cerebro spinal meningitis.

Mr G. H. Wise, Esq, House of Representatives, The Parliament of the Commonwealth, Melbourne, wrote to Base Records on 25th March, 1917 enquiring about Private H. C. N. Smith, who was his nephew & had been reported as seriously ill about 2 or 3 weeks earlier. Base Records replied on 28th March, 1917 stating that Private H. C. N. Smith had been last reported as suffering from suspected cerebro spinal meningitis, severs, & that no progress report had yet been received.

Flo Smith, of Pine Hill, Yarra Road, Croydon, Victoria, mother of Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith, wrote to Base Records on 13th May, 1917 asking for further news of her son *"it is a month or so since the last report "not, so well" was received, as he has been "seriously" ill in the previous reports, the last report is not very satisfactory, so will you kindly try & find out the condition of my son..."*

Base Records replied to Mrs Smith on 16th May, 1917 stating that no particulars had been received since 5th April last & *"in the absence of same it is to be assumed he is progressing favourably, the practice of the overseas Authorities being to notify the Department should any change for the worse take place in a soldier's condition."*

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith died at 12.45 am on 9th June, 1917 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Harry Smith, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith was buried at 3 pm on 13th June, 1917 (Casualty Form – Active Service has date of Burial as 13th March, 1916) in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Section "C" Plot number 3639 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith - *Coffin was polished Elm with black fittings.* One wreath was sent from Miss Stephen, an Australian official visitor, Newnham College, Cambridge. No friends were present at the funeral.

A War Pension was granted to Florence Helena Smith, Yarra Rd, Croydon, Victoria, mother of the late Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith, in the sum of £1 10/- per fortnight from 13th September, 1917.

Mr H. Browne, of "Grass Vale" Walpa, wrote to Base Records in November, 1917 enquiring about Private H. C. N. Smith, No. 2694, C. Company, 5th Battalion, A.I.F. Mr Browne stated he last heard from Private Smith when he was in France 12 months ago & was a very dear friend but had not heard from him since. Base Records advised Mr Brown on 9th November, 1917 that Private H. C. N. Smith had died on 9th June, 1917 in the 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England of cerebro spinal meningitis.

Mrs Florence Smith, of Pine Hill, Yarra Road, Croydon, Victoria, mother of the late Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith, wrote to Base Records on 10th February, 1918 stating she had received a package containing the personal effects of her late son but regretted to say that a silver wristlet (presentation) watch, *"which the nurse wrote me had gone from Middlesex Hospital to Cambridge with him, is not amongst his effects, also a very good leather (blk) wallet, also presentation with his name, & who from on it, is also missing a prayer book, & another book, The Sentimental bloke, are also among the missing articles, I know he had these articles in his possession, for I have the nurses letter, so I am going to write to the Cambridge Hospital & send the slip with the packers name, for that seems to be the place they have gone astray."*

Base Records replied to Mrs Florence Smith, of Pine hill, Yarra Road, Croydon, Victoria, after investigations had been conducted by A.I.F. Headquarters, London *"I beg to inform you enquiries have been made and the nursing staff of the ward in which this man died cannot recollect the articles mentioned being in his possession. You will realise that difficulty of tracing these articles after such a long lapse of time, as most of the Staff have gone abroad. Previous enquiries to this matter had already been investigated with a negative result."*

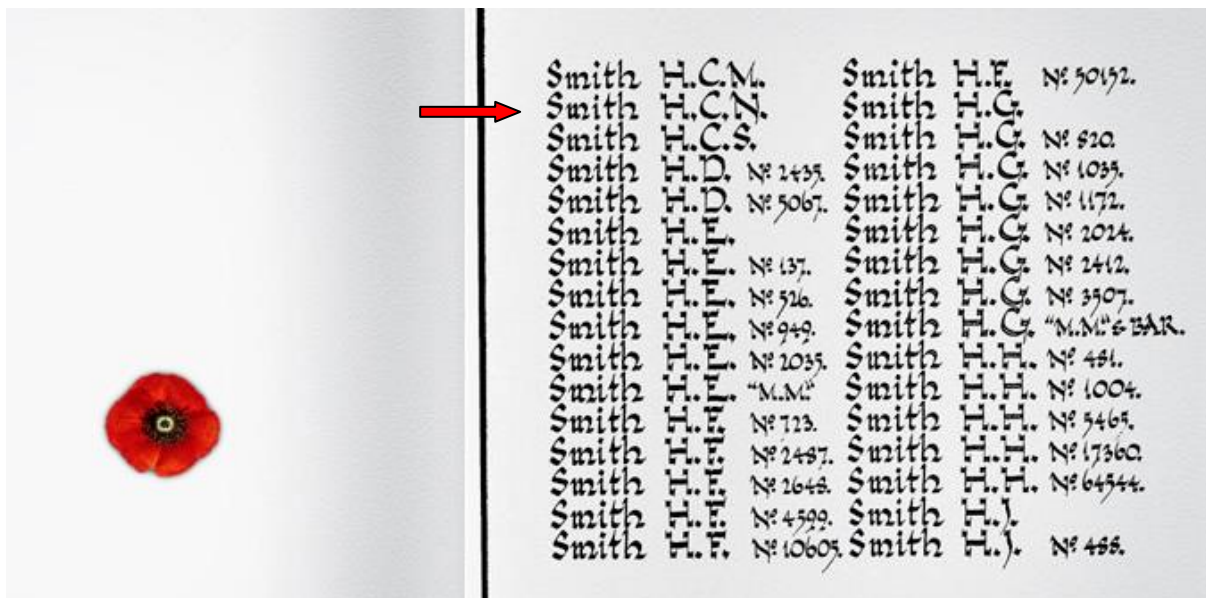
Florence Helena Smith, mother of the late Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith, wrote to Base Records on 24th August, 1921 advising that papers had been sent to her old address in Croydon & to note that her address was "Hillside" Campbell Road, Upper Hawthorn, which she had advised the Defence Department of nearly two years ago.

A change of address for Mr H. C. Smith, father of the Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith, was noted at the Enquiry Counter on 29th December, 1921. The new address was 32 Davis Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria.

Private Harry Crombie Newton 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 H. C. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Crombie Newton Smith – service number 2694, aged 22, of 5th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Harry Crombie Smith and Florence H. Smith, of "Hillside" Campbell Rd., Upper Hawthorn, Victoria.

H. C. N. Smith is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



Private H. C. N. 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 45.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(75 pages of Private Harry Crombie Newton 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

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

The 266th and 267th casualty lists.....

ILL

Private H. C. N. Smith, Caulfield

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria - 24 January, 1917)

CASUALTY LIST

The 315th list of Australian war casualties was issued yesterday.

VICTORIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte Harry Crombie Newton Smith

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 26 June, 1917)

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 H. C. N. Smith does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Pro Deo Et Patria

Greater Love Hath No Man Than This

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Photo of Private H. C. N. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photo by Len – Find a Grave)



Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below) (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

Cambridge City CEMETERY

