

**Colchester Cemetery,
Colchester, Essex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



19477 SAPPER

H. F. SMITH

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

5TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 31

Henry Francis SMITH

Henry Francis Smith was born at Toowoomba, Queensland on 24th January, 1887 to parents John Alfred and Mary Ann Smith (nee Bolster).

Henry Francis Smith attended school at North State School, Toowoomba, Queensland.

Henry Francis Smith married Maria Louise Dorries on 15th August, 1906 in Queensland.

Henry & Maria had the following children: John Kennedy Smith (born 7th January, 1907); Raymond Cyril Smith (born 26th October, 1909) and Delcie Ena Smith (born 12th November, 1911).

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Darling Downs, subdivision of Toowoomba, Queensland listed Henry Francis Smith, Labourer & his wife Lucy Smith, of Greenwattle Street.

Henry Francis Smith was a 30 year old, married, Labourer (& Bridge Carpenter) from Toowoomba, Queensland when he enlisted on 23rd February, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 19477 & his religion was Baptist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Lucy Smith, Greenwattle Street, Newtown, Queensland. Henry Francis Smith had signed a Statutory Declaration stating he had 3 children under the age of 16.

Private Henry Francis Smith was posted to 8th Reinforcements of 42nd Battalion on 2nd April, 1917. He was transferred to Pioneers on 9th April, 1917 then transferred to Engineers as Driver on 2nd May, 1917.

Henry Francis Smith applied for Home Leave to Toowoomba which entailed 2 days travelling & 2 days at home from 12 noon on 28th April, 1917 to 8 am on 2nd May, 1917. The reason listed was for "*Fixing up home affairs before going away.*" 4 days leave was approved.

Driver Henry Francis Smith was transferred to Engineer Reinforcements of 2nd Military District on 5th May, 1917 with the rank of Sapper. He was posted to Depot Company of Engineer Reinforcements on 14th May, 1917.

Sapper Henry Francis Smith was promoted to Lance Corporal, "D" Company on 9th August, 1917.

Lance Corporal Henry Francis Smith was promoted to Acting Corporal on 26th September, 1917 with "D" Company.

Sapper Henry Francis Smith embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 31st October, 1917 with the Field Company Engineers – July, 1917 Reinforcements. He was appointed as V.O. (Voyage Only) Corporal from 31st October, 1917. V.O. Corporal Henry Francis Smith had been admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 14th November, 1917 suffering from Indigestion. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 26th December, 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.

V.O. (Voyage Only) Corporal Henry Francis Smith was marched in to No. 3 Camp at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 26th December, 1917 from Australia & reverted to the rank of Sapper.

Sapper Henry Francis Smith was appointed to E.D.P. (Extra Duty Pay) Corporal from 27th December, 1917 while with Engineer Details.

E.D.P. (Extra Duty Pay) Corporal Henry Francis Smith was marched in to Engineers Training Depot at Brightlingsea on 18th February, 1918. He reverted to the rank of Sapper on 19th February, 1918.

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Sapper Henry Francis Smith was medically checked while posted at Brightlingsea & was found to have Chronic Otitis Media. He was medically classified on 6th March, 1918 as C1 – fit for Home Service only.

Sapper Henry Francis Smith was taken on strength of Permanent Cadre of Engineers Training Depot at Brightlingsea on 13th August, 1918 from Engineer Reinforcements. He was promoted to the rank of Temporary Corporal the same day.

Temporary Corporal Henry Francis Smith condition of Chronic Otitis Media was revised by Area Medical Board on 4th September, 1918 & was medical classified as A Class (fit for active service).

Temporary Corporal Henry Francis Smith was sent sick to Colchester Hospital from Brightlingsea on 2nd November, 1918 with Influenza & reverted to the rank of Sapper on being admitted to Hospital.

Sapper Henry Francis Smith died on 5th November, 1918 at General Military Hospital, Colchester, Essex, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Henry F. Smith, aged 32, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Colchester, Essex, England.

Sapper Henry Francis Smith was buried on 13th November, 1918 in Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England – Grave No. 74, Section 6, Division 3. From the burial report of Sapper Henry Francis Smith - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage. May beautiful wreaths were sent from:- Uncle, Officers and Comrades of Hospital, Hospital Staff, and Lieut. & Mrs Ferguson. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. J. E. Nicholl officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral – Uncle – Mr W. Harris, 27 Dagnall Park, South Norwood.

[Note – Other Australian Soldiers buried in Colchester Cemetery have a letter in their Service Record file that was sent to the next-of-kin advising that the remains had been exhumed & re-interred. There is no such letter in the Record file for the late Sapper Henry Francis Smith, however his remains would have been re-interred as the current information on the location of the grave of Sapper H. F. Smith by the CWGC is T. 6. 3.]

Sapper Henry Francis Smith has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

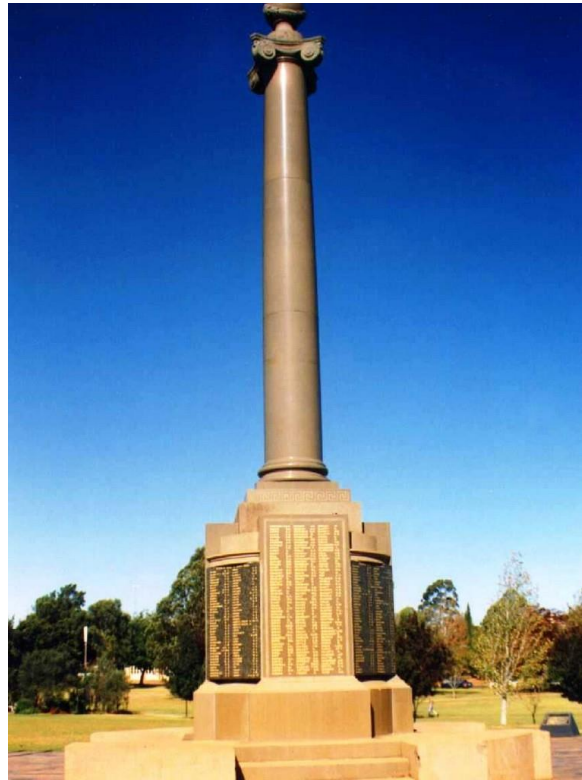
Sapper Henry Francis Smith was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Smith's widow – Mrs L. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

Sapper H. F. 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 27.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. F. Smith is remembered on The Mothers' Memorial, located at East Creek Park, Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Queensland.



The Mothers' Memorial, Toowoomba (Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register)

ROBERTSON F.G.	THOMSON S.A.	MCGREOK W.		
ROBINSON J.E.	TIDSWELL H.D.	PICOT F.		
ROBINSON G.W.	TOWNSON S.J.	SMITH J.		
RUB L.C.	TOWNSON G.H.	WESTBROOK*		
RUMMEL E.	TRAPP A.J.	BOLGER J.		
RUSSON B.G.	TREGEA A.J.	BROWN J.A.		
RUTLEDGE T.R.	TUESLEY L.C.	BROWN J.		
RYAN R.J.A.	UNDERWOOD R.J.	EVANS J.		
RYE A.	USHER F.	JORDAN J.R.		
SAAL C.	VERCOE W.C.	KERRIDGE J.		
SALMON H.	VASCO L.	MCKENZIE V.A.		
SAMUELS J.W.	WAKE W.C.	NOBBS A.J.		
SANDERS V.J.	WAKE H.T.	WOOLDRIDGE C.W.		
SAUNDERS N.H.	WALSH P.G.	WILLIAMS R.		
SAVAGE T.	WALSH T.J.	WYREEMA*		
SAWYER R.L.	WALSH J.A.	BEASLEY E.J.		
SCOTT A.A.	WALL J.J.	CAMPION T.		
SCOTT D.M.	WALKER A.R.	CRESSWELL S.		
SCHULTZ D.	WALLACE W.D.H.	DICKSON J.		
SELLARS E.G.	WALKER R.	EWIN W.S.		
SHAMBROOK W.	WALTERS G.	GRUNDON S.		
SHEEHAN J.	WARE G.	LONERGAN E.		
SHEPPARD G.J.	WATSON A.S.	PERRETT F.		
SMITH H.F.	WHITE W.A.	PROELLOCKS J.D.		
SMITH J.D.	WHITE A.	BOER WAR*		
SMITH J.A.	WHITE T.H.	CUMMING R.R.		
SPIERS V.A.	WICKS R.C.B.	JONES B.S.		
STAFFORD J.M.	WICKING F.T.	KATTING A.		
STARK H.C.	WIGGINS E.A.	MCLEOD D.C.		
STARK J.L.	WILLIAMS T.E.	STIRLING C.		
STEEL W.	WILSON A.	GOWRIE JUNCTIONS		
STEPHENS C.	WILSON F.W.	HALLET H.		
STEVENS E.A.E.	WITT A.	HOGAN T.J.		
STEVEN A.	WOOD F.	KRAFT K.		
VONSTIEGLITZ R.O.	WOODMAN G.A.	QUINLAN J.		
STRIDE W.H.	WONDERLEY C.R.	MERINCANDAN*		
STUMBLES H.C.	WOODFORDE S.H.	GRAF N.		
SWAN R.	WOOLFREY O.W.	KRAFT K.		
TALTY M.	WRIGHT A.	LOBWEIN M.		
TAYLOR E.J.	WHITING A.E.	LOWEIN W.		
MARTYN C.C.	CARIN I.	SINCLAIR H.		

H. F. Smith is remembered on the Toowoomba Roll of Honour, located in Toowoomba RSL Club, 549 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, Queensland.



Toowoomba Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper Henry Francis Smith – service number 19477, aged 31, of Details, Australian Engineers. He was the son of John Alfred and Mary Ann Smith; husband of Lucy Smith, of Greenwattle St., Wilsonton, Toowoomba, Queensland.

(59 pages of Sapper Henry Francis 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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS

TOOWOOMBA

Messrs Arthur Smallwood (Toowoomba), Francis Burling (Toowoomba) and Henry Francis Smith (Newtown, Toowoomba) were accepted at Toowoomba on Friday. This was Mr Burling's fifth attempt to enlist.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 27 February, 1917)

PERSONAL

Word has been received that Corporal Henry Francis Smith, of Greenwattle –street, died in England on November 5, of pneumonia. Corporal Smith, who was a much esteemed citizen of Toowoomba, enlisted a year and 10 months ago, and had rendered good service. He was engaged in the boot trade in Toowoomba before he joined the A.I.F. The utmost sympathy is felt for the wife and the little Australians who have been bereft of their beloved breadwinner.

(Toowoomba Chronicle, Queensland – 27 November, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS Nos 448 AND 449

Died from Other Causes

H. F. Smith (Newtown – illness)

(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 7 December, 1918)

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT COLCHESTER

GRAVES CAREFULLY TENDED

Prominent Englishmen and women were quick to spring to the defence of Australian soldiers when they were libelled recently in one of the flood of belated war books on the market. The abiding sense of gratitude felt by the English people towards the men from overseas who rallied to the defence of the Empire, is typified in the action of the members of the women's section of the British Legion at Colchester. Mrs. Florence T. Towsey, chairman of the Colchester section, has sent a message to the Australian relatives of the men of the A.I.F. who were laid to rest in the cemetery at Colchester, the quaint old Essex town, which was established in the time of the Saxons, and was once a stronghold of the Danes in the days when they ravaged the coasts of England. It was strongly fortified by the Romans, and the great Roman walls remain almost entire to this day. The countryside must have seen much fighting, and the frowning Norman keep is one of the largest in England, and there is something singularly touching in the fact that the soldiers of the younger countries rest here, amid the brotherhood of warriors of long ago.

Impressive Ceremony

Mrs. Towsey says on Anzac Day, 1929, the members of the British Legion (Women's Section), Colchester Branch, assembled at the cemetery to pay a tribute to the memory of the men of the overseas Dominions, who came to fight for the British Empire in the Great War, and who lie buried there. A simple but impressive little service was held, and then flowers were placed on each grave. It is proposed to hold this service annually. The graves are carefully tended. The following are the names of the Australians who rest in Colchester Cemetery, and the simple inscriptions on their graves: —

38 651. Gunner C. C. Willcock, Field Artillery. Dec. 25, 1918. Age 38. 'Happy in my lot.'

2 182. Corporal J. P. Byrne, 58th B.N., Australian T.N.F. Jan. 5, 1918. Age 29.

3370. Private H. M. C. D. McIntosh, 3rd B.N., Australian I.N.F. July 12, 1916. Age 18. 'My son, your memory we will cherish, until we follow you.'

1100. Driver R. C. Hendry, Australian Field Artillery. August 9, 1918. Age 25. 'Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.'

6035. Private J. Hought, 6th Bn., Australian Infantry. Nov. 17, 1917. Age 31. 'Thy purpose, Lord, we cannot see; He gave his life that we might live.'

1384. Private W. I. Mackenzie, 51st Bn., Australian Infantry, Aug. 5, 1916. Age 27. 'Gone, but not forgotten.'

10973. Driver W. R. Bennett. Australian Engineers, Nov. 23, 1918.

1906. Private S. E. Barclay, 45th Bn., Australian Inf. April 11, 1918. Age 24.

493. Private F. R. Rankin, 21st Bn. Australian Inf., Sept. 10, 1916. Age 21 'God has saved from weary strife, In its dawn this young, fresh life.'

2413. Driver C. S. McKellar, Australian Engineers, June 18, 1918. Age 25. The dearly-loved son of Mr. and Mrs. McKellar, of Sydney, late of Glasgow.

19477. Sapper H. F. Smith, Australian Engineers, Nov. 5, 1918. Age 31.

Getting in Touch with Relatives

Mrs. Towsey asked Mrs. Florence Muriel Paxman, a member of the Colchester branch, who is visiting Sydney on a holiday trip, to try and get in touch with the Australian relatives of any of these men. In a letter to 'The Chronicle,' Mrs. Paxman says— 'I visited all the graves the day before I left England, and I shall be most happy to give any relatives any further information, or to get them photographs of any particular grave if they will write to me at my address, Winton, New South Head-road, Rose Bay, Sydney.'

Mrs. Towsey's address is Tollgate House, Shrub End, Colchester, and many Australians will remember with gratitude the hospitality that was extended to them there during the war.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 March, 1930)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

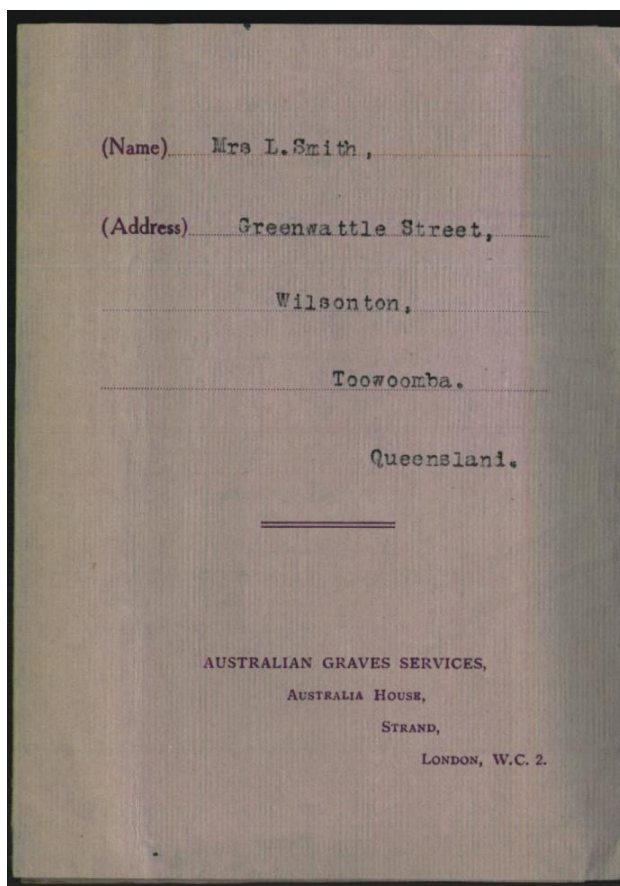
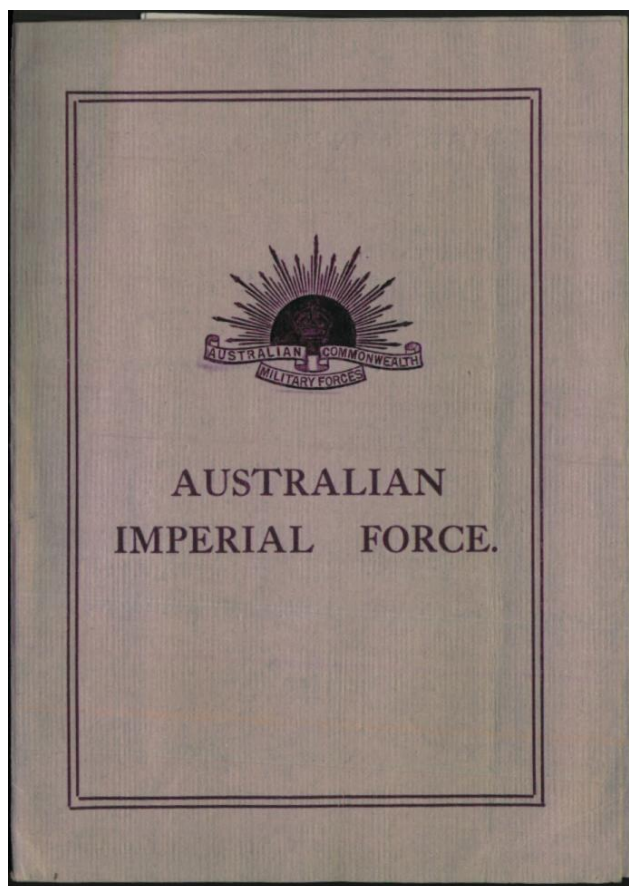
The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) &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

Sapper H. F. Smith does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Base Records forwarded to Mrs L. Smith, Greenwattle Street, Wilsonton, Toowoomba, Queensland, in June, 1924, three photographs of the grave of her husband, the late Sapper Henry Francis Smith. The envelope was returned to Base Records & as a result the photographs are located in the Service Record file for Sapper Henry Francis Smith.



Front & back cover of photographs of the grave of Sapper Henry Francis Smith

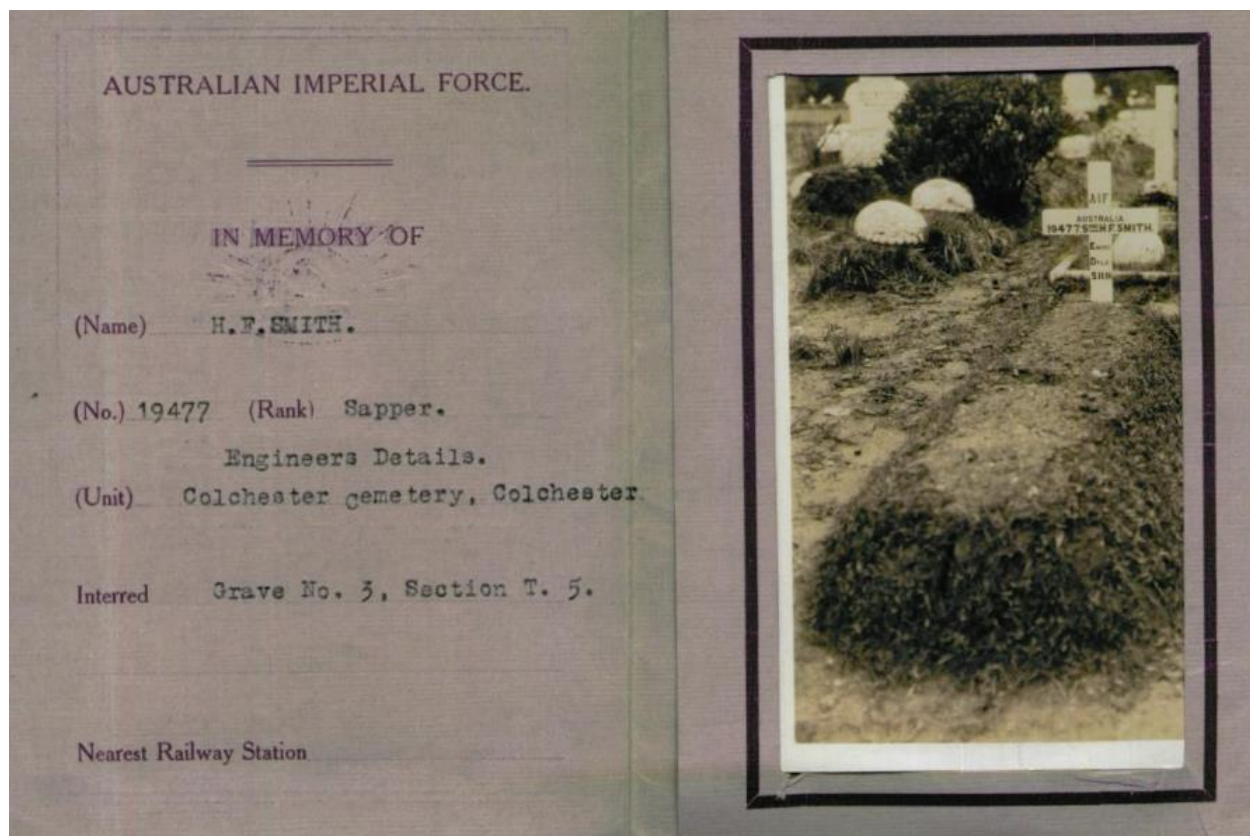




Photo of the grave of Sapper Henry Francis Smith

Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England

Colchester Cemetery was opened in 1856 and now belongs to the Corporation. It originally covered about 30 acres, but was enlarged in 1940 to 67 acres. The newer part is on the western side of the original burial ground, and behind it is the site of a Roman Way. There are 267 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 1 being unidentified, of which 50 are in the War Plot, while 11 Australian graves are together in a group nearby, the remainder being scattered. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on a site overlooking both the plot and the group of war graves, in honour of all the servicemen buried here. There are also 114 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, 1 of which is unidentified. In the early months of the 1939-1945 War, shortly after the enlargement of the cemetery, land was set aside in the newer part for service war burials. This is now the War Graves Plot. Among these casualties are men who were killed at sea after being evacuated from Dunkirk. The non-war graves are those of a man of the Merchant Navy and two ex-servicemen who were buried in the War Graves Plot although their deaths were not due to war service. There are also 7 Foreign National burials. The plot is enclosed by a hedge of cotoneaster frigida and a Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western side. The graves are set in level mown turf, with continuous flower borders along the rows of headstones in which are polyantha roses and other seasonal flowers. *(Information from CWGC)*



Colchester Cemetery Entrance *(Photo by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)*



Cross of Sacrifice, Colchester Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Australian Plot of World War 1 War Graves, Colchester Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)

Sapper H. F. Smith's CWGC Headstone (marked with red arrow)

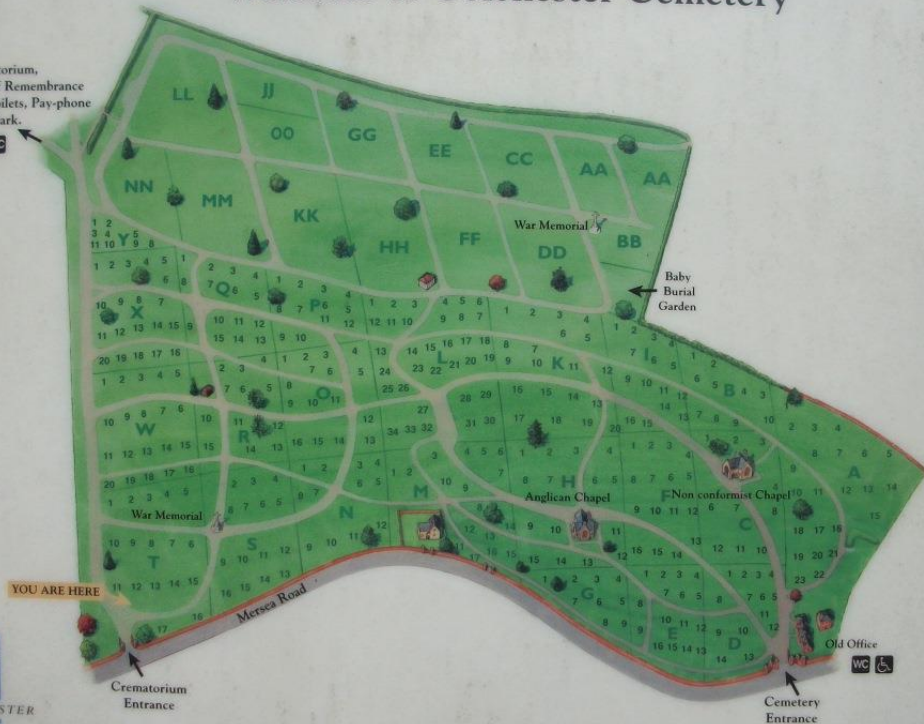
Photo of Sapper H. F. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)

Welcome to Colchester Cemetery

to Crematorium,
Garden of Remembrance
Office, Toilets, Pay-phone
and Car Park.



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth – Find a Grave)