

**Christ Church Military Cemetery,
Portsdown, Hampshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2984 PRIVATE

J. B. SMITH

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 45

Ever Remembered

By Loved Ones

James Bradshaw SMITH

James Bradshaw Smith was born on 28th October, 1868 in Clare, South Australia to parents John & Mary Smith (nee Morgan).

James Bradshaw Smith attended Clare Public School, South Australia.

James B. Smith married Adeline E. Roberts in Broken Hill, NSW in 1900.

A daughter, Emma S. Smith, was born in 1901 to parents James B. Smith & Adeline E. Smith at Broken Hill, NSW. Her death was registered in 1901.

A son, James Stanley Smith, was born in 1902 to parents James B. Smith & Adeline E. Smith at Broken Hill, NSW.

A son, George S. Smith, was born in 1904 to parents James B. Smith & Adeline E. Smith at Broken Hill, NSW. His death was registered in 1904.

A death for Adelina E. Smith was registered in Broken Hill, NSW in 1904.

James Bradshaw Smith stated he was a 42 year old widower with 2 children & a Labourer from Wallaroo, South Australia when he enlisted on 24th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2984 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother* – James Stanley Smith c/o Mrs Bickly, Wallaroo, South Australia. (*According to information provided for the Roll of Honour – James Stanley Smith was the son of James Bradshaw Smith).

Private James Bradshaw Smith was posted to "D" Company of 2nd Depot Battalion on 1st September, 1915 (Date as per Statement of Service form) for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Depot Battalion on 1st October, 1915. On 2nd December, 1915 Pte Smith was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 27th Battalion. He was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 27th Battalion on 16th January, 1916. Pte Smith was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 32nd Infantry Battalion on 16th March, 1916.

Private James Bradshaw Smith embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 11th April, 1916 with the 6th Reinforcements, 32nd Infantry Battalion, 8th Infantry Brigade.

Private James Bradshaw Smith embarked from Alexandria on 20th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th June, 1916.

Private James Bradshaw Smith was written up at Marseilles, France for disobeying an order given by a superior Officer in that he was found out of the docks without a pass signed by an Officer. He was punished with 2 days confined to Camp.

Private James Bradshaw Smith proceeded to join 32nd Battalion from 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th July, 1916 & was taken on strength of 32nd Battalion in France on 2nd August, 1916.

Private James Bradshaw Smith was written up on 22nd September, 1916 for Drunkenness & Absent without leave from 10 am till 5 pm. He was awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 29 days' pay.

Private James Bradshaw Smith was evacuated to Hospital on 6th December, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 7th December, 1916 with exhaustion then transferred to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 9th December, 1916 with physical exhaustion. Pte Smith was transferred to 18th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 10th December, 1916 with debility. Pte Smith was listed to be invalided to England on 30th December, 1916 & was transferred to Hospital Ship *Warialda* at Havre on 31st December, 1916.

Private James Bradshaw Smith was admitted to 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, England on 1st January, 1917 with Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin, dangerously ill. Notification was sent to J.S. Smith stating that his father's condition as stationary on 1st February with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) & Trench Fever.

Private James Bradshaw Smith was transferred to Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Hampshire, England on 31st January, 1917.

Private James Bradshaw Smith died at 2 pm on 8th February, 1917 at Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Hampshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for James B. Smith, aged 47, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Fareham, Hampshire, England.

Private James Bradshaw Smith was buried on 12th February, 1917 in Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England – Plot number D. 74 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Smith – the Funeral cortege left the Alexandra Hospital, Cosham at 2 pm.

A War Pension was granted to James Stanley Smith, Irwin St, Wallaroo, son of the late Pte James Bradshaw Smith, in the sum of 30/- per fortnight from 14th April, 1917.

Base Records contacted Mr J. S. Smith, c/o Mrs Bickley, Wallaroo, South Australia in December, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mr J. S. Smith replied stating he was the next-of-kin & the only child of his father, the late Private J. B. Smith, No. 2984, 32nd Battalion.

Private James Bradshaw Smith was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Smith's son – Mr J. S. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Bradshaw Smith – service number 2984, aged 45, of 32nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Mary Smith. Born at Clare, South Australia.

Private J. B. 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 121.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. B. Smith is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(54 pages of Pte James Bradshaw 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



Private James Bradshaw Smith

Newspaper Notices

272nd CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ILL

2984 – Pte J. B. SMITH, Wallaroo (dang.)

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 February, 1917)

DIED FOR HIS COUNTRY – Master James Smith, of Wallaroo, has been notified by the Defence Department that his father, Pvt. James Bradshaw Smith, of the 37th Battalion, died at the Alexandria Hospital from cerebro-spinal meningitis. The late soldier was born in Wallaroo, and was about 47 years of age. He remained in Wallaroo until he was about 15 years of age, and then went to Broken Hill, from which place he enlisted. He joined the colors about twelve months ago, and was on active service in France prior to illness which proved fatal. Previous to embarking he came to Wallaroo, and made arrangements with his sister (Mrs W. Bickley) to take charge of his only son. The mother died some years ago. He is a nephew of Mrs Amos Bickley, of Wallaroo, and a sister (Mrs W. Bickley) resides in Wallaroo. Mrs W. Robinson, of Broken Hill, is also a sister.

(The Kadina and Wallaroo Times, South Australia – 21 February, 1917)

THE AUSTRALIANS

274th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

2984 – Pte J. B. SMITH, Wallaroo (Feb 8)

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 February, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

SMITH – In loving memory of James Bradshaw Smith, who died on active service on February 8, 1917.

Oh, could we have raised his dying head,

Or heard his last farewell,

The blow would not have been so hard

For we who loved him well.

- Inserted by his sister and only son, S. Bickley and James Stanley Smith. Broken Hill paper copy.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 February, 1919)

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 J. B. Smith does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Ever Remembered By Loved Ones

Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England

Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown contains 167 Commonwealth War Graves - 133 from World War 1, including 2 from Belgian Army & 34 relating to World War 2. There are 6 Australian World War 1 War Graves.



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private J. B. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by FrankGrant – Find a Grave)



Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown *(Photo from Peter Bennett)*