

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



514 CORPORAL

C. S. SMITH

AUST. ARMY SERVICE CORPS

10TH MAY, 1917 Age 48

His Duty Nobly Done

Clarence Sydney SMITH

Clarence Sydney Smith was born at Waipara, Otago, New Zealand on 10th May, 1869 to parents George William and Mary Smith (nee Porter).

George William Smith, father of Clarence Sydney Smith, died on 25th July, 1879 in New Zealand.

Clarence Sydney Smith married Mary Klavikowsky They had the following children Elsie May Smith (born 9th May, 1897 Queensland); Clarence Sydney Smith (junior) (born 31st August, 1899 Ipswich, Queensland); Stella Thelma Smith (born 20th June, 1902 Paddington, NSW); Eric Bede Smith (born 20th June, 1905 Paddington, NSW) & Charles Bernard Smith (born 9th January 1912).

Mary Smith, mother of Clarence Sydney Smith, died on 29th June, 1903 in New South Wales.

According to information supplied by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Clarence Sydney Smith came to Australian when he was 12 years old. She also stated he had served with Queensland Mounted Rifles during the South African War.

Clarence Sydney Smith was a 45 year old, married (with 5 children), Farrier from 1 Elizabeth Place, Paddington, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 18th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 514 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mary Smith, of 1 Elizabeth Place, Paddington, NSW. Clarence Smith stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with 4th Queensland Contingent for 1 year & 108 days & had resigned after completion of Service. On the Application Form for Enrolment for Active Service Clarence Sydney Smith's Special Qualifications were listed as "*Good Shot Horseman & Farrier.*"

Clarence Sydney Smith was posted as a Shoeing Smith from 18th August, 1914 with Australian Army Service Corps.

Shoeing Smith Clarence Sydney Smith embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 18th October, 1914 with the Divisional Train – No. 2 Company.

Shoeing Smith Clarence Sydney Smith proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 5th April, 1915.

Shoeing Smith Clarence Sydney Smith was transferred to Lemnos from Gallipoli on 10th September, 1915.

Shoeing Smith Clarence Sydney Smith embarked on H. T. Crosshill from Mudros on 31st October, 1915 for Alexandria.

Shoeing Smith Clarence Sydney Smith rejoined his Unit at Mex(?) from Mudros on 3rd November, 1915.

Shoeing Smith Clarence Sydney Smith was promoted to Farrier/Corporal on 3rd November, 1915 at Alexandria.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith proceeded to join Western Force at Matrah on 8th December, 1915.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith rejoined his Unit at Matrah on 19th December, 1915 from Hospital.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was temporarily attached to 5th A.D.T. (Australian Divisional Train) at Metras from 19th March, 1916.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was transferred to 5th Australian Divisional Train at Alexandria on 21st March, 1916.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 2nd June, 1916 on Troopship *Kingstonian*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 11th June, 1916.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was sent to Hospital on 5th January, 1917 while on leave from France. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Southall, England on 5th January, 1917 with Chilblains. The Hospital Admissions form recorded for 10th January, 1917 "*Can now wear Boots*". He was discharged on 11th January, 1917 to Perham Downs. (Note: There is no record to show when Corporal Smith was on leave to England from France)

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 11th January, 1917 from 2nd Auxiliary Hospital. He was medically classified as B1 A (fit for light duty for 4 weeks) on 12th January, 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 & also Dorset. Convalescing was also completed in these counties.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was marched in to No. 14 Camp at Codford, Wiltshire on 18th January, 1917. He was posted to 12th Training Battalion at Codford on 18th January, 1917.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was sent sick to Hospital at Codford from 12th Training Battalion on 11th February, 1917.

Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was placed on Supernumerary List on 5th April, 1917 after being evacuated sick to Hospital on 5th January, 1917

Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital, Wiltshire on 9th February, 1917 with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "*Severe type. C.S. fluid tested + cells & + meningococci... Became emaciated & mental degeneration.*"

Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith died 8 am on 10th May, 1917 at Salisbury Isolation Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Clarence S. Smith, aged 47, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was buried on 12th May, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 123 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith - *Coffin was polished Elm. Buried with full military honours at Salisbury Cemetery Grave No. 123, 20 paces in rear of centre of path of Chapel. Chaplain T. T. Webb, 13th Training Battalion officiating. Arrangements are in hand to erect a headstone over the late soldier's grave. The expenses will be liquidated by a subscription from the members of his Battalion. A photo graph will be forwarded to his relatives in Australia.*

(Note: the Burial Report, Statement of Service form & Casualty Form – Active Service all recorded the Cemetery as Durrington Cemetery, near Salisbury)

(The War Gratuity Schedule Card for Clarence Sydney Smith (page 48/55) is the wrong card & does not relate to this Farrier/Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith as there are dates of his movements in 1918. Regimental number is listed as R3937 – this is Clarence Sydney Smith's son.)

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, England, wrote to Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria on 20th July, 1917 to advise "*It is found in the case of burial report No. 147 relating to No. 514 Far/Cpl SMITH, C. S. that an error in the description of the Cemetery crept in through a misunderstanding. It was believed that the late N.C.O. had been buried at Durrington Cemetery, but further enquiries elicited that fact that the funeral took place in Salisbury Cemetery. May steps be taken, please, to have your records amended.*"

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain any details into his last hours, death and burial. A letter was written by Rev. W. H. Cook, Stratford-sub-Castle Vicarage, Salisbury which reads: "*The Matron of the Salisbury Isolation Hospital has handed me your inquiry as to the late 514 Cpl. C. S. Smith, 45th Battn. A.I.F. I am the Clergyman who visits the patients at that hospital and it is in the Churchyard of my parish that Cpl. Smith now lies buried. He was brought to the Hospital from his military camp at Codford on the 9th Feb. last, suffering from spotted fever. It was a very severe case, but after a time he seemed to respond to treatment and eventually he so far improved that he was placed in the "Semi-convalescent" ward. Apparently however the disease had undermined his constitution, and from about the end of March he gradually but very slowly lost ground until on the 10th May he peacefully passed away. During the three months he was thus in Hospital I saw a great deal of him. By nature he was somewhat quiet and reserved, but*

he was always very responsive to ministrations of religion. He was buried on the 12th May in the village Churchyard of Stratford-sub-Castle, two miles north of the city of Salisbury. I was myself present at the funeral, the service being conducted by one of the Australian Military Chaplains. It was a full military funeral, with band, firing party, and sounding of the Last Post. No doubt the grave will shortly be marked by one of the oak crosses which the Australian Authorities are erecting in such cases."

A War Pension was granted to Mary Smith, of 1 Elizabeth Place, Paddington, widow of the late Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 17th July, 1917. Pensions were also granted to the following children of the late Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith from 17th July, 1917 – Stella Thelma Smith (£1 per fortnight); Eric Bede Smith (15/- per fortnight) & Charles Bernard Smith (10/- per fortnight).

Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Smith's widow – Mrs M. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

Thelma Gates (nee Smith) of 50 Atchison Street, St. Leonards, NSW wrote to Central Army Records Office, Albert Park Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria (no date) stating "*Could you advise me if it is customary for enlisting men to give their marital status. My late father, Pte Clarence Sydney Smith, on his discharge papers, No. 43, Fourth Queensland Contingent enlisted at Brisbane for the Boer War & later in 1917, died in England, whilst on active service with the first A.I.F. For legal reasons I am required, as next of kin, to produce a Marriage Certificate of my father & mother, Mary Klavikoski of Ipswich, who I understand, were married in Brisbane in 1896 or 1897. I have just returned from Brisbane & the Registrar has no record of such a marriage although the Army had no hesitation in granting a pension to my Mother on his death & also to the three youngest children. I would be much obliged if you could let me know if he 43 Private Clarence Sydney Smith applied for an allotment for his wife & two children Elsie May and Clarence Sydney Smith, who was born in Queensland in August 1899. The date on his discharge papers is 24th April, 1900."*

Central Army Records Office replied to Mrs T. Gates (date handwritten at bottom of letter as 11.12.69) stating "*According to records held at this Office, Corporal SMITH stated on enlistment at Sydney, New South Wales, on 26th August, 1914 that he was born at Otago, New Zealand, and his next of kin was his wife, Mary Smith, of 1 Elizabeth Place, Paddington, New South Wales. The date and place of his marriage is not recorded. No service records are available for reference in regard to personnel who served in the South African (Boer) war. Consequently this Office is unable to assist you in your enquiry in regard to any allotments paid to Elsie May and Clarence Sydney Smith."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith – service number 514, aged 48, of 1st Div. Train, Australian Army Service Corps. He was the son of George William and Mary Porter Smith; husband of Mary Smith, of 1 Elizabeth Place, Paddington, New South Wales.

Corporal C. S. 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 181.

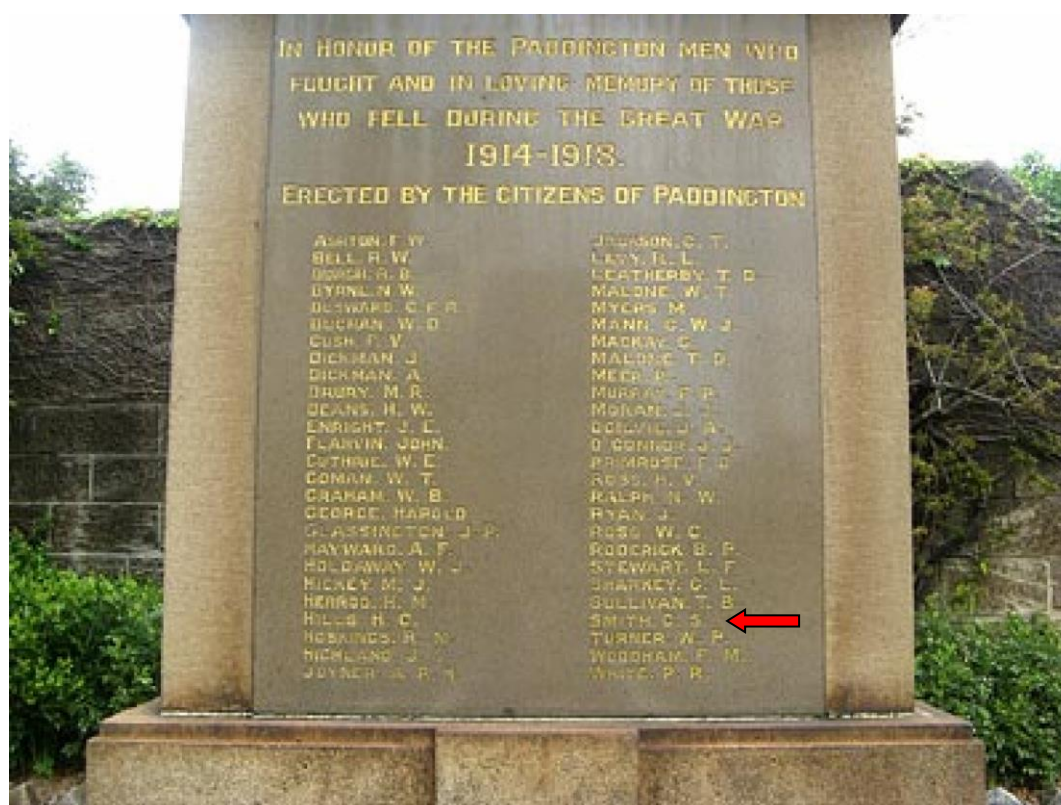


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

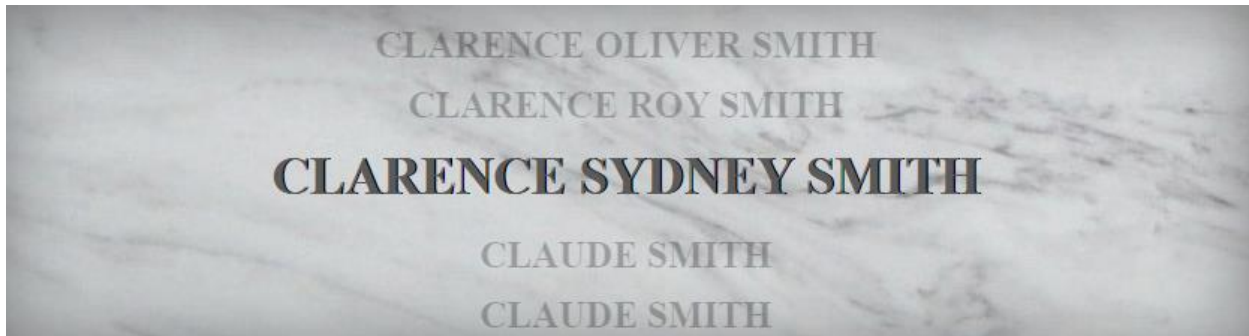
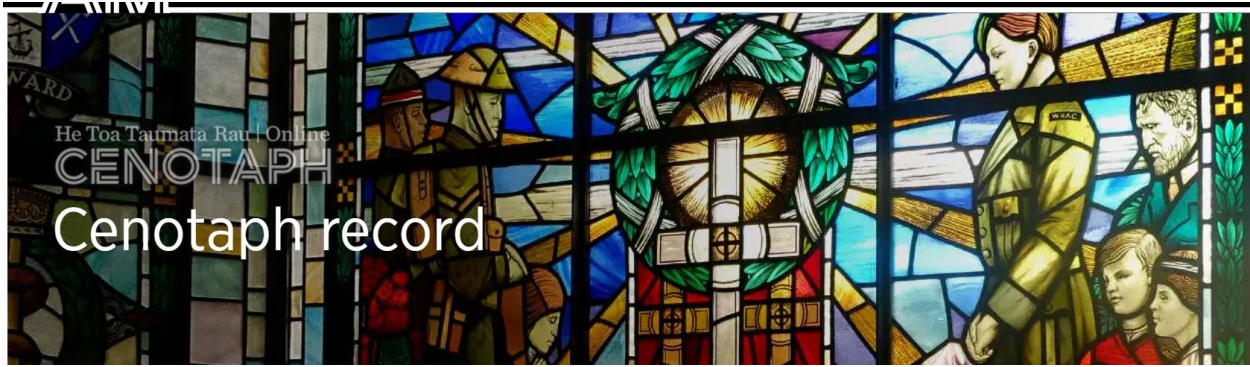
C. S. Smith is remembered on the Paddington War Memorial, located outside Victoria Barracks, 10 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, NSW.



Paddington War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)



Clarence Sydney Smith is remembered on the Auckland Museum Online Cenotaph Record.



(55 pages of Corporal Clarence Sydney 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



[Connected to Corporal Clarence Sydney Smith:](#)

Son – Clarence Sydney Smith (jnr) – Enlisted 1st September, 1915. Stated he was an 18 year old Publisher (actual aged 16). Next of kin – mother Mrs M. Smith of 1 Elizabeth Place, Paddington, Sydney, NSW. Service Number R 3937. Wounded in action 25th August, 1916. Returned to Australia (left Southampton 16th October, 1916).

Re-Embarked 10th May, 1917 (the day his father died in England) from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT Clan McGillivray. Wounded in action 18th September, 1918. Returned to Australia 7th February, 1919.





Father & Son (Photo courtesy of Linda Jones)



FATHER AND SON FROM PADDINGTON.
(1) Corporal C. S. SMITH (father), killed
in action; (2) Private C. Smith (son), at
the front.

(Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 19 July, 1917)



Newspaper Notices

THE QUEENSLAND IMPERIAL CONTINGENT



43. Smith, Clarence Sydney, care wife, Pine-
street, North Ipswich.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 19 May, 1900)

MEN WHO FELL

DIED OF ILLNESS

Corporal CLARNECE SYDNEY SMITH –

For many years this non-commissioned officer was well known in Paddington. He served throughout the Boer war, and when the present war broke out, he immediately offered his services, and left Australia in the latter part of 1914. He went through Gallipoli, and served for some months in Egypt, after which he took part in the Somme and other western front engagements. Having been invalided, he was sent to Southall Hospital, London, where he died on May 10, at the age of 48 years. Deceased was a brother of Mr William Smith, of William Street, Paddington.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 26 May, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SMITH – Died of meningitis, at Salisbury, May 10, 1917 (after 37 months' active service), Corporal C. S. Smith, beloved husband of Mary Smith, Paddington, and father of Lal (on active service), Elsie, Thelma, Eric and Bernie.

SMITH – Died, May 10, 1917, of meningitis, at Salisbury, Corporal C. S. Smith (aged 48 years), loving brother and uncle of W. and L. Smith and family, 54 William-street, Paddington.

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

CASUALTIES

303rd LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Cpl. C. S. Smith, Paddington

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 1 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of Cpl. C. S. Smith, who died of illness at Salisbury on May 10, 1917. Inserted by his loving wife and family.

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



LEGACY: Sawtell's Linda Jones presents family Anzac memorabilia to Sawtell RSL Sub-branch president Dallas Burrage for next month's Anzac Day service. Picture: Contributed

Service won't be forgotten

by David Barwell

IN SEVEN weeks, Australians across the country will pause in remembrance for the Anzac centenary.

The commemorations, marking 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War will be especially close to the heart for Coffs Coast resident Linda Jones.

Linda is one of many residents who have contributed military memorabilia of relatives for the Sawtell RSL Sub-branch's Anzac Day ceremony on April 25.

Linda recalls the legacy her grandfather, Clarence Sydney Smith, and uncle, Clarence Smith Jnr, made in their service to king and country.

"My grandfather was a veteran of the Boer War and he readily enlisted [with the Army Service Corps] when war broke," Mrs Jones said.

In 1914 Clarence bid farewell to his family and later took part in the Gallipoli landings. In his letters bound for home, he described the conditions as "hell itself".

In September 1915 he continued training in the 45th Battalion, where he briefly met up with his son, Clarence Sydney Smith Jr, who had joined the war effort at just 16 years of age.

Clarence then served in France, where he wrote letters detailing miserable days, heavy bombardment at night and the camaraderie with his fellow soldiers.

But on his 48th birthday he passed away from meningitis in England. He was one of 60,284 Australians who died during service in the First World War.

Clarence Jnr was discharged and returned to the family home in Australia.

Linda recalled her young years living with a "quiet" uncle who "never spoke about the war".

"We didn't ask questions," Mrs Jones said.

"There really wasn't a lot of recognition for what they had done for the country - as a society Australia was trying to move on."

Over the decades, Linda's family maintained and updated diaries and memorabilia to ensure their sacrifice and service continued to be remembered.

"We think it's very important to keep the Anzac message going," Linda said.

Sawtell RSL Sub-branch president Dallas Burrage encouraged additional contributions for the service next month.

The sub-branch has also received \$3568 in funding under the Anzac Centenary Local Grants program and will perform a re-enactment of the Coo-ee Marches, which gathered recruits from small towns, heading to Sydney for enlistment during 1915-16.

(Sunshine Coast Daily, Queensland – 7 March, 2015)

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)

Corporal C. S. Smith does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

His Duty Nobly Done

St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England

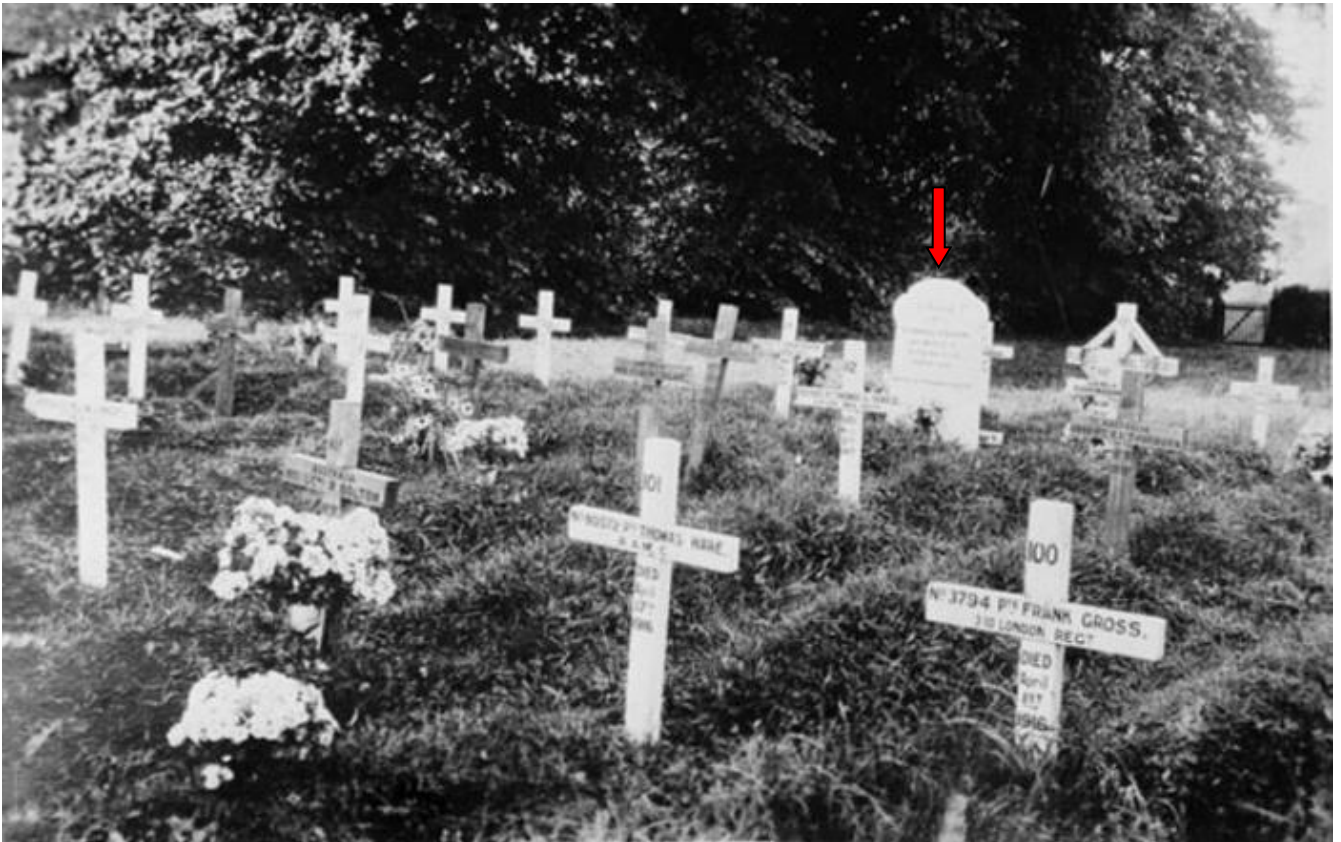
During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle



Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice



Original Grave Markers – Corporal C. S. Smith (red arrow)



In Memory
of
514 CORPORAL C. S. SMITH
45TH Battn. A.I.F.
Who Died May 10TH 1917
Aged 47 Years
Erected by his Comrades of the A.I.F.



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Photo of Corporal C. S. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo from New Zealand War Graves Project)

Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF 	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)