

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



9671 LANCE CPL.

C. SMITH

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

31ST DECEMBER, 1918 Age 32

*Beloved Husband Of
Myra A. Smith Of
Strathalbyn, South Australia*

Clement (Clem) SMITH

Clement Smith was born on 30th March, 1886 at Mintaro, South Australia to parents James Stewart Smith and Sarah Jane Smith (nee Roach).

Clement Smith was a 29 year old, single (later changed to married), Farmer from Morgan, South Australia when he enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia on 3rd March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 9671 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Myra Annie Smith, Strathalbyn, South Australia. (Note: Clement Smith's Attestation Papers show his next-of-kin as his mother – Mrs Sarah Jane Smith, Boggy Flat, via Morgan, South Australia. This has later been crossed out & written in red ink – Wife Myra Anne Smith, Strathalbyn, South Australia).

Private Clement Smith was posted to 2nd Depot, Light Horse on 3rd March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred on 16th March, 1916 to 11th Field Company Engineers at Mitcham then promoted to Driver on 1st April, 1916.

Clement Smith married Myra Annie Natt on 20th May, 1916 at Adelaide, South Australia.

Driver Clement Smith embarked from Outer Harbour, South Australia on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 31st May, 1916 with the 11th Field Company Engineers, Headquarters. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 20th June, 1916 while at Sea with Measles & discharged from Ship's Hospital on 27th June, 1916. Driver Smith disembarked at Devonport, England on 21st July, 1916.

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.

Driver Clement Smith was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 24th August, 1916 with Company "O", 11th Field Company Engineers.

Acting Lance Corporal Clement Smith was admitted to 11th Brigade Field Hospital on 6th October, 1916 with Mumps. He was transferred to Brigade Hospital on 6th October, 1916 & discharged on 20th October, 1916 to Parkhouse. Acting Lance Corporal was discharged from Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England on 22nd October, 1916.

Acting Lance Corporal Clement Smith was sent to Hospital at Southampton on 24th November, 1916. He was admitted to Netley Royal Victoria Hospital on 24th November, 1916 with a Contusion of Chest (accidental) & was discharged on 5th December, 1916. He was marched in to Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 5th December, 1916 & medically classified as Class A – fit for active service.

Acting Lance Corporal Clement Smith was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 12th December, 1916 & marched in to No. 3 Camp, Park House, Wiltshire, England on 13th December, 1916.

Acting Lance Corporal Clement Smith was marched out to Brightlingsea on 4th January, 1917 from Australia Details at Perham Downs.

Acting Lance Corporal Clement Smith proceeded overseas to France on 17th February, 1917 via Folkestone to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He joined 11th Field Company Engineers in the Field on 18th February, 1917 from A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot).

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)

Acting Lance Corporal Clement Smith's rank was queried by Registry B. Records on 13th March, 1917. He joined his Unit on 18th February, 1917 with rank of Lance Corporal.

[Note: No entries were recorded between 18th February, 1917 & 12th January, 1918.]

Lance Corporal Clement Smith proceeded on Leave to England from France on 12th January, 1918. He rejoined his Unit (11th Field Company Engineers) on 21st January, 1918.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith proceeded on Leave to England from France on 1st March, 1918. He rejoined his Unit (11th Field Company Engineers) on 17th March, 1918.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was sent sick to Hospital on 21st September, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 55th Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd September, 1918 with Bronchitis. Lance Corporal Smith was transferred to Ambulance Train 3 on 24th September, 1918 & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 25th September, 1918 with Bronchitis. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle* on 1st October, 1918.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was admitted to Beaufort War Hospital on 2nd October, 1918 with Bronchitis. He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 16th October, 1918 with "*? Broncho Pneumonia.*" Lance Corporal Smith was discharged to No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth on 8th November, 1918 from Dartford.

Mrs M. A. Smith, Strathalbyn, South Australia, was advised by Base Records on 18th October, 1918 that Lance Corporal C. Smith had been admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England on 2nd October, 1918 suffering from Bronchitis.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset, England on 8th November, 1918. He was medically classified as C2 – Permanently unfit for General Service & temporarily unfit for Home Service. The Hospital Admissions form reported: "*Rt side of chest explored for fluid – none present. Rt Base ___ diminished. Complains of attacks of vomiting.*"

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was sent sick to Hospital at Monte Video on 15th November, 1918.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was marched out from Weymouth on 2nd December, 1918 to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield for Return to Australia.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield on 3rd December, 1918 with Abscess of Liver.

A Medical Report was completed on Lance Corporal Clement Smith on 19th December, 1918 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. His disability was listed as Suppurating Hyatid of Right Lung which he had first noted symptoms of in France on 22nd September, 1918. "*Felt well until Sept. Prior to that had noticed some shortness of breath on exulsion was evacuated from France 22.9.18 with diagnosis of "Bronchitis". At Base Hospital had cough & intermittent pyrexia with occasionally Pleuritic function at Dartford for an irregular temp rising to 103 ° & 104 °. Dulness at right side of chest.*" The Medical Case officer stated his disability occurred "*probably prior to enlistment. Actual disability due to suppuration in cyst came on while on active service in France.*" The Medical Board found on 21st December, 1918 that Lance Corporal Clement Smith was "*CII – PUGS TUHS*" (Permanently unfit for General Service & temporarily unfit for Home Service.)

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was reported as dangerously ill on 30th December, 1918 with Hydated Liver.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith died at 17.00 hrs on 31st December, 1918 at 1st Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Suppurating Hydated of Liver & Heart Failure.

A death for Clement Smith, aged 31, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was buried on 6th January, 1919 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number No. 96 Australian Section. This is now listed by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Aust. 89. He has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Lance Corporal Smith – Coffin – usual supplied to A.I.F. Wreath supplied by Mr C. Billyard Leake, of Harefield. Headquarters Firing Part & Bugler attended. Lt. H. Hudson on charge of funeral. Small number of Hospital staff and Patients attended the funeral.

Clement Smith requested in his Will, dated 25th October, 1917, that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Myra Annie Smith, Ashbourne Road, Strathalbyn, South Australia.

W. F. Adams, Licensed Land Broker, General Commission Agent, Etc. Strathalbyn, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 28th April, 1919 requesting a Certificate of Death (in duplicate) for No. 6971, Lance Corporal Clement Smith. Base Records replied on 2nd May, 1919 stating that the certificate of death (in duplicate) of the late Lance Corporal C. Smith was enclosed.

Lance Corporal Clement Smith was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Smith's widow - Mrs M. A. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Clement Smith – service number 9671, aged 32, of 11th Field Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of James Stewart Smith and Sarah Jane Smith; husband of Myra A. Smith, of Strathalbyn, South Australia.

Lance Corporal C. 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 25.

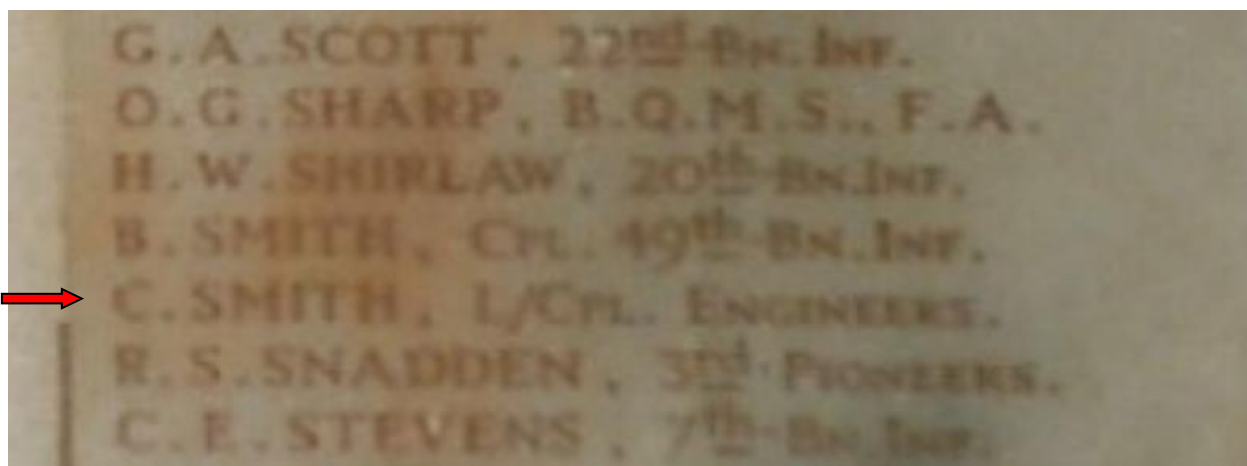


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Smith is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(79 pages of Lance Corporal Clement 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



Lance Corporal Clement Smith (Photo from VWMA – Kenneth Cole)



Newspaper Notices

MARRIAGES

SMITH – NATT – On the 20th May, at South terrace, by the Rev. W. H. Cann, Dvr. Clement Smith, 11th Field Company Engineers, A.I.F., second son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Smith, Boggy Flat, R.M., to Myra Annie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Natt, Strathalbyn (late of Langhorne's Bridge).

(*The Register*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 20 June, 1916 & 22 June, 1916) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 24 June, 1916)

445th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

III

9671. L/Cpl C. SMITH, Strathalbyn

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 November, 1918)

CASUALTY LIST NO. 458

Died – Other Causes

9671, L.Cpl. C. SMITH, Strathalbyn

(*Daily Herald*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 18 February, 1919)

THE COUNTRY

QUALCO, September 3 – A combined peace celebration picnic for the schools of Gillen, Qualco, and Murray View, in aid of the Waikerie Hospital, was held on Mr Milne's flat, river bank, Qualco.....

He referred feelingly to two who had made the supreme sacrifice, Lance-Corporal Clement Smith and Private William S. Brown. They were prominent members of the rifle club and well like by all.....

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 6 September, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

SMITH – In fond and loving memory of my dear husband, Lce.-Cpl Clement Smith (Clem), who died of illness in England on the 31st December, 1918. –Inserted by his wife, Myra A. Smith, Strathalbyn.

SMITH – In loving memory of Lance-Corporal Clem, died of illness in England, December 31, 1918.

In our home you are fondly remembered,

Sweet, happy memories cling around your name;

True hearts that held you in fondest affection

Always shall love you in death just the same.

-Inserted by his brother Jim, and family, Waikerie.

SMITH – In loving memory of my dear brother, Clem, who died in England, December 31, 1918.

A devoted brother, a faithful friend,
One of the best God could send;
His name was good, his friendship sound,
Loved and respected by all around.
One year has passed and none can tell,
The loss of a brother I loved so well.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Nell and Will Taylor

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 31 December, 1919)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

SMITH – In fond and loving memory of my dear husband, Lce.-Cpl Clement Smith (Clem), who died of illness in England on the 31st December, 1918. –Inserted by his wife, Myra A. Smith, Strathalbyn.

SMITH – In loving remembrance of our dearly beloved son and brother, Lce.-Cpl. Clem Smith, died of illness in England on December the 31st, 1918.

Loved in life,
Honoured in death,
Cherished in memory.

-Inserted by his affectionate parents, sisters, and brother.

SMITH – In loving memory of Lce.-Cpl. Smith (Clem), died in England from illness on the 31st December, 1918.

Sleep on, sleep on, our gallant brother,
Midst your comrades brave and true,
Though you've lost your life, the victory's won
By heroes such as you.

-Inserted by his brother Jim and family, Waikerie.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 31 December, 1919) & (*The Journal*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 31 December, 1919)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

SMITH – In loving memory of Lance-Corporal Clement Smith (Clem), who died of illness in England, on the 31st December, 1918. – Inserted by his wife, Myra A. Smith, Strathalbyn.

SMITH – In loving memory of Lce.-Cpl. Clem Smith, died in England from illness on the 31st December, 1918.

A beautiful memory left behind,
Of a loving son so true and kind,
We have lost, but heaven has gained,

One of the best the world contained,
So dearly loved, so sadly missed.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, J. S and S. J. Smith.

SMITH – A tribute of love to the honoured memory of Lce.-Cpl. Clem Smith, who died in England on the 31st December, 1918. Ever cherished in memory – Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Katie and Charlie, Salisbury.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 December, 1920) & (*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 December, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

SMITH – In loving memory of our dear brother, Clem, who died in England, December 31, 1918.

In the bloom of life God claimed him,
In the pride of his manhood days,
None knew him but to love him,
None mentioned his name but in praise.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother, Nell and Will

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 December, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

SMITH – In loving memory of Lce.-Cpl. Clem Smith, who died in England on the 31st December, 1918. "Ever remembered." – Inserted by his loving father and mother, J. S. and S. J. Smith.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 December, 1922)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

SMITH – In loving memory of Lce.-Cpl. Clem Smith, died in England from illness on the 31st December, 1918.

The world may change from year to year,
And friends from day to day;
But never will the one we love
From memory pass away.

– Inserted by his loving father and mother, J. S. and S. J. Smith.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 December, 1923)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

SMITH – In loving memory of Lce.-Cpl. Clem Smith, died in England from illness on the 31st December, 1918.

Gone from us, but leaving memories
Death can never take away;
Loved, remembered, longed for always,
While upon this earth we stay.

– Inserted by his loving father and mother, J. S. and S. J. Smith.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 December, 1924)

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)

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

Beloved Husband Of Myra A. Smith Of Strathalbyn, South Australia

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

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.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)

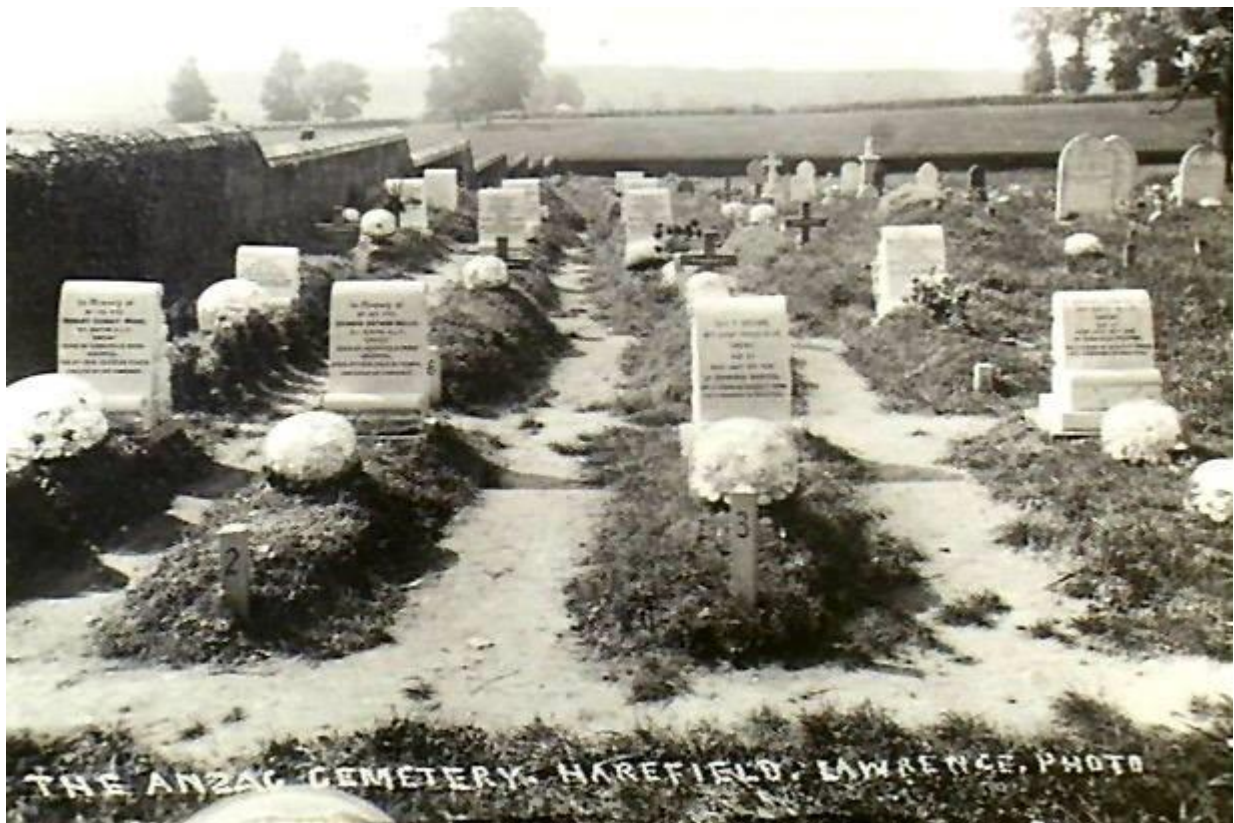


St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



THE ANZAC CEMETERY, HAREFIELD, LAWRENCE, PHOTO

Photo of Lance Corporal C. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

