

**Hollybrook Cemetery,
Southampton, Hampshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3618 PRIVATE

F. P. SMITH

29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH JULY, 1918 Age 23

Blessed Memory

Remembrance Is A Token

That Will Last For Evermore

Francis Peter (Frank) SMITH

Francis Peter Smith was born at 13 Bond Street, Chilwell, Geelong, Victoria in 1895 to parents Peter & Annie Smith. (No birth could be found registered on Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages website).

Francis Peter Smith attended school at St. Mary's, Myer St., Geelong, Victoria. He was an apprentice with R.R. Stanesby, Geelong for 3 years.

Francis Peter Smith was a 21 year old, single, Driver from 13 Bond Street, Chilwell, Geelong, Victoria when he enlisted on 7th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3618 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Anne Smith, 13 Bond Street, Chilwell, Geelong, Victoria.

Private Francis Peter Smith was posted to 19th Depot Battalion at Geelong on 29th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion on 2nd May, 1916.

Private Francis Peter Smith embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 1st August, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th September, 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.

Private Francis Peter Smith was marched in to 8th Training Battalion from Australia.

Private Francis Peter Smith proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 21st December, 1916 per SS *Princess Clementine*. He was marched in to 5 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 22nd December, 1916 from England. Private Smith was admitted to Segregation on 4th January, 1917 & was discharged to Base Depot on 21st February, 1917. He was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D, on 5th March, 1917 & was taken on strength of 29th Battalion in the Field on 6th March, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Francis Peter Smith was written up on 14th April, 1917 for "*Disobedience of Orders in that he ate his emergency ration without authority 13.4.17.*" He was awarded 2 days Field Punishment No. 2 & was required to pay for the emergency ration.

Private Francis Peter Smith was sent to 8th Brigade Works Unit on 14th November, 1917 & rejoined 29th Battalion on 16th December, 1917.

Private Francis Peter Smith was on Leave to UK from 28th January, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire, England on 11th February, 1918 with Gonorrhoea whilst on Leave. He was discharged on 23rd March, 1918 – Total VD period – 41 days. Private Smith was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 23rd March, 1918 from Hospital.

Private Francis Peter Smith was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 1st April, 1918 from No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, having been passed dentally fit. He proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 24th April, 1918 & was marched in to N.Z. B.D. (New Zealand Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 25th April, 1918. Private Smith was marched out from N.Z. B.D. on 28th April, 1918 & rejoined his Unit with 29th Battalion in the Field on 15th May, 1918.

Private Francis Peter Smith reported sick on 30th June, 1918. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 30th June, 1918 with Myalgia. Private Smith was transferred to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 30th June, 1918 then transferred to 29th Ambulance Train on 2nd July, 1918. He was admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 3rd July, 1918 with Myalgia. Private Smith embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* on 6th July, 1918.

29th Battalion

The 29th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on 10 August 1915. Having enlisted as part of the recruitment drive that followed the landing at Gallipoli, and having seen the casualty lists, these were men who had offered themselves in full knowledge of their potential fate.

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In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line, allowing the British front to be advanced. The Germans, however, made selected stands to delay this advance and the 28th Battalion was involved in defeating a counter-attack at Beaumetz on 23 March. The battalion subsequently missed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the Division's flank. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 29th Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.

Unlike some AIF battalions, the 29th had a relatively quiet time during the German Spring Offensive of 1918 as the 5th Division was in reserve for a lot of the time.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Francis Peter Smith was admitted to University War Hospital, Southampton on 7th July, 1918 seriously ill – N.Y.D. (not yet determined) (as per Statement of Service form, however the Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he was seriously ill with “Sec anaemia”).



Private Francis Peter Smith died at 6.45 pm on 11th July, 1918 at University War Hospital, Southampton, Hampshire, England from Influenza & Double Pneumonia.

A death for Francis P. Smith, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district Southampton, Hampshire, England.

Private Francis Peter Smith was buried on 15th July, 1918 in Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton, Hampshire, England – Plot number B. 01. 58 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Francis Peter Smith - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Gun carriage, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers, were in attendance and the “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside.*

The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Private Francis Peter Smith declared on 4th June, 1917 that he did not desire to make a Will.

Private Francis Peter Smith was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Smith's mother – Mrs A. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Francis Peter Smith – service number 3618, aged 23, of 29th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Peter & Annie Smith, of 13 Bond St., Chilwell, Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

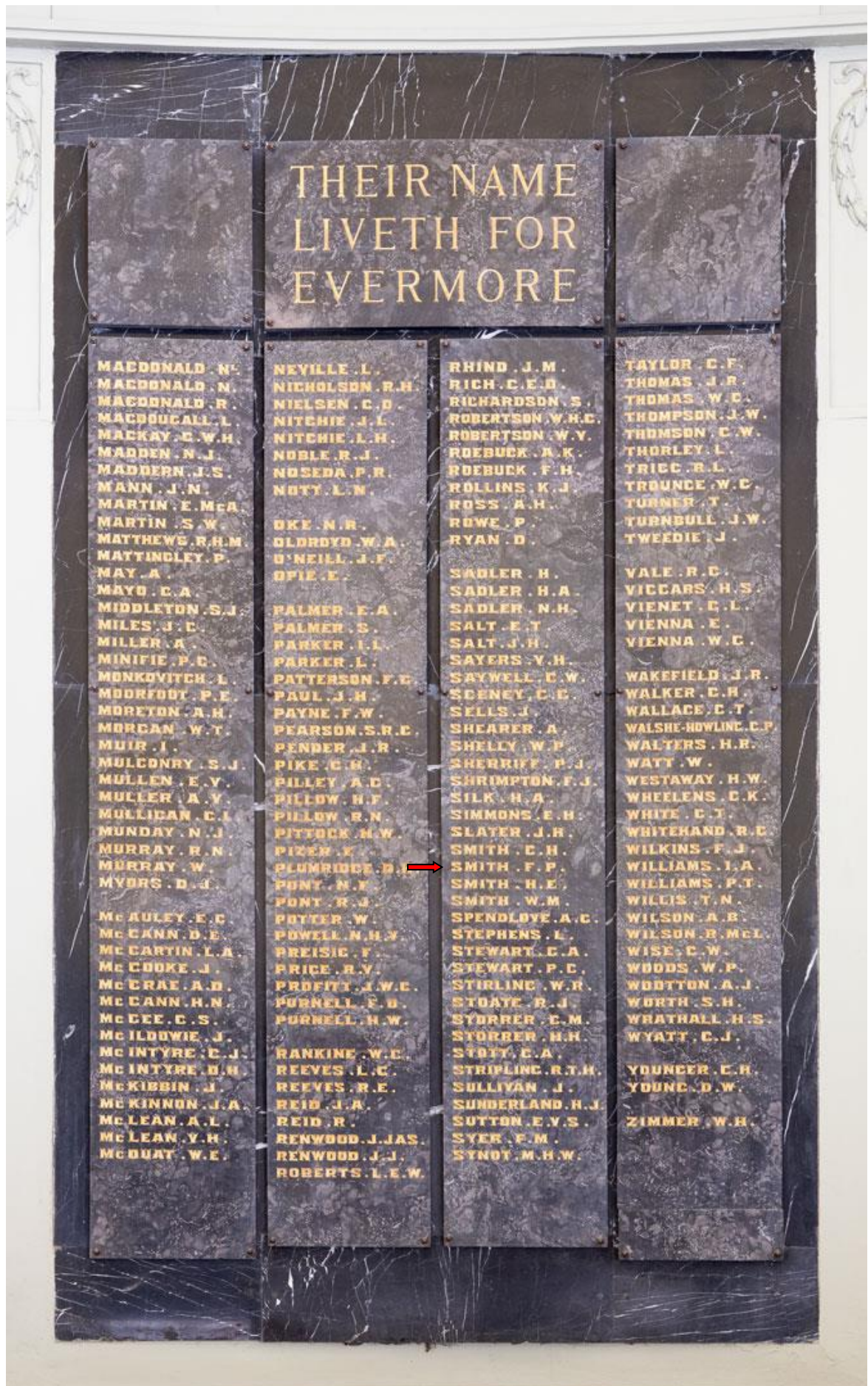
F. P. Smith is remembered on the Geelong & District Fallen Roll of Honour, located in Geelong & District Peace Memorial, Johnstone Park, Gheringhap Street, Geelong, Victoria.



Geelong Peace Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Geelong & District Fallen Roll of Honour



(Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

Private F. P. 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 116.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(71 pages of Private Francis Peter 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

NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

In the latest casualty list, released by the Defence Department.....Died of other causes: Pte Francis Peter Smith, Chilwell, illness, 11/7/18.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 29 July, 1918)

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 F. P. Smith has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

Blessed Memory Remembrance Is A Token That Will Last For Evermore

Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton, Hampshire, England

Southampton was No 1 Port during the First World War and military hospitals were established in the University buildings, in the Highfield Institution and at Shirley Warren. During the Second World War, 4.5 million tons of military equipment passed through Southampton docks and parts of the prefabricated harbours used at Arromanches during the Normandy invasion were made there. For a while, Southampton was also base to the 14th Major Port Transportation Corps of the United States Army.

Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery contains burials of both wars and a memorial to the missing.

The cemetery has a First World War plot near the main entrance containing most of the 125 graves from this period. Behind this plot is the Hollybrook Memorial which commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters. It also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial.

Most of the 186 Second World War burials are in a separate war graves plot. 3 of these burials are unidentified seaman of the Merchant Navy.

In addition to the Commonwealth war graves, the cemetery contains 67 war graves of other nationalities, many of them German, of which 2 are unidentified.

(Cemetery information from CWGC)



Chapel at Hollybrook Cemetery *(Photo by Michael Day)*



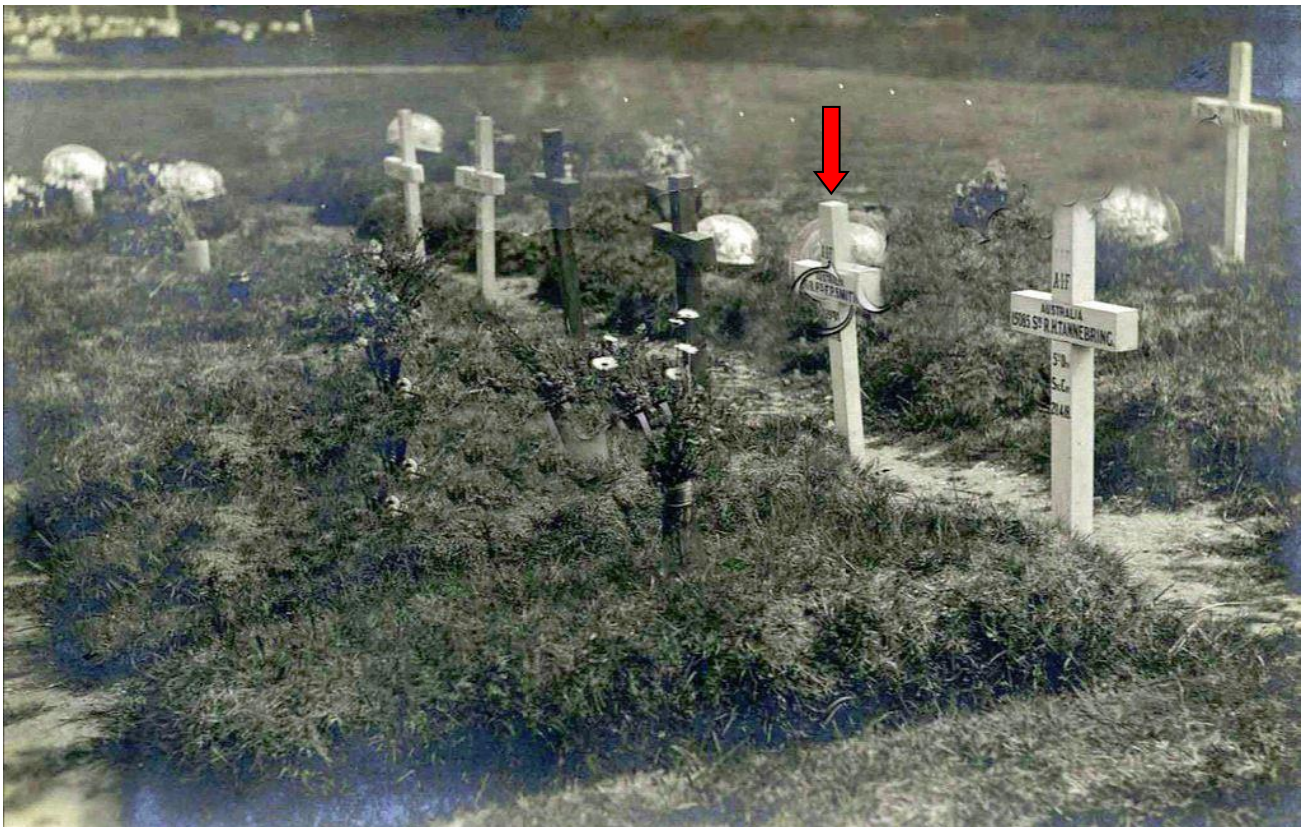
(Photo from 2012 – Basher Eyre)



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



Hollybrook Cemetery with Hollybrook Memorial at front (Photo by Michael Day)



Hollybrook Cemetery – Private F. P. Smith's grave marked with red arrow

Photo of Private F. P. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by Michael Day)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Retired QA)