

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7083 PRIVATE

J. F. SMITH

14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH MAY, 1918

James Frederick SMITH

James Frederick Smith was born at Gravesend, Kent, England in 1893 to parents James Fernando Smith & Louisa E. Smith

James Frederick Smith attended Binstead Road Council School, Portsmouth, England.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – James Frederick Smith came to Australia when he was 19 years old.

James Frederick Smith was a 23 year old, single, Labourer of no fixed address when he enlisted on 25th October, 1916 at the Military Camp, Warragule, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. F. Smith, 145 Portchester Road, Portsmouth, England. James Frederick Smith stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his height (he was 5 feet 3 inches).

Private James Frederick Smith was posted to "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Park on 18th November, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 14th Battalion, 23rd Reinforcements (no date recorded).

Private James Frederick Smith, Service number 7083, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 with the 14th Infantry Battalion, 23rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th February, 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.

Private James Frederick Smith was marched in to Camp Details at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire, England on 18th February, 1917. He was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 12th March, 1917.

Private James Frederick Smith was written up for an Offence while posted at 4th Training Battalion, Codford – on 22nd April, 1917 neglecting to obey an order. He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No. 2 By Captain C. R. M. Cox.

Private James Frederick Smith proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 9th May, 1917 from 4th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 10th May, 1917. He proceeded from 4th A.D.B.D. on 13th May, 1917 & joined 14th Battalion in France on the same day.

Private James Frederick Smith was wounded in action (Casualty Form – Active Service recorded date as 11th August, 1917). He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 8th August, 1917 with shrapnel wound/s to Left Arm then transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 11th August, 1917. Private Smith was transferred to Ambulance Train 18 on 11th August, 1917 & admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbeville, France on 11th August, 1917. He was transferred to 5th Convalescent Depot at Cayeux on 28th August, 1917. Private Smith was discharged from 5th Convalescent Depot on 21st September, 1917 & posted to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Le Havre, France on 22nd September, 1917. He proceeded from 4th A.D.B.D on 28th September, 1917 to rejoin his Unit & rejoined his Unit in the Field on 1st October, 1917.

14th Battalion

The Headquarters of the 14th Battalion opened at an office at 178 Collins Street, Melbourne in the last week of September 1914. On 1 October it relocated to Broadmeadows Camp where the battalion's recruits, principally from Melbourne and its suburbs, were taken on strength and trained. With the 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions, the 14th formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

Along with most of the 4th Brigade, the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line..... *(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

War Diary – 14th Battalion

8 August, 1917:

Lt Garner killed whilst reconnoitring outpost. Relief as per appendix X completed 12/30 am. 9th Artillery fir fairly active. Rain during the night.

11 August, 1917:

Misty during day, rained at night. Reserve line shelled. Daily strength appendix XII.

Lt Le Fevre wounded. Aeroplane activity both sides. Order re rations for the front line Coys appendix XIII

Appendix XII:

KIA 1 O/R; Wd to Hosp 11 O/R; Sick to Hosp 4 O/R; Missing 2 O/R; To Prison 2 O/R; To Schools 1 O/R; To Amb Train 11 O/R; To UK Leave 4 O/R; To Absentees 1 O/R.

(War Diary Extract from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James Frederick Smith reported sick on 12th December, 1917. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 12th December, 1917 with Hammer Toe then transferred & admitted to 48th Casualty Clearing Station on 14th December, 1917 with I.C.T Heel (Inflammation of connective tissues). Private Smith was transferred & admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 15th December, 1917. He was transferred to England on 16th December, 1917.

Private James Frederick Smith was admitted to Military Hospital at Bethnal Green, London, England on 17th December, 1917 with Septic Toe joint – right (severe). He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 8th January, 1918.

Private James Frederick Smith was on furlo from 16th January, 1918 to 30th January, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private James Frederick Smith was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 31st January, 1918 from furlo. He was transferred to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverell, Wiltshire on 12th February, 1918.

Private James Frederick Smith proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 4th March, 1918 from Overseas Training Brigade. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 5th March, 1918 & marched out from A.I.B. D on 7th March, 1918. Private Smith rejoined 14th Battalion in the Field on 9th March, 1918.

Private James Frederick Smith was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 3rd May, 1918. He was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 3rd May, 1918 with shrapnel wound/s to left Eye & transferred the same day to 61st Casualty Clearing Station. Private Smith was transferred on 6th May, 1918 & admitted to 24th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 7th May, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Eyes. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 14th May, 1918.

14th Battalion

.... In March and April 1918, the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive. It subsequently participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 14th Battalion

Villers-Brettonneux

3rd May, 1918: Fine. At 2 am our barrage opened – very heavy. Enemy retaliates. Heavy machine gun fire on front, particularly right front. At 2.50 am “A” Company Reserve report very little fire now on front – main enemy barrage was between front and Support lines.

3.30 am “D” Company report all quiet. 3.30 am “B” Company report that they are in their new position. Reported that Intelligence Officer, Lieut. J. H. Johnston M.C. killed.

At 7.45 pm Adjutant and L.G.O. visited front line and issued instructions re relief and recovery of Lieut. Johnston’s body. Casualties – Killed, Lieut. J. H. Johnston M.C.; 3 O/Ranks. Wounded, Lieut F. T. Larter, 7 O/Ranks; Sick to Hospital, 2/Lieut A. P. Stone, 2 o/ranks.

(War Diary Extract from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James Frederick Smith was admitted to 1st Birmingham War Hospital, Rednal, Birmingham, England on 15th May, 1918.

Private James Frederick Smith died at 3.15 pm on 17th May, 1918 at 1st Birmingham War Hospital, Rednal, Birmingham, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Face & fracture of Skull.

Private James Frederick Smith was buried at 2 pm on 22nd May, 1918 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – his name is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 482 as he does not have a headstone.

From the burial report of Private James Frederick Smith - Coffin was good Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and carried on a Gun carriage. Six bearers and Bugler from the Hospital carried the coffin to the graveside, and 16 wounded Australian comrades of deceased’s ward accompanied the cortege. Prior to the interment a short service was held in the Cemetery Chapel. The Bugler sounded the “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names of relatives or friends present at Funeral – Father & Mother – Mr & Mrs J. F. Smith, 145 Portchester Road, North End, Portsmouth,

The Office of the Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons, Melbourne, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 7th July, 1919 requesting a Certificate of Death of No. 7083, J. E. Smith, 14th Battalion for transmission to the Public Trustee, Sydney & “...shall also be glad if you can furnish me with a tracing of the late soldier’s signature for the purpose of identifying an account in the Commonwealth Savings Bank.”

The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 8th October, 1919 regarding No. 7083, J. F. Smith, 14th Battalion with the following: “I shall be glad to know if the personal effects belonging to the abovenamed deceased soldier’s estate have yet been despatched to the next-of-kin.”

Base Records replied to The Public Trustee, Sydney, NSW on 13th October, 1919 advising “..as deceased’s next-of-kin is residing in England any personal effects that may have been recovered would be forwarded direct to him from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, - unless testamentary instructions to the contrary were received.”

Private James Frederick Smith was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Smith’s father – Mr J. F. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Frederick Smith – service number 7083, aged 24, of 14th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James F. & Louisa E. Smith, of 145 Portchester Rd., North End, Portsmouth, England.

Private J. 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 74.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour – James Frederick Smith was chiefly connected to the town of Ensay, Victoria. James Frederick Smith is not remembered on the Ensay War Memorial, located on Great Alpine Road, near Memorial Hall, Ensay, Victoria.



Ensay War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

(62 pages of Private James Frederick 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

THE TOLL OF WAR

255TH CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIA

WOUNDED

J. F. Smith, England

(The Evening Echo, Ballarat, Victoria – 4 September, 1917)

407th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIAN DETAILS SHOWN

Died of Wounds

Private J. F. SMITH, England 17/5/18 (prev. rep wd)

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 June, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private J. F. Smith does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



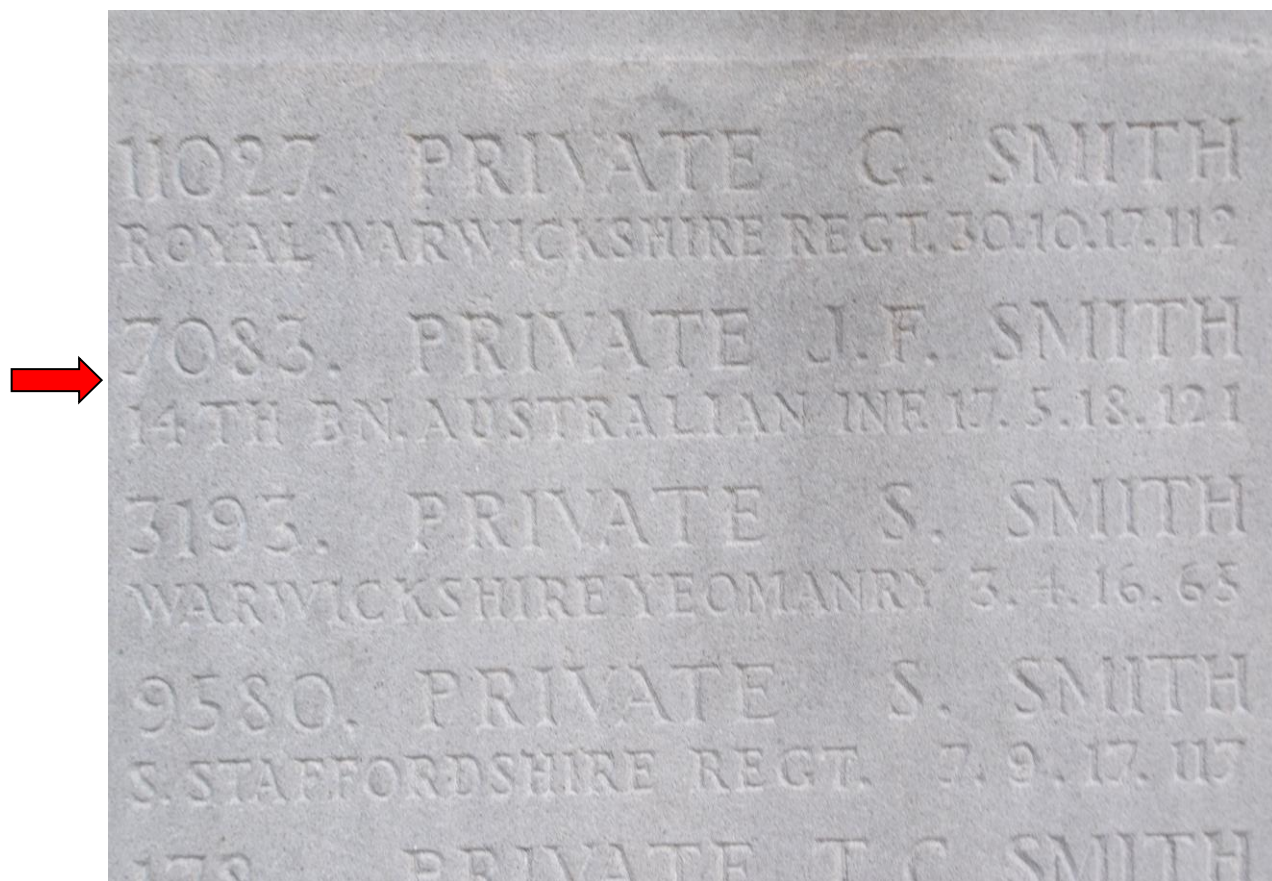
(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private J. F. Smith's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)





WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

Lodge Hill Cemetery

