

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



8062 PRIVATE

J. W. SMITH

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH MAY, 1918 AGE 18

Deeply Mourned By

Father, Mother

Sister And Brother

In Far Tasmania

CWGC Headstone for Pte J. W. Smith is located in

Grave Plot # 252A. B. 20. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny

James Willis SMITH

James Willis Smith was born at Moorleah (late Upper Flowerdale), Tasmania on 20th June, 1899, to parents James Albert & Amelia Smith (nee Craig).

James Willis Smith attended school at Moorleah (Late Upper Flowerdale).

James Willis Smith was an 18 year old, single, Farmer from Moorleah, Tasmania when he enlisted at Wynyard, Tasmania on 2nd October, 1917 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 27th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 8062 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. Smith of Moorleah, Tasmania. As James Willis Smith was under the age of 21, he needed his parents' consent to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Army form B73485 to the Enrolling Officer, 6th Military District was signed on 28th August, 1917 by James Albert Smith & Amelia Smith.

Private James Willis Smith was admitted to Field Hospital at Claremont Camp, Tasmania from 27th January, 1918 to 4th February, 1918 with Influenza.

Private James Willis Smith was again admitted to Field Hospital at Claremont Camp, Tasmania from 13th – 15th February, 1918 with Suflacuation (?) of leg.



In Claremont Military Camp, Southern Tasmania

Table Cape Soldiers

In front – Left to right – A. E. Burgess, J. W. Watts, Corporal R. Cooper, H. G. Watts

Back row – J. T. Riley, B. W. Riley, J. W. Smith

(Weekly Courier – 15 November, 1917)

Private James Willis Smith embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor (A71)* on 28th February, 1918 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 20th April, 1918. Pte Smith had been admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea from 5th to 6th March, 1918 with Thrombosis.

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 Willis Smith was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire from Australia on 20th April, 1918.

Private James Willis Smith was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny with Influenza on 9th May, 1918 & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 10th May, 1918 with Measles.

Private James Willis Smith died at 8.20 am on 17th May, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Measles, Acute Bronchitis & Oedema of the Lungs. The cause of death was verified by a Post Mortem. Private Smith's parents had been incorrectly advised that their son had died at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. A letter was sent 1st July, 1918 advising them that their son had died at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, England.

A death for James W. Smith, aged 18, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private James Willis Smith was buried on 20th May, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 252A. From the burial report of Pte Smith - *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. Band, Firing Party, Pallbearers and a Company of N.C.O.'s and men preceded the funeral. Wreaths were sent by Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of deceased late Unit, also Nurses and Staff of Sutton Veny Military Hospital, and Australian soldiers in Sutton Veny Hospital. Deceased was very popular with both Officers and men and his loss is very keenly felt. Also in attendance at the funeral were Mr & Mrs W. G. Slater (Uncle & Aunt) of Stamford Hill, London.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Pte James Willis Smith contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the family for information into the death of Pte Smith – *“Did he suffer very much and if conscious at the time of his death, did he have any messages”*. A reply was sent by Officer in charge of Medical Division which in part reads: *“Adm. 10-5-18 with severe attack of measles – Temperature fell to normal. Patient was one of several who went to W.C. in shirt only without putting on trousers & shoes. Recurrence of acute bronchitis next day May 15th. Patient removed to special ward No. 15. Warmed oxygen increasing doses of brandy of no avail. Had 15 C.C. Antistreptococcus serum, on evening of 16th inst. Post mortem revealed, Oedema of lungs, purulent bronchitis & oedema introconsolidation of lungs. Clonoy swelling of myo-cardium with great dilation of right auricle & ventricle.”*

Private James Willis Smith requested in his Will dated 14th February, 1918, that the whole of his property & effects be left to his mother – Mrs Amelia Smith of Moorleah, Tasmania.

Private James Willis Smith was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Smith's father – Mr J. A. Smith (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Willis Smith, 8062, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of James Albert & Amelia Smith of Willesden, Moorleah, Tasmania.

Private J. W. Smith is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 67.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Willis J. Smith & his brother Francis E. Smith, are both remembered on the Moorleah Honour Roll located in Moorleah Hall, Preolenna Road, Moorleah, Tasmania.

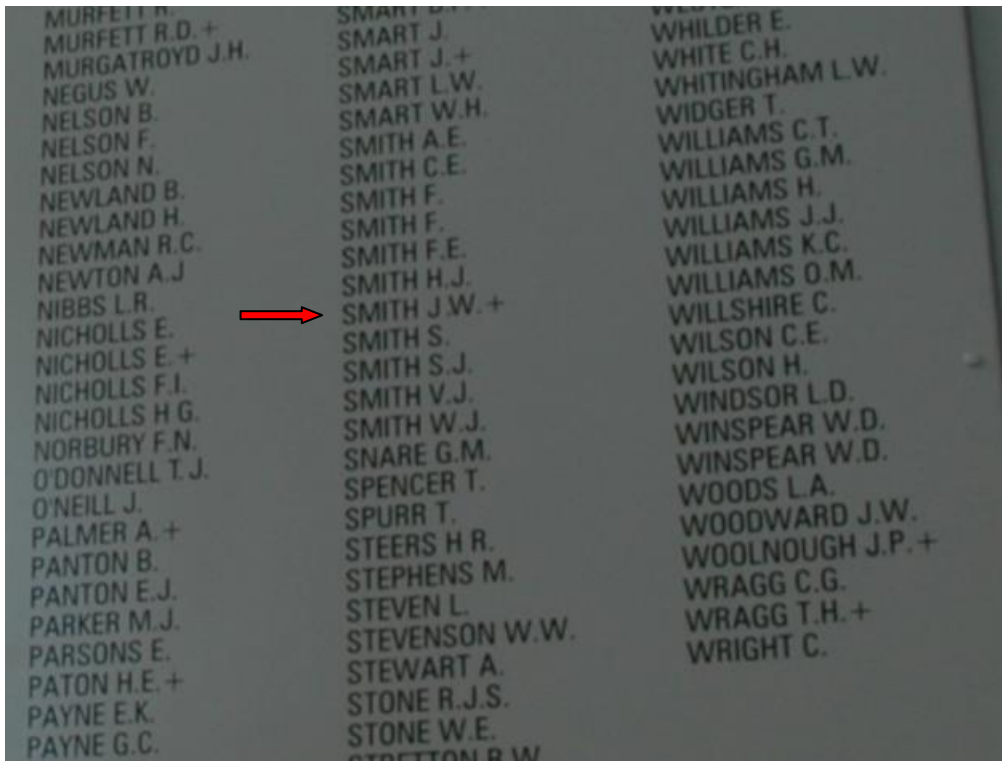


Moorleah Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

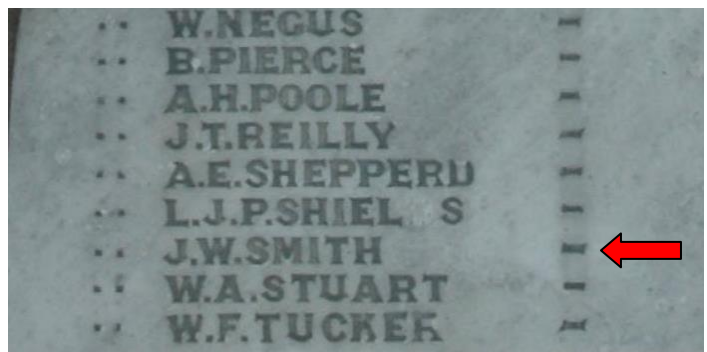
J. W. Smith is remembered on the Wynyard District Council Chambers Honour Roll, Saunders Street, Wynyard, Tasmania.



Wynyard District Council Chambers Honour Roll (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



J. W. Smith is also remembered on the Wynyard War Memorial located in Richard Gutteridge Gardens, Goldie Street, Wynyard, Tasmania.



Wynyard War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

James Willis Smith is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

8065	Pte	Sell	Frederick Augustus	11.08.1918	39	12th Inf Bn	Newtown	
3354	Pte	Seymour	Thomas Robert	26.08.1918	35	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
2063	Pte	Seymour	Charles Henry	23.07.1918	37	3 Lt Trench Mtr Bty	Nelka	ANZAC
(1669)	Lt	Shaw MM	Bernard Joseph	06.08.1918	23	15th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC
381	CSM	Shady MM	William Urban	15.05.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Spreyton	ANZAC
2904	Pte	Shelton	Roy James	23.09.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Elizabeth Town	ANZAC
3515	L/Cpl	Shephard	Frank Lindsay	29.08.1918	22	51st Inf Bn	West Meander	
3391	Pte	Shires	Abel Abraham	30.08.1918	29	40th Inf Bn	Wynyard	
7686	Pte	Shoobridge	Athalstan William	01.05.1918	34	12th Inf Bn	Valleyfields	
3812	Dvr	Sibley	William Cecil	22.12.1918	27	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Hobart	
7547	Pte	Silva	George Henry	23.04.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	Flowerpot	
	Lt	Simmons	John Grant	19.09.1918	28	12th Inf Bn	Invermay	
774A	Pte	Sims	Cecil Clement	18.09.1918	31	12th Inf Bn	Evandale	ANZAC
1830	Pte	Sing	Nelson James	03.10.1918	21	26th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC
7807	Pte	Sizer	Varley	23.04.1918	22	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	
3598	Pte	Slade	Leonard Roy	26.05.1918	25	40th Inf Bn	Queenstown	
7335	Pte	Slade	Charles	25.07.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Colebrook	
5787	L/Sgt	Smart	Benjamin Frederick	30.04.1918	21	40th Inf Bn	Wynyard	
3644	Pte	Smith	Arthur Clyde	15.08.1918	21	40th Inf Bn	Huon	
3632	Pte	Smith	Bert	28.03.1918	27	47th Inf Bn	Beaconsfield	
33536	Gnr	Smith	Claude	14.05.1918	25	8th Fd Arty Bde	Deloraine	
1849	Pte	Smith	Hedley	14.03.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Richmond	ANZAC
8062	Pte	Smith	James Willis	17.05.1918	18	12th Inf Bn	Moorleigh	
731	L/Cpl	Smith	Percy	28.03.1918	27	40th Inf Bn	Grove	
28326	Gnr	Smith	Samuel Lyte	23.05.1918	27	10th Fd Arty Bde	King Island	
957	Trpr	Smith	William Ernest	12.04.1918	31	1st Camel Corp	Hobart	ANZAC
12407	Gnr	Smith	Albert Charles E	18.09.1918	23	4th Fd Arty Bde	Cygnat	
7933	Pte	Somers	Oscar George	13.08.1918	21	12th Inf Bn	Swansea	
4849	Pte	Soram	Henry George	25.07.1918	18	12th Inf Bn	Ulverstone	
147	Cpl	Sowby	William	19.04.1918	34	52nd Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC

(55 pages of Private James Willis Smith's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing file) & National Archives.



Connected with Private James Willis Smith:

Only Brother – Private Francis Ernest Smith, 485, Light Horse Regiment; enlisted August, 1914, was wounded at Gallipoli & returned home March, 1918.



Newspaper Reports



(Weekly Courier, Tasmania – 16 May, 1918)



Pte J. WILLIS SMITH, son of Mr J. Albert Smith, of Moorleah

ROLL OF HONOUR

Mr and Mrs J. Albert Smith, of Moorleah, have received the sad news that their youngest son died in the Australian Hospital in England on May 17th. He was 18½ years, and only left Tasmania on March 2. Their only other son has been serving with the Light Horse since the beginning of the war and has just had six weeks' leave of absence, and is back again in camp.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Thursday 23 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – 409th LIST RELEASED

DIED – OTHER CAUSES

Pte James Willis Smith, Moorleah

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania – Monday 17 June, 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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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)

Pte James Willis Smith does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Deeply Mourned By Father, Mother Sister And Brother In Far Tasmania

St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, 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. The 26th Division was concentrated at Sutton Veny in April 1915 and No 1 Australian Command was there from the end of 1916 to October 1919. There was also a hutted military hospital of more than 1200 beds at Sutton Veny for much of the war and No 1 Australian General Hospital was stationed there after the Armistice. Sutton Veny (St John) Churchyard contains 168 First World War burials, 167 of them in a plot at the north west corner of the church. Of these, 143 are Australian. There is only one Second World War burial in the churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03318.020



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00388

Photo of Private J. W. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)

