

**Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5443 PRIVATE

J. SMITH

54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

30TH JUNE, 1918

William GREENWAY

(enlisted as John SMITH)

William James Greenway was born at Marong, near Bendigo in 1894 to parents Ernest Walter & Cath Greenway (nee Proud).

William Greenway was a 21 year old, single, Woodcarter when he enlisted on 14th July, 1915 at Bendigo, Victoria. His religion was Church of England. His next-of-kin was listed as his father – Mr Ernest Walter Greenway of Koondrook, Victoria.

Private William Greenway was attached to "D" Coy, 8th Dep. Batt. at Flemington from 30th August, 1915 until 16th September, 1915 when he was transferred to 11/8A Reinforcements. His Statement of Service form was marked AWL (Absent without leave) "*Did not embark*".

[From information contained in a letter, dated 20th September, 1918, by Mr Ernest Greenway, father of Private William Greenway, to the Secretary for Defence – it appears that William Greenway enlisted in the A.I.F. with his father's permission as he was under age. While he was in Camp at Broadmeadows, some trouble occurred & Private William Greenway deserted.]

William Greenway stated he was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Post Office, Mulwalla, NSW when he enlisted at Cootamundra, NSW on 15th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.), under the name of John Smith. His service number was 5443 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his uncle – J. Smith of Mildura, Victoria. John Smith stated he was born at Bendigo, Victoria.

Private John Smith embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 14th April, 1916 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 16th May, 1916.

Private John Smith was reallocated from 1st Training Battalion to 14th Training Battalion as Reinforcements to 54th Battalion on 24th May, 1916.

Private John Smith embarked from Alexandria, Egypt on H.M.T. *Arcadian* on 29th July, 1916 & disembarked at Southampton, England via Marseilles on 9th August, 1916.

Private John Smith proceeded overseas to France from England on 9th September, 1916. He was marched in from England at Etaples on 11th September, 1916 & marched out to his in France on 26th September, 1916. Private John Smith was taken on strength with 54th Battalion on 26th September, 1916.

Private John Smith was sent to Hospital sick on 14th March, 1917. He was admitted with Furunculosis on 17th March, 1917 to 5th DRS (Divisional Rest Station) then transferred to Rouen on 6th April, 1917 to 3rd S.H. with Boils. Private John Smith was transferred to Convalescent Depot on 7th April, 1917 & admitted to No. 2 Command Depot the same day.

Private John Smith was marched out to Base Depot at Rouen on 9th April, 1917 & marched in to 5 A.D.B.D. at Etaples on 13th April, 1917.

Private John Smith was sent to Hospital sick on 20th April, 1917 & admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples with I.C.T. Axilla. He was discharged on 23rd April, 1917 & transferred to No. 5 Com. Dep on 26th April, 1917 then admitted to 5 C.D. at Caireaux on same day with I.C.T. Axilla. Private John Smith was marched in to 5 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples from Hospital on 11th May, 1917 & marched out to join his Unit on 17th May, 1917.

Private John Smith rejoined his Unit in France on 17th May, 1917.

Private John Smith was written up for a crime – A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from 6 am on 20th June, 1917 until apprehended in afternoon of 20th June, 1917. He was awarded 14 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks) & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private John Smith proceeded to England on leave from 31st August, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from leave on 14th September, 1917.

Private John Smith proceeded to England on leave from 3rd March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the Field on 22nd March, 1918.

Private John Smith was wounded in action – Gassed in France on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 41st Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Ambulance Train on 20th April, 1918. He was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen on 20th April, 1918 then transferred to England on Hospital Ship *West Australia* on 24th April, 1918.

Private John Smith was admitted to The War Hospital, Stratford on Avon on 25th April, 1918 with “Shell Gas” – severe. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 15th May, 1918.

Communications addressed to the next-of-kin – Mr J. Smith of Mildura to advise of Private Smith's condition were returned unclaimed in May & June, 1918.

Private John Smith was on furlough from 5th June, 1918 to 19th June, 1918.

Private John Smith was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 19th June, 1918.

Private John Smith was admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant on 28th June, 1918 suffering from Influenza.

Private John Smith died at 10.30 am on 30th June, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Influenza.

A death for John Smith, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private John Smith was buried on 2nd July, 1918 at Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery, Wiltshire – Row 53 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Smith – *Coffin was good, Polished Elm with Brass Mountings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The Gun Carriage was preceded by a Firing Party and Band. Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of deceased's late company attended as mourners. A large wreath from the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Unit was placed on the grave after the "Last Post" was sounded. The late Pte Smith was very popular with Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of his Unit and his loss is very keenly felt.*

Private John Smith, 5443, 54th Battalion, declared that he did not wish to make a Will.

Communications within the Army in July & August, 1918 state that no trace could be obtained of the next-of-kin of No. 5443 Private J. Smith who died on 30/6/18 from Influenza at Fovant Military Hospital. Enquires were made at the Office of the District Paymaster & through the Press.

It appears that the Australian Imperial Force had no knowledge that Private John Smith was an assumed name until they received a letter from Mr Ernest Greenway, father of William Greenway, dated 20th September, 1918 advising them of the situation & his belief that Private John Smith was his son William Greenway.

Base Records wrote to Mr E. Greenway, of Koondrook, Victoria, father of alias Private John Smith, 5443 & advised Mr Greenway that a Statutory Declaration would need to be completed stating that No. 5443 Private J. Smith, 54th Battalion, enlisted under an assumed name, his correct name being Greenway and that he was the late soldier's father. Mr Greenway was advised that the records would be amended & Mr Greenway recorded as next-of-kin. The personal effects of late alias Private J. Smith could then be forward to Mr Greenway. A Statutory Declaration was signed by Ernest Walter Greenway on 12th July, 1919. The Personal effects of Private John Smith were sent to his father – Mr E. W. Greenway at Koondrook, Victoria.

Photographs of the grave of No. 5443 Private J. Smith had been sent to Mr J. Smith, Mildura, Victoria in March, 1919. They were returned unclaimed & re-addressed to Mr E. Greenway in August, 1919.

Private John Smith was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The British War Medal was sent in November, 1924 & the Victory Medal was sent in February, 1923. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private John Smith's father – Mr E. Greenway (Scroll sent in January, 1922 & Plaque sent in November, 1922). It is not known what name was listed on the Medals or the Memorial Scroll & Plaque.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. Smith – service number 5443 as having served with 54th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

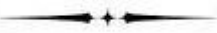
Private W. Greenway is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 159.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(96 pages of Private John 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



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 Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery. 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 J. Smith does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

This cemetery belongs to the Church, and is on the North side of the village. There are 10 Commonwealth War Graves in this Cemetery – 9 from World War 1 (4 Australian Soldiers) & 1 connected to World War 2.



Barford St. Martin Church (Photo from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00295

Original Grave Markers – Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Barford St. Martin's.

Left to right, graves marked with crosses: 4050 Private (Pte) Franklin Dodd, 32nd Battalion, died of sickness 31 January 1917; 4484 Corporal Walter Anderson, 8th Field Company Engineers, died of sickness 5 October 1918; 5443 Pte John Smith, 54th Battalion, died Sunday 30 June 1918. Pte Smith was the alias of William Greenway.



Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private J. Smith's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Barford St. Martin Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England. His correct name was William Greenway.



(Headstone photos by Lady Linda – Find a Grave)

