

**Tottenham Cemetery,
Greater London, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3558 PRIVATE

R. SMITH

6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 26

Reginald SMITH

Reginald Smith was born at Manor Park, Essex, England on 9th September, 1890 to parents Arthur Charles & Elizabeth Mary Smith (nee Jarman).

The 1891 England Census recorded Reginald Smith as a 7 month old, living with his family at 77 Harold Road, West Ham, Essex, England. His parents were listed as Arthur C. Smith (Clerk (Stock Broker's), aged 30, born Dlaston, London) & Elizabeth M. Smith (aged 30, Born Royston, Cambs). Reginald was the youngest of five children listed on this Census – John S. Smith (Scholar, aged 6, born West Ham, Essex), Dorothy M. Smith (Scholar, aged 5, born West Ham, Essex), Millicent G. Smith (Scholar, aged 3, born West Ham, Essex), Percy Smith (aged 2, born East Ham, Essex) & Reginald (born East Ham, Essex).

The 1901 England Census recorded Reginald Smith as a 10 year old, living with his family at 28 Durham Rd., East Ham, Essex, England. His parents were listed as Arthur C. Smith (Clerk in the Stock Exchange, aged 40) & Elizabeth M. Smith (aged 40). Reginald was the youngest of four children listed on this Census – Dorothy M. Smith (aged 15), Millicent G. Smith (aged 13), Percy Smith (aged 12, born Forest Gate, Essex) & Reginald (born Manor Park, Essex).

Reginald Smith was a 25 year old, single, Motor Mechanic from 359 Hotham Street, Elsternwick, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 8th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3558 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. M. Smith, 6 Countess Terrace, Billet Lane, Waltham Street, London, S.E., England. Reginald Smith stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to defective eyes.

Private Reginald Smith was posted to Depot (Battalion) on 8th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was posted to 11th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 7th October, 1915.

Private Reginald Smith embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

8th Battalion

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Reginald Smith was transferred from 8th Battalion to 6th Battalion on 22nd February, 1916. He was taken on strength of 6th Battalion from 8th Battalion Reinforcements at Serapeum on 22nd February, 1916.

Private Reginald Smith proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 26th March, 1916 on Troopship *Ballarat*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 2nd April, 1916.

Private Reginald Smith was wounded in action in France on 16th August, 1916. He was admitted to No. 4 Australian Field Ambulance on 17th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Buttock then transferred & admitted to No. 44 Casualty Clearing Station on the same day. Private Smith was transferred & admitted to No. 1 Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 21st August, 1916. He was transferred to Calais & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* on 29th August, 1916.

6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade....

In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres the battalion fought near Ypres, in Flanders, returning to the Somme for winter.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 6th Battalion

Pozieres – 16th August, 1916

05.00 – Battn took over extra frontage to the left to R.34S6.9.

Four Vicars guns came up to support lines.

Shelled heavily again during the day – Men unable to get any sleep at all.

In evening battn ordered to dig a strong post as near as possible to R.35.D.0.6 A screen of scouts, bombers & Lewis Gunners went out & 20 men of C Coy under Lt Shrimpton dug post. - Some casualties were sustained in covering party. Post was actually made at about R.35.D.0.5 & was occupied by rifles & bombers.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Reginald Smith was admitted to Edmonton Military Hospital, London, England on 29th August, 1916 with G.S.W. to right Buttock (slight). The Hospital Admissions form recorded “___ buttock penetrating pelvis. Rt internal iliac tied & this controlled haemorrhage. Developed symptoms of pelvic peritonitis & died.”

Private Reginald Smith died on 9th September, 1916 at Military Hospital, Edmonton, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. right Buttock.

A death for Reginald Smith, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Edmonton, Middlesex, England.

Private Reginald Smith was buried on 12th September, 1916 in Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England – “*Heroes Corner*”. He is now remembered on CWGC Screen Wall – Gen. 7320 as he has no headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private Reginald Smith requested in his Will that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to Mrs H. B. Steggles, 359 Holtham Street, Elsternwick, Melbourne, Victoria.

The personal effects of the late Private Reginald Smith were received & signed for by Mrs H. B. Steggles on 23rd May, 1917. Another package was signed for on 16th January, 1918 by Mrs Steggles.

Communications sent from Base Records in October, 1917 to Mrs M. E. Smith, 6 Countess Terrace, Billet Lane, Walthamstow, London, England, mother of the late Private Reginald Smith, were returned undelivered.

Base Records wrote to Mrs H. B. Steggles, 359 Hotham Street, Elsternwick, Victoria on 19th August, 1920 asking for the present address of Mrs M. E. Smith, mother and next of kin of the late No. 3558 Private R. Smith, 6th Battalion as communications addressed to 6 Countess Terrace, Billet Lane, Walthamstow, London, England, had been returned unclaimed. The letter continued asking if Mrs Smith was deceased could they be informed of any brothers of the late soldier & the address or if no brothers, the names of any sisters & the address.

Doris Cook, 12 Cole Street, Gardenvale, replied to Base Records on 30th August, 1920 in regards to the address of Mrs Smith, mother of the late No. 3558 Private Smith, 6th Battalion. The letter continues with “*I am writing on behalf of Mrs Steggles (my mother) who is at present in England, & is or has been staying with Mrs Smith, her sister at 6 Countess Terrace, Walthamstow. Apparently you have not been informed that Mrs Smith has remarried & her name is now Mrs Avenal of the same address, so probably the postal authorities, not knowing any one of that name at that address did not trouble to make enquiries. Trusting you will have better success at your next attempt.*”

Private Reginald Smith was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Smith's mother – Mrs E. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin (father deceased). (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Reginald Smith – service number 3558, aged 26, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mrs Elizabeth Mary Smith, of 6 Countess Terrace, Billet Lane, Walthamstow, Essex.

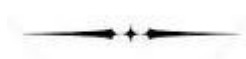
Private R. Smith is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 48.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(42 pages of Private Reginald 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 217th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Private R. Smith, England

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 23 September, 1916)

THE 227th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private R. Smith, England

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 4 October, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

SMITH – A tribute to the memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Signaller Reg. (Jim) Smith, who died of wounds 9th September, 1916 (26th birthday), received in France.

“Greater love hath no man.”

-(Inserted by his aunt and uncle, also his cousins, Doris and Reg.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In fond remembrance of Signaller R. Smith (Jim), who made the supreme sacrifice Sept. 9, 1916, aged 26 years.

“My country, 'tis for thee”

-(A.L., Elsternwick)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 September, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In loving memory of Signaller R. Smith (Jim), died of wounds, September 9, 1916, aged 26 years.

His duty nobly done.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SMITH – In fond remembrance of Signaller R. Smith (Jim), died of wounds September 9, 1916, aged 26 years.

Fragrant memories

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 September, 1919)

AUSTRALIAN GRAVES

FLOWERS IN TOTTENHAM CEMETERY

Eight Australian soldiers are lying in Tottenham Cemetery, England. News of the tending of their graves has been received by Miss G. Limmer, of 299 Avoca street, Randwick, in a letter from a friend, Miss Lillian Short whose address is 130A Gladstone Avenue, Wood Green, London N. The letter says:

In Tottenham Cemetery there are eight Australian soldiers buried, and a few friends and myself have under taken to place flowers on the graves once every month, so that they are not forgotten. The graves are beautifully turfed and looked after by the cemetery authorities, but we supply the flowers. We have been wondering whether the relatives of the men would like to know that we are doing this. It seems so dreadful to think that the poor boys are lying here and their friends cannot get to them. I went to the cemetery yesterday and put daffodils, narcissus and marguerites (yellow) there. They looked so nice when they were finished. The men's names and numbers are as follow:

3959 Pte. W. Whitehead, 23rd Battn., died October 2, 1916.

4654 Pte. W. G. Staveley, 58th. Battn.. died November 12, 1916.

651 Pte. E. J. Willis, 29th Battn., died August 2, 1916.

3558 Pte. E. Smith, 6th Battn., died September 9, 1916.

2778 Pte. H. L. Beaumont, 10th Battn., died September 25, 1916.

4146 Pte. F. A. Beard, 59th Battn., died July 30, 1916.

553 Pte. D. Low, 32nd Battn., died August 4, 1916.

2466 Pte. R. V. Feehan, 10th Battn., died September 22, 1916.

(*Advocate*, Burnie, Tasmania – 17 June, 1921)

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.

Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England

Tottenham Cemetery contains burials of both wars. Most of the 293 First World War graves are in a plot on the western side of the cemetery, backed by a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried both there and elsewhere in the cemetery, whose graves could not be individually marked.

There are 212 burials of the Second World War, mostly scattered, but 30 graves form a small plot facing the First World War plot. Again, some graves could not be individually marked and these casualties are commemorated on supplementary panels to the Screen Wall.

(Information from CWGC)



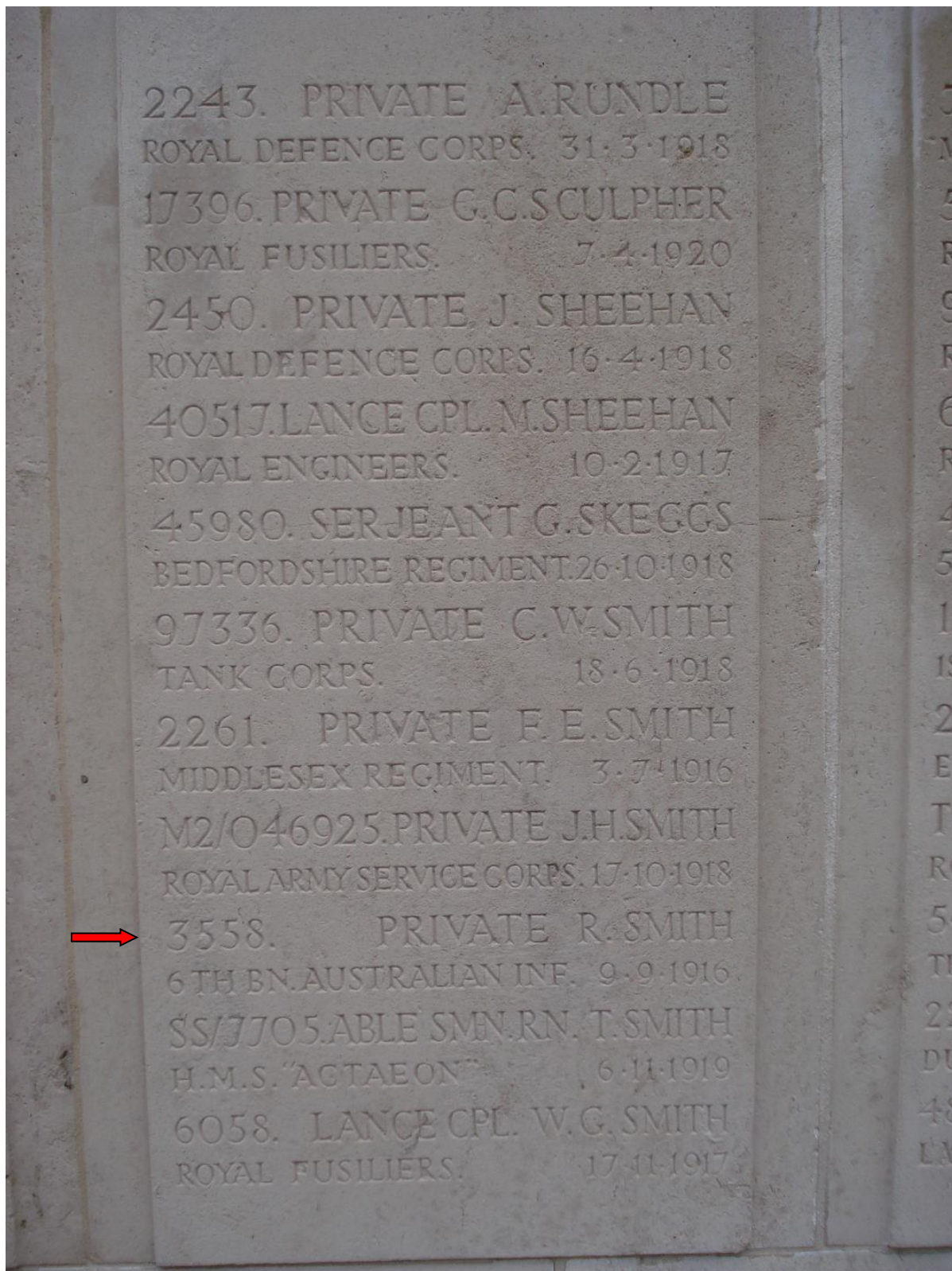
Tottenham Cemetery *(Photo above from Find a Grave – Mike Ganly)*



Tottenham Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private R. Smith's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)





Tottenham Cemetery Map (Photo from Find a Grave – Justin)