### **Private**

## FRANK WILLIAM SMITH

27672, 8th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry

(previously 1789, West Somerset Yeomanry)

Died of Wounds 5th May 1917

Aged 19

**Buried Etaples Military Cemetery** 

**Grave XVIII.J.3A** 

The reports of Frank Smith's death – and there are five of them – seem to respond to something special about him. Maybe it was his youth, just 19 – 'such a bright young life', but maybe too something in his personality: 'of a bright and cheerful disposition', 'of a happy disposition and liked by all who knew him', 'my best war chum, liked by all officers and men of his company and platoon'.

Frank, or Francis, was born on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1898, the oldest child of Frank and Bessie Smith. They were a young family (all Frank's brothers were young enough to serve not in WW1 but in WW2). Frank senior was baptised at Otterford in August 1871, the son of John Smith, a Dairyman at Hayne Farm. Interestingly the Smith family were living next to the Buttles at Waterhayes in 1881.

Frank senior and Bessie Hartnell were married at Otterford in Autumn 1897. They seem to have moved around in the area; young Frank was born at Curland; in 1901 they were at Courtsmoor, Churchstanton where Frank senior was a groom; their next child was born in 1904 at Clayhidon, but then they're back in Otterford, living as tenants at North Hill Farm, Higher Widcombe (on the site of the current Abbeywood House). Frank senior was a Farmer's Carter.

Young Frank attended Otterford School from 9 October 1905 to 13 May 1911. As a boy he worked for Mr Brooks-King of Widcombe, and then in the garden at Buckland House, Buckland St Mary for the Reverend Mr A P Potts; when there he lodged with the Every family at Meanwood.

Frank joined the West Somerset Yeomanry, probably in 1915 'when he was barely 17 years of age'. The two surviving photographs of him are in his Yeomanry uniform, booted and spurred, looking absurdly young and very handsome. He was transferred to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry. His friend Private Bill Savery writes that they trained together at Tidworth on Salisbury Plain. According to *The Taunton Courier* Frank, and Bill too probably, had been in France for 5 months when he died; they must have arrived in a draft late in 1916. This suggests that Frank was kept in England till he was 18 plus.

Did they arrive for the last stages of the Somme battles, before these petered out in the mud of winter? About the middle of December the Battalion went into billets at Paradis, near Vieille Chapelle, where they stayed till March. Travelling north, they arrived in the Arras area on March 10, where they remained out of the Front Line in detailed training on model trench systems built to resemble the German front line.

The Battle of Arras, or to describe its initial phase more precisely, the First Battle of the Scarpe (which ended on 14 April) began on April 9 after days of terrifyingly heavy bombardment of the

German lines. The 8<sup>th</sup>, part of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 37<sup>th</sup> Division, fought till withdrawn to Arras on the April 12 with heavy losses: 2 officers wounded, 26 other ranks killed, and 70 wounded and missing. The weather was terrible; heavy rainfall, followed by snow, so bitterly cold and wretched for the men.

The Second Battle of the Scarpe (23-24 April) began for the 8<sup>th</sup> as they were moved up on the 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> ready to attack at 4.45am. Again, attacking with fellow Battalions, they suffered heavily, 'the whole front .. swept by heavy machine gun fire and a terrific hostile shrapnel barrage'. This was the day on which Frank was wounded. Bill Savery wrote to Frank's family:

'We were blown up by the same shell, which also buried us. Afterwards when we were dug out, I heard him call "Bill", "Bill". Then I went unconscious and don't remember any more. They reported me killed, but I recovered by nightfall and then made inquiries for Frank, and was told that he was gone back to the dressing station, so I did not see him again, although we may have taken to the same hospital. It was 12.35pm when he met with his wounds which cost him his life on the 23rd day of April in the big push, for I had just taken my watch out to see the time.'

He was reported in the Somerset County Gazette as 'having been badly wounded in the legs'; Bill writes that 'I really cannot say whether he was wounded in the legs, but I am told in hospital that his wounds were on his right arm and on the side of his face' - which can't have been much of a comfort to his family.

DIED OF WOUNDS .- It is with great regret that we record the death of Private F. Smith. Som. L.I. It will be remembered that last week it was reported that his mother (Mrs. F. Smith, Widcombe), had received the news that he was Early this week she received the regrettable news that he had succumbed to his wounds in the 26th General Hospital, Etaples. The exact date when he was wounded is not known but it is believed to be between the 25th and 28th of April. He had been five months in France, and was only 19 years of age on the 19th As a boy he was with Mr. R. Brooks King, of Widcombe, and when he enlisted in the early part of the war he was with Mr. Potts, of Buckland St. Mary. His death has come as a shock to all who knew him. He was of a bright and cheerful disposition, and it is one of the horrors of the war that such a bright young life should be laid low. Deepest sympathy extended to the bereaved parents.

Taunton Courier, 16 May 1917

Frank and Bill had a pact to 'write to one another's folks at home' if anything happened to either of them.

Between the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> April 4 officers and 17 other ranks were killed, 14 officers and 180 other ranks wounded, with 99 missing. A terrible toll. The whole attack (Bill Savery's all too familiar 'big push') gained 7000 yards at a cost of 160,000 killed and wounded.

Frank would have been taken to a Casualty Clearing Station, and ultimately to the 26<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Etaples. This was located in a vast complex near the coast, with the necessary rail, road and boat transport for bringing troops and the sick in and out.

Elsie Tranter, a Nurse at the 26th, writes: '2.5.1917

At present, our work in the theatre is hard and we have very long hours. We are on duty most days from early morning till very late at night. Three times this week it has been well into next morning when we have got to bed, then Sister Shann and I take it night about for emergency calls. These calls, unfortunately, are rather frequent and as they are almost invariably for haemorrhage, we have to be very quick in getting across from our tents to the theatre. Today I had to assist at ten amputations, one after another. It is frightfully nerve-wracking work. I seem to hear that wretched saw at work whenever I try to sleep. We see the most ghastly wounds and are all day long inhaling the odour of gas gangrene. How these boys suffer! This war is absolute hell. We see and hear all day and every day the results of its frightfulness. We can hear the guns quite plainly here.'

All the press reports of Frank's death are reproduced here and on the following pages. He is commemorated not only on the Buckland St Mary Memorial, but also on the one at St Leonard's Church, Otterford. As well as the photographs of him, his family have a lovely embroidered postcard, complete with flowers and patriotic butterfly, which he sent back from France.



[Particular thanks to the Smith family for allowing us to use their photos and mementoes.]

## **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

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FRANK SMITH SENIOR 1891 CENSUS

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FRANK SMITH SENIOR 1901 CENSUS

## CENSUS

# ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.



Prepared pursuant to the Census (Great Britain) Act, 1910.

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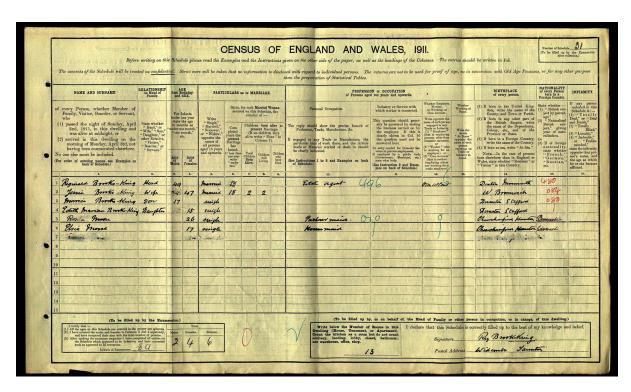
## NOTICE.

This Schedule must be filled up and signed by, or on behalf of, the Head of the Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of the dwelling (house, tenement or apartment).

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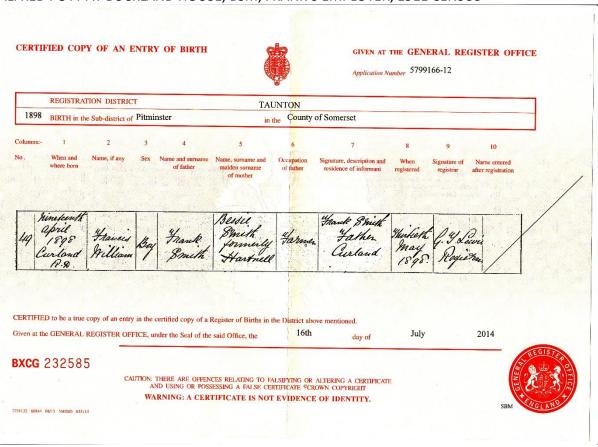
### FRANCIS SMITH 1911 CENSUS



REGINALD BROOKS-KING, FRANK'S EMPLOYER, 1911 CENSUS AT WIDCOMBE

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ALFRED POTT AT BUCKLAND HOUSE, BSM, FRANK'S EMPLOYER, 1911 CENSUS



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FRANK SMITH MEDAL ROLL CARD INDEX



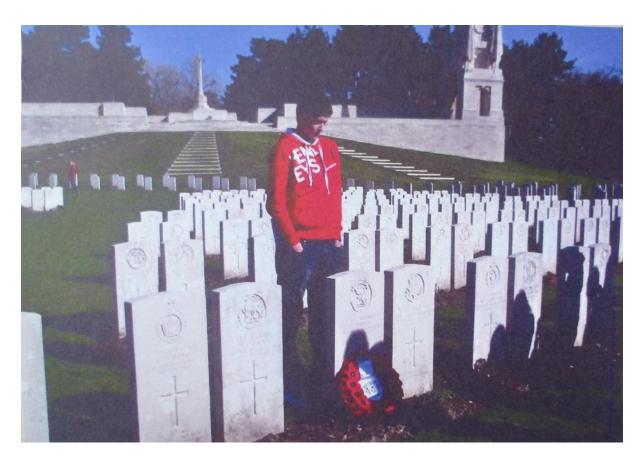
WWI PRACTICE TRENCHES ON SALISBURY PLAIN AT BULFORD



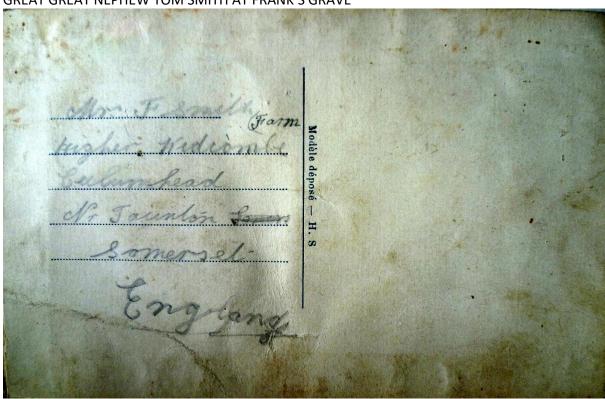
FRANK SMITH







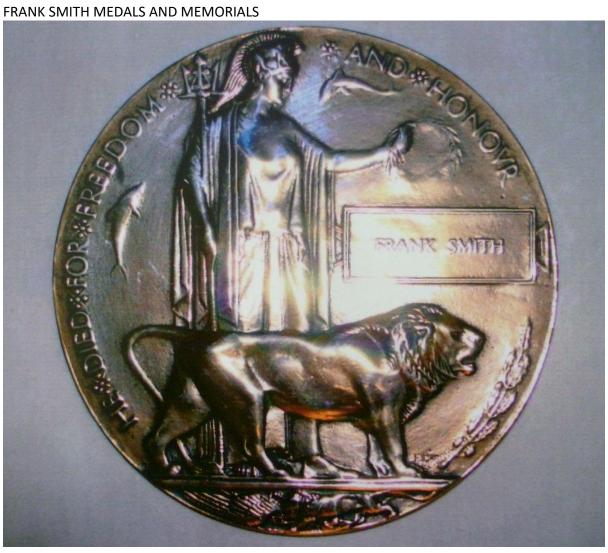
GREAT GREAT NEPHEW TOM SMITH AT FRANK'S GRAVE



REVERSE OF EMBROIDERED CARD



THE CARD





E whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it

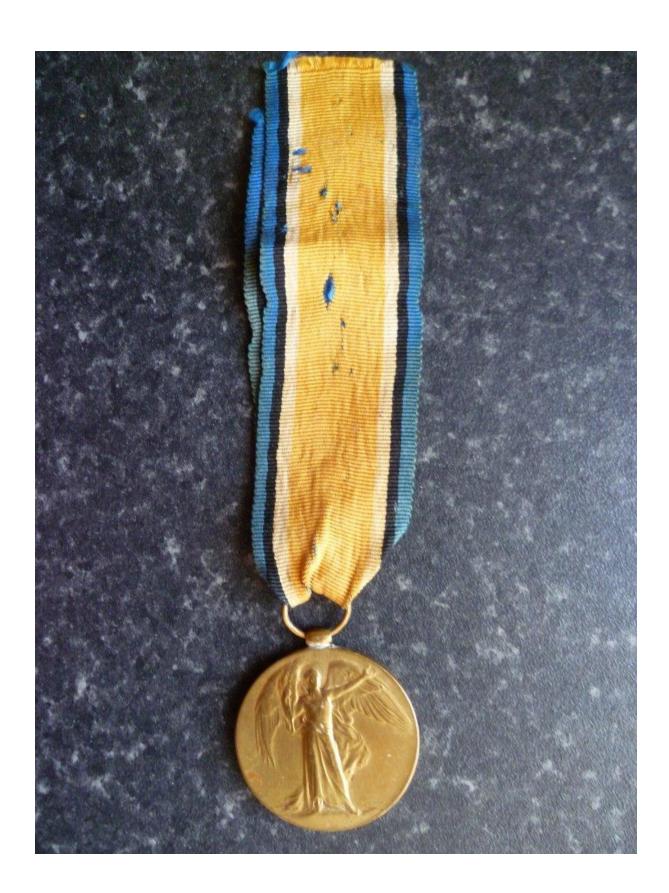
that his name be not forgotten.

Pte. Frank Smith 8 Somerset Light Inf:













		ss of Firm-		COMP	REHEN nes t	REPORT (A) OF H to this report is SIVE REPORT (B) to be inscribed w and LAYOUTS (the la quoted on the ba	attached HEARSTONE 1th texts youts to	TEXTS are underlined.	to	pe stencistones abbrevi	CEMETERY: ITARY CEME illed J. N below groun ated thud: . M.C.	TERY.
Badge sign No and ayout (1)	1	st line		2nd line (3)		3rd line		(6)		Centre of Stone (6)	To be st on foo headston ground	t of e below
	Numbe	r and Rank	Initials	NAME and Ho	nours	Regiment		DATE		RELIG: EMBLEM.	PLOTEP ROW -R GRAVE-G P. R. G.	No. of Stone
056/1A	11349	PRIVATE	A.W.	JELLY		SOMERSET LIGHT	INFANTRY	SOTH SEPTEMBER	1915	CROSS.	4 H 4A	5960
.056/1A	27840	PRIVATE	R.J.	KIBBLE		-do-	-do-	24TH JULY	1917	CROSS	25 L 17	10001
056/1A	9788	PRIVATE	G.	LEIGH		-do-	-do-	13TH JULY	1915	CROSS	2 B 20	5962
056/10	28825	LANCE CPL.	J.H.	TTOAD		-do-	-do-	15TH APRIL	1918	GROSS	29 0 164	5963
056/1A	17688	PRIVATE	8.0.	MASTERS		-do-	-do-	6TH APRIL	1916	CROSS	5 A 5A	5964
.056/1A	19832	LANCE CPL.		ALFORD MEMBE	RY	-do-	-do-		1016	GROSS		5966
.056/1H	17169	PRIVATE	PHILLIP	JAMES PAINTI	M	-do-	-do-	17TH NOVEMBER	1918	CROSS	1 A 15	3967
.056/10	28214	PRIVATE	Не	PERRY	-	-do-	-do-	STH OCTOBER	1915	cross		5968
.056/1A	10411	PRIVATE	J.T.	RICHARDS		-do-	-do-	7TH AUGUST	1915	CROSS	2 B 37A	5960
.056/1A	14026	PRIVATE	G.	RIDDIFORD		-do-	-do-	28TH AUGUST	1915	CROSS	4 D 1A	5970
1056/1C	204261	PRIVATE	J.C.	RIDGEWELL		-do-	*do*	1ST DECEMBER	1917	CROSS	30 N 16A	5971
.056/1B	15878	LANCE CPL-	(TOUM)	BERT ROGERSON		-do-	-do-	24TH APRIL	1917	CROSS	DE 6 3.74	25972
056/1B	10351	PRIVATE	WILLIAM	EDWIN SKYNOU	R	-do-	-do-	1ST SEPTEMBER	1915	CROSS	4 B 10A	Z5973
056/1A	14914	SERJEANT	8.	SKELCHER		-do-	-do-	10TH SEPTEMBER	1915	CROSS-	4 R 1A	45974
.056/1A	27672	PRIVATE	F.	SMITH		-do-	*do-	5TH MAY	1917	CROSS'	18 J 3A	5975
.056/1E	29758	PRIVATE	7.	STEPHENS		<u>⇔do</u> ∻	<u>-do-</u>	22ND APRIL	1918	CROSS	29 M 2A	5976 8/23/4
056/10	18786	PRIVATE	E.J.	SWEET		-do-	<u>-d6-</u>	10TH SEPTEMBER	1036	CROSS	10 8 16	5977
1056/1B	29530	PRIVATE	WILLIAM	GEORGE THOMA	S	480-	-db-	17TH APRIL	1918	AGE 18	29 E 15A	5978
056/1B	40165	PRIVATE	F.C.	TUDBALL		-80-	-do-	14TH MAY	1918	CROSS	65 B 26	45000
1056/1B	10061	PRIVATE	MATTER		_	=do=	-do-	28TH SEPTEMBER 6TH FEBRUARY	1916	CROSS	(C)	5980
L056/1A	14048	PRIVATE	W.J.	WALTERS		-do-	-do-	21ST MAY	1917	CROSS	C	6982
1056/10	27501	PRIVATE	JOHN S.W.	WHITE		-do-	-do-	28TH NOVEMBER	1918	CROSS		5983
1056/1D 1056/1A	30057	PRIVATE	(C.A.)	WILTON		-do-	-do-	24TH NOVEMBER	1916	CROSS	20 B 12	5984
								*These headst	ones d until	are not		

\* 4

ND . 03 aprintade .................. IMPERIAL WAR G.A.E. COMMISSION SCHEDULE "B" PAGE 18. Name and address of Firm COMPREHENSIVE REPORT B HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS NAME OF CEMETERY to be read in conjunction with

COMPREMENSIVE REPORT A HEADSTONE MILITARY INSCRIPTIONS ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY. NO. 16 together with
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design). No. of Letters in text. (7) TEXT Badge Design Ne and Layout Line 4 Line 3 Line 2 Line 1 stone No. (6) (5) (4) (3) (2) (Mr.Frank Smith, Widcombe, Culmhead, Taunton). 5975 IN THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE WORNING (Mrs.E.Stephens, 13.Trinity Rd., Southampten). WE WILL REMEMBER HIM 54 5976 1056/1E BELOVED SON OF | E. J. SWEET) BRISTOL | EVER IN OUR THOUGHTS (Mrs.E.J.Sweet, 78.Lincoln St., Lawrence Hill, Bristyl). 5977 1056/1D NONE BUT
(Mrs E.Thomas, 17.0do St., Hafod, Swansea, S.Wales). I LOVED SO WELL 51 1056/1B 5978 12 GOD KNOWS BEST (Mr. Mm. Chas. Tudball, 55. Summerland, Ave., Minehead, Somerset). 5979 1056/1B PEACE PERFECT PEACE (Mrs.Careline Vickery, Houndsmoor, Milverton, Sem.) 1056/1B 5980 (Mrs.B.N. Jones, 45.Enid St., Trealaw, Glam. Rhondda.) 5981 TO LIVE IN HEARTS | WE LEAVE BEHIND IS NOT TO DIE (Mrs.M.E. Warman, 39.Lucerne Rd., Thornton Heath, Surrey). 37 5982 1056/1D OOD PROVED HIM AND FOUND HIM WORTHY FOR HIMSELF (Mr.Albert J.White, 47.Dankerry Rd., Windmill Hill, Bedminster, Bristel). 38 30 1056/1D (Mrs.O.M. Wilten, 25.Arundel Crescent, Plymouth, Deven). 5984 Names and Addresses of Next of Kin

are shown in brackets, and will not appear on the Headstone.

-17



## GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

SECTION 6. QUNIT 22 REPORT No.1.

SCHEDULE No. 125 C.

COMMUNE ETAPLES.

PLACE OF BURIAL ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY.

Map.Ref.1/100-000 Calais 13 B. 6.5.4.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.
Nos. in Red are

Land belongs to

Record Plan Nos.

The following are buried here: - DION N POW 8. (By J): STOT 18

			THUI H. RUW	6. (/On o	1. 0201	40	
	Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or Despatched	Map Reference
		38048	LEONARD.	PTE.J.	4- 5-17	E.	253
	8/Fd.Amb.RAMC.	3379	TOWNSEND.	PTE.W.J.	5- 5-17		£254J
	7/E.Surr.R.	9845	LEADBEATER.	L/C.W. 4	5- 5-17	"	255.1
	8/Som.L.I.	27672	SMITH.	PTE.F.	5- 5-17	"	256.
	11/R.War.R.	19406	LAWRENCE.	PTE.E.	4- 5-17	11	257. NE
	7/R.Fus.	5575	HUNT.	PTE.C.D.	5- 5-17	11	258
	2/Suffolk R.	3523	BARR.	PTE.G.	4- 5-17	11	259
	4/Worcester R. 7	10587	BARNES.	PTE.T.	4- 5-17	11	260
			PLOT N.ROW 7/	(Raw II)	· FLOT I		
		73065	McGOVERN.	PTE.P.	5- 5-17	"	261.1/6
			STAFFORD.	L/C.G.R.R.	4- 5-17	""	262
			DOOLEY. WAPR	CPL.W.J.	4- 5-17	" " "	263.
	4/M.G.O.	5628	WELLS.	PTE.H.	4- 5-17	"	264.]
	9/North'd Fus. 24,	1063	CALLAGHAN.	PTE.T.	4- 5-17	11	265.7
	6/late 9/R.W.Kents.		ACOTT.L A	CPL.R.	5- 5-17	_tt _Z	266
	8/Canadians. 22	5514		PTE.J.	4- 5-17	11	267.TV
	13/K.R.R1f.C. R/	3450	GROOM.V	L/C.P.	4- 5-17	"	268.
					D/W CCTY	CAN REC	6
			AVERY. X	PTE. G.E.G.	5- 5-17	11/1/20	269 7
a	7/E-York.R.		BAILEY.	PTE.H.	4- 5-17	"	270
2			FULLERTON.	PTE.J.	4- 5-17	" +	271.4
	4/Worcester R.	0458	CLOWES.	PTE.G.R.	5- 5-17	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	272
	7/A.& Suth. Hdrs. 25	8905	BROWN. V.//	PTE.J.S.	5- 5-17	#1	273.
	7/8 K.O.S.B.			PTE.G.	5- 5-17	11 6	
	2/H.L.I.	2897	MITCHELL. V	PTE.J.	4- 5-17	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	275.
	9/North'd Fus.	2202		L/C.H.E.	5- 5-17	11 L	276.
	- 4	1 1 (5	L-V//			c.c.M./25/8/182	63
	1/R.M. L.T. Bn. RND. CH	1472	ROPE.	PTE H. A.	5- 5-17	" - 6-	277
	13/Rifle Bde.	4236	PATRICK.	CPL.W.	3- 5-17	n	278.1
	1/R.Irish Fus.			D/Cigh. &	5-17	" "	279.77
	Transfer of the second		100	THE PERSON NAMED IN	210-11	1	280.16
	(6 31 5) W8219—M901 20.00	10/18	HWV(P237A) Forms/W	CARACAL VIEW			-
	BLIFS CHE 30,00		II W V(I 20/A) FORMS/W	2 OCI 1911	d d		
	MALL O OUT OF	Lille de		91190	DI		

SENIOR to J. 9A. ZELLEY

CEMETERY Fr. 40 SMITH, Pte. Daniel, 16/1416. 1st/5th Bn. ETAPLES Northumberland Fusiliers. 25th/26th March, PART VI 1918. Age 23. Son of Mrs. Annie Smith, of 14, U.K. GRAVES Beech Grove Terrace, Prudhoe-on-Tyne. XXXI.

SMITH, Pte. Donald Griffin, 6469. 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. Died of wounds 18th Oct., 1916. Age 22. Son of Walter and Eleanor Smith, of "Oakleigh," Swaffham, Norfolk. XII. A. 11.

SMITH, Cpl. Ernest Albert William, 4882.
"C" Sqdn. 9th Lancers. Died of wounds 6th May, 1918. Age 21. Son of Henry Albert and Eliza Mary Smith. Native of Borden, Sitting-bourne, Kent. LXVIII. A. 34.

SMITH, Pte. E., 28291. 6th Bn. Northampton-shire Regt. 26th Feb., 1917. XXI. J. 5A.

SMITH, Pte. E., 290885. 9th Bn. Norfolk Regt. Died of wounds (gas) 14th May, 1918. Age 28. Husband of B. M. Smith (now Lake), of Bracon Ash, Norwich. LXV. B. 32.

SMITH, Pte. E. G., 39369. 8th Bn. Gloucestershire Regt. 21st April, 1918. Step-brother of William C. Smith, of Cockbury Cottages, nr. Winchcombe, Glos. XXIX. J. 9.

SMITH, Pte. Frank Morrey, 36674. 7th Bn. Border Regt. 4th Dec., 1918. Age 19. Son of Herbert Isaac Smith and Helen Smith (stepmother), of 37, Urban Gardens, Millfield, Wellington, Salop. XLVII. A. 17.

SMITH, Pte. Frederick, 9089. 1st Bn. Worcestershire Regt. 23rd July, 1916. Age 40. Son of Druscilla Smith of 11, Littleworth St., Evesham, Worcestershire. XIV. D. 3.

SMITH, Pte. F., 4382. See "POVEY," the true family name.

SMITH, Pte. F., 27672. 8th Bn. Somerset Light Inf. Died of wounds 5th May, 1917. Age 19. Son of Frank Smith, of Widcombe, Culmhead, Taunton. XVIII. J. 3A.

SMITH, Pte. F. E., 201121. 2nd/5th Bn. The King's Liverpool Regt. Died of wounds (gas) 5th Aug., 1917. Age 22. Son of Arthur John and Edith Smith, of 494, Prescot Rd., Old Swan, Liverpool. Born at Liverpool. XXII. N. 34.

SMITH, Cpl. F. G., 76456. 2nd/6th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 20th May, 1918. LXV. C. 4.

SMITH, Pte. George, 271173. "D" Coy. 2nd Bn. Royal Scots. Died of wounds (gas) 26th May, 1918. Age 22. Son of Peter and Isabella Smith, of 38, Kennishead Rd., Thornliebank, Glasgow. Native of Thornliebank. Was bank, Glasgow. Native of Fhormiceank. was a clerk with G. and J. Burns, Shipping Agents. Voluntarily enlisted in the R.A.M.C. in 1915, transferred to Infantry, 1917. LXVIII. D. 15,

SMITH, Serjt. George, 6762. 139th Siege Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery. Died of wounds 22nd April, 1917. Age 36. Husband of Elizabeth Smith, of Yeovil Rd., Closworth, Sherborne, Dorset. XIX. F. 12A.

SMITH, Serjt. George Arthur, 37105. M.M. 346th Siege Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery. 19th April, 1918. Age 21. Eldest son of George and Louise Smith, of 295, Folkestone Rd., Dover. XXIX. G. 5A.

SMITH, Pte. George Barker, 23164. "D" Coy. 26th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. Died of wounds 12th Oct., 1916. Age 34. Son of George and Jane Smith, of Birmingham. VII. C. 4.

SMITH, Pte. George Clifford, 42495, M.M. 2nd Bn. Suffolk Regt. Died of wounds 19th Oct., 1918. Age 19. Son of Arthur Edward and Catherine Susan Smith, of "Oakleigh," Cromwell Rd., Whitstable, Kent. LXVIII. J. 2.

SMITH, Pte. George Herbert, 2786. "B" Coy. 5th Bn. Durham Light Inf. Died of wounds 29th Sept., 1916. Age 26. Son of Anna Eliza Smith, of 37, Wycombe St., Bondgate, Darlington, Co. Durham. XI. D. 16.

SMITH, Cpl. George Herbert, 766452. "A" Coy. 1st Bn. Artists' Rifles. Died of wounds 1st April, 1918. Age 22. Son of Charlotte Elizabeth and the late Joseph Smith, of Manchester. XXIX. A. 6.

SMITH, Pte. George William, 25897. 14th Bn. York and Lancaster Regt. Died of wounds 31st May, 1917. Age 29. Son of George and Clementina Smith, of 45, Sherrington Rd., Sheffield. Native of Sheffield. XXV. F. 13.

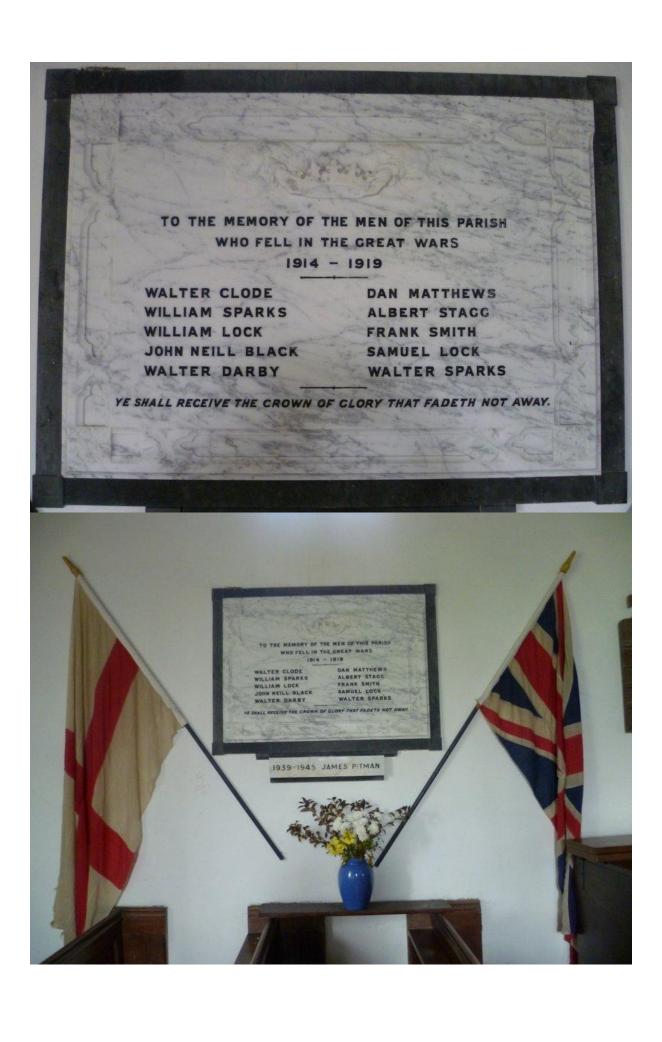
SMITH, Tpr. Godfrey, 1316. Royal Horse Guards. Died of pneumonia 22nd April, 1918. Age 30. Son of Henry and Alice Mary Smith, of Bradfold, Porker, bushed and M. Corich Bradfield, Berks; husband of M. L. Smith. XXIX. L. 2A.

	Record No.	Registry	Soldier's Name	Hagiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	Account and Date	REDITS	g.	a.	2	CHAI	T		Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Aut Aut	rount horises	l d.	No. of I int in which advertised	Becord No.	7
4	95471	6/471771	1, Pharphatt Frederick January	15 Batt Hank Pla 21089	such	Enester 7.17		-	_	20	- 1	4 11		24-10-19	Bro Sole leg arthur b. Bro * pole leg arthur C.		10		P	495476	&
		/	LATE 26 6 19		WA = Q Effects : Transfer Teggi Force Serial Fo	10 30 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	6	10 -							4 - 24	1 3					
4	95472	8/414057	1. Piek. Charles	1Batt Somewar Phe. 6375	4	8 xeter 7-17	3	14	10	3	14	10		no	, Dale Leg blig abeth Baker Sole leg		14	10		495477	8
		/	6 T. W. 5670 SENT DATE 26 6 19			1/2 30 %1 1/2 6170 6170 1/7442	15	10-						113	Eljabeth Bake						
4	95473	b/389347,	1. Smith Frank	8 Batt Somure Phe 27672	t Duck	7.17	5		2	5-	2	2 1			1. Father Frank		10		Ph.	495478	3
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4	95474	8/377191	Noney Ernest	2 Batt Hank Phe 29730	Presume	27.17	4	3	7	4	3 7	7 17	n.o. 11.17.	7.11.07	Diohar Matida Clark	4	4 3	7	•	495479	) 4
		1	A. F. W. 5070 SENT LATE 26 6 17		Final -	100 deligo 6176 4176 1170 179422	j		_					11-10-19/	Dis Seg Mm Mohldo blak	) 3	0	0	9		
4	95475	6/43639	3/1 Stabbings Lymny John)	1 Batt Somerte Ple 25477	In.	1-17		7 .	4	1	7 ,	4 1			nother Rachard.	3	7	4	M	495480	) 2
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ARMY REGISTER OF SOLDIERS' EFFECTS



OTTERFORD CHURCH MEMORIAL



## **Somerset County Gazette**

OTTERFORD. Otterford man dies of wounds. The sad intimation was received on Monday by Mr & Mrs F. Smith of Widcombe Farm, Culmhead, that their son, Private Frank Smith of the Somerset Light Infantry had died of wounds at a base hospital in France. The deceased who was only 19 years of age joined the West Somerset Yeomanry when he was barely 17 years of age and was afterwards transferred to the Somerset Light Infantry. He was always of a happy disposition and greatly liked by all who knew him. Prior to joining the Army he was for some time with the Vicar of Buckland St. Mary helping in the gardens.

It was known by the parents that he was badly wounded in the legs but hopes were entertained that so promising a young life would be spared to them. The deepest sympathy of the whole district is extended to the family in their great trial.

\* \* \* \* \*

OTTERFORD. The late Private F. Smith. It will be recalled that a few weeks back the news was received that Private F. Smith of the 8th Somersets, eldest son of Mr & Mrs Frank Smith of Widcombe Farm, Otterford had died of wounds in the severe fighting that took place in France in the latter part of April.

A few days ago Mr & Mrs Smith received from France a letter from a chum of their son, Private W.J. Savery, a Taunton man of St. James Street, that shows that young Smith was well liked by the whole of the officers and men of the 8th Battalion. The letter is as follows:-

France. May 25th 1917. Dear Mr. & Mrs Smith. I am very sorry to see in the Somerset County Gazette which my wife sends to me of the death of your son, Private Frank Smith. I tender my deepest sympathy in your great trial. I am writing these few lines to you as promised, for if anything happened to either of us we promised to write to each other's folks at home, for we had been chums we were at Tidworth and I have lost my best war chum. He was liked by all officers and men of his company and platoon.

Now I really cannot say whether he was wounded in the legs but I am told in Hospital that his wounds were on his right arm and on the side of his face.

We were blown up by the same shell, which also buried us. Afterwards when we were dug out, I heard him call "Bill", "Bill". Then I went unconscious and don't remember any more. They reported me killed, but I recovered by nightfall and then made inquires for Frank, and was told that he was gone back to the dressing station, so I did not see him again, although we may have taken to the same hospital. It was 12-35pm when he met with his wounds which cost him his life on the 23rd day of April in the big push, for I had just taken my watch out to see the time. I am a Taunton man of St James Street, and if I am spared to come back to "Blighty" again I will give you a call, and will also write to you when I get back to the battalion. (8th Somersets). Yours sincerely Private W.J. Savery.

round emberory i made tries earony.

Passed on by Geoffrey Berry of Churchstanton