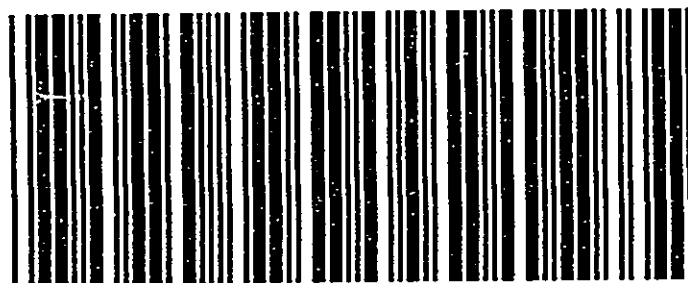


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6660 Lance Corporal
Thomas Leslie Smith

20th Battalion



2570206M

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.

SMITH. 6660.
Thomas Leslie.

"Killed in Action 30.9.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

NAME

UNIT

DATE

CAUSE OF DEATH

London.

18.10.19.

CAUSE

S.

20 A.I.F.

Smith. T.L. 6660.

(K. Sept: 30/17)
Det D/B.

"I know that L/Cpl: T.L. Smith (20. D. XV.) was killed about Sept: 30 at "Kit & Cat", a Ridge on the Ypres Sector, behind the Front Line. He was on a fatigue party carrying up duck boards. He was returning empty handed for a load when a shell burst 200 yards away. A piece came over and he was hit in the face behind the ear and killed instantaneously. Two men who were with him came and reported it to an officer in charge. He sent me up with three other men. We buried him just where he fell in the open. We made a rough cross with sticks and wrapped up particulars in it and tied it to the cross. Later I told the Padre where he could find the grave. I heard him give instructions to the Pioneers to make a proper cross and take it up the following morning at 6.a.m. L/Cpl. Smith's personal belongings were given to Q.Master Brightwell. (20.D.)

Eye-witness: He helped to bury him.

Description: I can give no particulars as I did not know him personally. It was his first time in the line.

Informant: Sgt: John Dixon. 2867.
20 A.I.F. D Co: XV Pl:
3rd Southern General Hospital.
Town Hall. Oxford.

Home address: 21, Mark Hill Rise.
Clapham.
London. S.W.4.

3..12.17.
Hilda E. Rickard-Cambridge.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

SMITH
T.L. 6660

Killed 30.9.17 Det. D/B.

I was on the same fatigue with him on 30th Septr. and as I was coming back from laying duck boards I saw his body lying on the track. The mates who were with me took his papers and buried him right at the spot. I left and can't say if cross erected. He fell and is buried on a waggon track just in front of West Oak Ridge past Zonnebeke about 2/3 miles from Birr X Roads. ~~West Oak~~
This was his first time in the line after he came back from England where he had been attending, I think, a school of instruction - He was a fine bright lad and would have got his stars in very short time. I think he was studying for an Officer.

Informant:- Ash. S.R. 5637
20th Bn. B. Coy.,
Westham.
8.12.17.

London.
4.2.18

S.

20th Battalion.
A.I.F.

SMITH.
T.L. 6660.

"KILLED IN 30.9.17."

About that date I helped to bury L/c Smith D, Coy, may be the same man enquired for, I don't know initials or number. In a shell hole up Ypres. I did not actually see him hit but saw him immediately after and buried him straightway. He was killed outright by a shell. We put up a stick with name etc on to mark the grave.

Informant;- Norman F.T. 6555.

20. D. Coy.

Bat 20. Westham.

W.A. Rand.,

London:
19.3.18.

Note;- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines

S.

A.I.P.
20th BATTALION.

SMITH, Acting-Sergeant
T.I. 6660

"Killed 20/9/17"

I went away with Smith by the s/s "Wiltshire" on the 7th February 1917. I knew him well. He was a Boxer and won the Championship on the steamer. He was tall, 6ft. 3", well-built, weighed from 12 to 13 stone, dark, clean shaved. His mate - I forget his name - told me that Smith had been killed at Ypres about September 1917. He said "Big Smith had been killed". We all called him "Big Smith".

Smith was a splendid fellow - a general favourite.

Informant:- No. 6681, Private A. BROWN,
20th Battalion.

Private address:- 4 Mears Avenue, Randwick.

F.B.W.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

30.12.18

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Gedson

20th Battalion.

SMITH, T.L. Act/Sgt. No. 6660

Killed. 30-9-17

Present Address - No. 1 Hut,
R. and A. Australian General Hospital,
No. 4

C.E.W. 12-6-18.

Informant did not see Smith killed, but was told by Sergeant Wilson (since died of wounds) that he saw Smith Killed. At the time Smith was killed, Smith was in a fatigue party behind Passchendaele, called Railway Wood, putting down a duckboard track from the reserve to the front line. Sergeant Wilson was in charge of the party. The Germans put over a barrage during the night, when the fatigue party were working, Smith was killed, and Sgt. Wilson was slightly wounded. Informant was acting as trench Sergeant-Major. Wilson left a Corporal in charge, and came back to report his evacuation to Informant. Just after he had reported an aeroplane came over, and Wilson was again wounded in the head. He had previously told Informant that Smith was killed. A party was afterwards sent to Railway Wood. Corporal Connolly was in charge of the members of the party belonging to the 20th Battalion. He is now missing, but he afterwards told Informant that he knew Smith well, and that his party had buried Smith's body, near the Railway Wood. Smith was very tall, dark and a fine stamp of a man, clean shaven. Informant first met him in the Training Battalion at Rolleston, Salisbury. He came over with the 19th Reinforcements.

Informant - Sergeant T.W. Gooda, No. 378,
20th Battalion, "A" Company. ✓

C.E.W.
12-9-18.

Present Address - No.1 Hut,
No.4 Australian General Hospital,

20th Battalion.

Killed.

SMITH, T.L. Act/Sgt. No.6660

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