

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

**2669 Private
Mervyn Whittenbury
Smith**

51st Battalion



2560307N

51st Battn. A.I.F.

SMITH

pte. M.W. 2669

Killed 3/9/16

Buried Courcellette British Cemetery, 5 miles N.E. of Albert,
2.133Ec.

Extracted from Capt. Spedding's List of 16/10/19

Melbourne

22/12/19

A.I.F. 51st Battn.

SMITH 2669
Mervyn Whittenbury

Killed in action 3.9.16

Buried 1 mile E. of Thiepval, 4 miles N.E. of Albert.
Cert. by A.I.F. Hdqrs List for Lieut Snedding.

London
19.5.19

P.I
OFF.M

51st Battn.
A. I. F.

Smith
Mervyn Whittenbury 266V⁹(44)

"Off. Missing 3.9.16. Mouquet Farm."

Killed in Action 3.9.16. previously reported Missing

Cert:by
A. I. F. Headquarters 5.5.17.

London.
21.5.17.

Off.M.
F.I.

51st Battn.,
A. I. F.
B.Coy.13th Bde.

SMITH,
Pte.Mervyn Whittenbury.2669.

Off.Missing.

"This man went forward in the front line in the attack on Mouquet Farm on 3rd. September. Nothing further is known and he has been officially reported missing. It is possible that he may be a prisoner of war."

Ref: H. Vernon Smith, Solicitor,
31 Homend St. Ledbury,
12-10-16.

London,
18-10-16.

A.I.F.
51st Btn.

SMITH.Pte.
Mervyn Whittenbury 2667⁹

"I am obliged for your letter of yesterday's date but the information contd therein as to the position of my late Son's grave was given to me about 2 years ago. The grave was found by a personal friend of mine Capt.R.G.Gurney. R.E. who was then engaged on Roads Construction in that neighbourhood and who just before leaving France designed and had the Oak cross erected to his memory which now marks the spot and has given me an exact sketch of it. I hope my dear lad's resting place will not be disturbed and that it will not be necessary to remove him to some cemetery. I notified the Aust. HQS. of this as soon as it came to my knowledge. "

Letter from:- H.Vernon Smith.
Solicitor.

31 Homend St.
Ledbury. Herefordshire.22.5.19

London.
4.6.19.

Off.H.

1-10-19

Final draft

Mr. H. Vernon Smith
31-Howard Street
Leedsbury.

The 2669 Mr. H. Vernon Smith
51th Bar - Cont.

RECEIVED
13 OCT. 1916

EARLTON HOUSE TOWN

31 HOMEND STREET.

H. VERNON SMITH,
SOLICITOR,

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.

LEDBURY, 12th October 1916

Dear Sir,
I have just recently heard
that my Son
Private Mervyn Whittenbury Smith
No 2669. B Company.
51st Batt. 13th Brigade.
A.I.F. . B.E.F
France

is officially reported missing
Col Ross his Commanding
Officer reports as follows

" This man went forward
" in the front line in the
" attack on Monquet Farm
" on 3rd September nothing
" further is known and
" he has been officially.

"reported missing. It is
"possible that he may be a
"prisoner of war."

Can you do anything
to help me to ascertain
whether my son is a
prisoner of war or not -
if so where he is whether
wounded or not if so
to what extent. I shall
be so grateful if you
can do anything to
allay our anxiety

At the Australian
headquarters 130 Horseferry Rd.
London they told my
brother in law in answer to
his enquiries that it was
quite possible that he
is a prisoner because
several members of his

Batt were taken prisoners on
that day. Their names
is are only coming through
from time to time very
slowly. Trusting you will
be able to help me.

I am

Yours faithfully

J. F. Ernoult

The Secretary

The British Red Cross Society

Enquiry Department for
Wounded & Missing

18 Carlton House Terrace

London

H. VERNON SMITH,
SOLICITOR.
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.

31 HOMEND STREET,
LEDBURY, 22nd May 1919
Herefordshire

24.5.19.
Dear Madam, ⁹
~~The Hon. Mr. Vernon Smith~~ ⁴⁰²⁶⁶⁷ ~~51st Bell~~
I am obliged for

Your letter of yesterday's date
but the information contained
therein as to the position
of my late Son's Grave was
given to me about 2 years
ago. The grave was found by
a personal friend of mine (Capt
H. G. Eury R.E. who was then
engaged on Roads Construction
in that neighbourhood & who
just before leaving France designed
& had the Oak Cross erected to his
memory which now marks
the spot & has given me an
exact sketch of it. I hope my
dear lad's resting place will not
be disturbed & that it will not
be necessary to remove him to
some cemetery.

Yours faithfully
The Secretary ^{W. Vernon Smith}
Australian R. & S. Society

Justified the Australian R. & S. of this is over and
same to my knowledge

off 17.

H. VERNON SMITH,
SOLICITOR.
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.

31 HOMEND STREET,
LEDBURY, 22 May 1919
Herefordshire

202667
Dear Madam, ~~Mr. Vernon~~ ^{Mr. Vernon} ~~Shutbury Smith~~
~~Mr. Vernon~~ ^{Mr. Vernon} ~~Shutbury Smith~~
I am obliged for your letter of yesterday's date

but the information contained therein as to the position of my late son Lewis was given to me about 2 years ago. The grave was found by a person friend of mine. Capt. H. G. Emery R.E. who was then engaged in Roads Construction in that neighbourhood & who just before leaving France designed I had the Capt. Cross erected to his memory which now stands the spot & has given me an exact sketch of it. I hope my dear lady's resting place will not be disturbed & that it will not be necessary to remove him & thus disturbing your fatherly The Secretary R. & S. & Son

I hope the Australian H.Q. of this is soon as it came to my knowledge

Yours faithfully
H. Vernon Smith

May 29th, 1917.

H. V. Smith, Esq.,
51, Homard Street,
Leadbury.

Dear Sir,

No. 2667 Eto Harvey Whittonbury Smith, 1st Bn. A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you that the above
soldier who was previously reported "Missing" since Sept. 3rd, is
now reported at A.I.F. Head Quarters as Killed in Action on
8-9-16.

We are making every possible enquiry for details of
his death, and will advise you immediately on receipt of such
information as we fully realise your great anxiety.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your sorrow.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.
Secretary.
K.A.W.

October 19th 1916

H. Vernon Smith Esq.
Solicitor,
31 Homend Street,
Ledbury.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your enquiry for your son No 2669
Pte. Mervyn Whittenbury Smith, 51st Batten A.I.F. and regret that
we have no information to send you. His name has not yet come
through as a prisoner of war but should it do so we will of course
let you know. We are making enquiries and shall send you any
information we may get as we fully realise your anxiety

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V. D. Smith
Secretary.

H. Vernon Smith. Esq.
31 Remond Street.
Llŷdery. Gwynedd.

May 21st, 1919.

Dear Sir,

We beg to advise you that we have now been informed that your son 2657 Pte. ~~MERVIN WILKINSON~~ SMITH. 51st Battalion. A.I.F. who was killed in action on 3.5.18 is now officially reported to have been buried 1 mile E. of Thiépval, 4 miles E.E. of Albert. We hope it may be some consolation to you to know that your son's grave has been identified and that it is now being cared for.

With sincere sympathy in your great loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

G. 2. 9.

H. Vernon Smith, Esq.
31 Homend Street.
Ledbury, Herefordshire.

May 25th, 1919.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of 22nd inst, concerning the grave of your son 2567 Pte. Mervyn Whittenburg Smith. 51st Battalion. A.I.F. We should advise you to communicate any wishes you may have regarding the matter, direct to the Graves Dept. A.I.F. Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road. London. S.W.1. as this organization has undertaken all matters pertaining to the graves of the soldiers in the A.I.F.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Grig