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

# 27148 Gunner
# James Arthur Smith

## 8th Field Artillery Brigade



2550711L

Smith Sec. Comm. 27.4.8.

Jay Arthur

Artillery -

8th F.A.B.

K. 19.10.17. H.Q. 29.6.18.

Battery? Bgde?

A.D.S. 28.5.18

To G.C.

Capt F.P.M. Solling M.C.
Medical Officer
8th Brigade A.F.A.
A.I.F. B.E.F.

About 27148
J.A. Smith
31st Battery
8th Bde. A.F.A.

Kia A. 19.10.17

26.4.17
HJ.

Written to 19.4.18 SC

Lieut W. Morgan
9th Battn D Coy
1st Training Battalion
Sutton Veney
Wilts

and to
Sgt Keaney
D Coy. 9th Batt
Australian Imperial Forces
B. E. F.

about
5427
~~Rt~~ J. A. W. Smith
D Coy. 9th Battn
A.I.F.
K in A. 4.11.17.

18th June 1918.

Havre

A.F.A. 8.

Smith J.A. No.27148.

K. 18th Octr 1917. Det D/B.

I knew him well, he enlisted in Queensland but had people in Sydney. He was a short, dark, thickset boy, and was a signaller in the 30th Batty. On the 18th Octr we were in front of Passchendaele in action. A number of us were behind a concrete dugout when a shell burst and several were hit, Smith being killed at once. He was buried in Frost House Cemetery between Ypres and Passhendaele and a cross was put up.

Inf:- Gunner G. Ridgway No.22974.
A.F.A. 8. 29.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

B

CWSG.

31st Batty
8th Bgde
A.F.A.
A.I.F.

SMITH,
J.A. 27148

"Killed 19.10.17."

I saw him killed near Menin Road. He was caught by a piece of shell, which hit him about the forehead: He lived a little while after being hit, but was unconscious all the time. He was taken to the dressing station near by, where everything possible was done for him by Capt. Solling. I did not know him very well, as I was in a different battery, but I was with him when he died. I did not see his grave, and I cannot refer to anyone for actual details, but he was buried on the Corduroy Road, near Passchendaele.

Informant:- Gnr.J.H.Johnson, 1942,
29th Batty, 8th Bgde,
3.A.A.H. Dartford.

W.Oman.
London.
29.4.18.

NOTE Written to Capt. Solling 25.4.18.
B.

31st Battery. SMITH.
8th Aust.F.A.Brge. J.A. 27148.

"Killed in Action" 19-10-17.

Re no 27148 J.A.Smith. 31st Battery, 8th Aust.F.A.Bde
I have made enquiries at the above mentioned battery and brigade and find that a man of that name and number has never been on the strength of the battery or brigade.

If he were from some other Unit and passed through my hands when wounded, you can, I am sure, understand that I wouldn't remember him among so many, unless personally known to me which did not obtain in this case. I regret that I am unable to help you in this matter and assuring you that the matter has been fully gone into.

Letter from:- T.P.M.Solling. Capt. of
8th Aust.F.A.Brigade.
FRANCE.

Note:- We have verified this man's unit at H.Q. as 8th F.A.Brigade. No Battery given.

London.
3-6-18. B.

Havre 26th August 1918.

Aust. Field Art. 8. Smith J.A. 27148.

K. 19th Octr 1917. Det D/B.

He was blown to pieces by a shell at Messines Ridge on the 19th Octr 1917. He were advancing at the time. About 5 feet 10, dark, well built, about 27 years

Inf:- Gunner H. Crust Bc. 20773.
Australian F.A. 8. 30.
72 General Hospital.

HJC.

PP.

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Capt F P Jn Solling M.C. 25-4-18
Medical Officer
8th Brigade AFA
AIF B.E.F

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a ~~man of your unit~~ who was supposed to have been taken to the Dressing Station near Menin Road. When you were Medical Officer there, the name particulars are.
27148 J. A. Smith. 31st Battery. 8th Bgd AFA. AIF
who is reported Killed in Action 19.10.17
and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin
Secretary. per H.J.

Ack. 29.5.18 [illegible]

27148
J. A. Smith
8th F.A.B.
[illegible]

In the field.
12.5.18.

Secretary
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau.

Dear Madam.

In reference to accompanying letter re No 27148 J. A. Smith. 31st Battery 8th Aust. F.A. Bde

I have made enquiries at the above mentioned battery & brigade & find that a man of that number & name has never been on the strength of the battery or brigade.

If he were from some other unit & passed through my hands when wounded, you can, I am sure, understand that I would not remember him among so many, unless personally known to me which did not obtain in this case.

I regret that I am unable to help you in this matter & assuring you that the matter has been fully gone into

Yours faithfully
+ T. M. Solling
(T.P.M. SOLLING) Capt A.A.M.C.
R.M.O. 8th Aust. F.A. Bde.

Note We have verified this man's unit at H.Q. as 8 F.A. Bgde - no Battery given -
(Ve. a. Searcher at H.Q. 29.5.18)

Captain F.P.M. Selling M.C. 31/5/18.

A.A.M.C.,

8th. Brigade Field Artillery,

Australian Imperial Force, B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you for your reply to our enquiry about 27148 James Arthur Smith who was killed in action 19/10/17.

On receipt of your letter we re-verified the unit at A.I.F. Headquarters here and were again told he was in 8th Field Artillery Brigade though they have no record ~~there~~ of his battery.

We fully realise how impossible it is for you to remember all the men that pass through your hands - We would not have troubled you had our informant not stated you had a personal knowledge of this case, and we are very grateful for the trouble you have taken to look the matter up for us.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Miss

Secretary.

AWJS.