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

6871 Private
Herbert Stanley Smith

3rd Battalion



2550505M

3rd Bt., A.L.F.	SMITH Herbert Stanley	6871.	
"Killed in Action 15.4.18."			
No trace Germany Cert. by Capt. Mills, 10.10.19.			
London. 16.10.19.	S		

3rd A.I.F.

Smith Pte. H.S. 6871 D Coy.

(Killed 15th April 1918)

"I was at Strezeele on 15th April 1918. Smith was there, we were in trenches under shell fire. At about 5 p.m. a bomb fell from an aeroplane and killed Smith at once with 6 others. I was about 80 yards off and saw what happened. The next morning I saw the pioneers take his body away to be buried."

Eye witness: Yes.

Description: Small, short, stout, about 21, single, had parents living, painter by trade.

Informant: Pte. C.C. Stewart 13100,
3rd A.I.F., D Coy., XIII Pltn.,
The Princess Christian Mil. Hos:
Englefield Green.

Home address: Collirenabri,
N.S. Wales.

21.7.18.
J.H.W. Ritchie.

3rd Battn.
A.I.F.

SMITH.
H.S. 6871.

"Killed 15-4-18"

At Strazeele when in the line, killed by a bomb from an plane about 5.p.m. I saw him killed & About 5 others killed - I did not see them buried but I knew him well.

Informant:- Stewart.1310.
W.12.HAREFIELD.

D.P.Dickson.
London.
31-7-18.
M.I.S.

Note:- Previous report by Stewart. S.

A.I.F. 3. SMITH H.S. 6871 Briggs and two others.

K. April I5th 1918. Walsh W. 4584 F. W. 2858

The day before Fritz attacked on our part of the line we were in the front line at Strazeele. In the afternoon we were being shelled and according to our orders we got out of the trenches and went ~~over~~ about 50 yards to the rear. Then an aeroplane came over and dropped some bombs and killed five and wounded three. They were all in my platoon D. XIII in the Lewis Gun section. We saw three bombs fall just about where they were and we went out and got them Briggs - name Frank - an English chap - was practically blown to pieces. He was buried in the cemetery just out side the village of Strazeele. Cpl. A. Hamilton buried him. I was not present at the burial. Walsh initial W. was killed at the same time and badly knocked about. He had a leg blown off. The other three killed were Privates Binn, Smith and C. Woods all in D. XIII L.G.S. all were buried in the Strazeele cemetery. I cannot be sure if Smith is the H.S. Smith in the list but he probably is. He was a very small man but nuggety and well built, age not more than 20 I should say, and had been with us not more than I2 months.

Inf. L/Cpl. A.J McCarthy I99I XIII
No 55 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 2 8 I8. JT.

N.Z.

3rd BATTALION.	"Killed 15-4-18"	SMITH, H.S.	Pte.	No. 6871
	"Killed 15-4-18"	Binn, H.H.	Pte.	No. 7200
	"Killed 15-4-18"	Briggs, F.W.	Pte.	No. 2858
	"Killed 15-4-18"	Walsh, W.	Pte.	No. 4584

"Binn was in A. Company, 4th Platoon with me. He was short, dark and slim build. I think he - Binn - lived at Surry Hills. We were on an outpost at Strazeele, beyond Harzebruck about13-4-18. As the barrage was falling short we were ordered to fall back into another small trench about 100 yards behind the outpost. Binn and about 6 others, including Smith, Walsh, and Briggs went back to this trench. I had to stop in the outpost. An enemy aeroplane - with our markings - flew low, and dropped a bomb in this small trench. I immediately went back, and found Binn, Briggs and Smith quite dead - they had been killed instantly. I could recognise them, and am sure they were killed instantly, also F.W. Briggs, No. 2858, also a man called H.S. Smith, No. 6871. W. Walsh No. 4584 was severely wounded, and he - Walsh - died about 20 minutes later. 2858, Briggs, was in the same platoon. His name was Frank. He was shortish, medium build, dark, and his people (his Aunt) lived in England, his parents being dead. 6871 H.S.Smith - He was fair, short, and thickset, and came from a country district in New South Wales.

No. 4584 Walsh - His name was "Will". He was short, dark, medium build, and had been a motor driver. His parents lived at Annandale, and he married in England, a girl at Bristol. I am certain that Binn, Briggs and Smith were killed instantly, and that Walsh only lived about

20 minutes. I helped to bury all these men at a spot behind Strazeele Railway Station, and a cross was subsequently made by the Pioneers, and erected on their grave, which I subsequently saw. I wrote to all these men's people."

INFORMANT:- Cpl. R. T. Brown, No. 1602
3rd Battalion A. Company 4th Platoon.
Home address:- 15, Croydon Street, Petersham.

H.SO.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital
Randwick. 11-10-18

SYDNEY BUREAU.