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

2709A Gunner
Howard William
Bowyer Smith

4th Heavy Trench Mortar Battery



2550511J

4th M.T.M.Bty.
Late 15th Btn.

SMITH
Gnr. Howard Will B. 2709.
Bonyear

"Killed in Action 3.5.19."

No trace Germany

Cert.by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
23.10.19.

P.

V/4A H.T.M.Bty.
A.I.F.

Smith.
H.W.B. 2709

"Killed 3.5.17"

Smith and five others were killed in a dug out at Bullecourt by a shell which blew in the dug out. They were dug out. I saw them then, and were subsequently buried in the same shell hole. I did not see their burial but others told me. I cannot say if grave was marked.

Informant:- D.S.Allison 1991
8th H.T.M.Bty.
Hut 19 Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.
12.4.18.

P.

4 Heavy Trench Mortars
A.I.F. Late 16 Batty

Smith, H.W. B. 2709, V/4 A
(K. May 3/17. Dets. D/B)

The old Railway Embankment opposite Bullecourt.
We were waiting on May 3rd to follow the Infantry over with trench mortars, into Bullecourt Village. About 10 minutes after the barrage began, a shell landed among our bombs. Smith was in a little dugout close by on the embankment, and he with 4 others was instantly killed. The Infantry held on, but as we had no bombs left, we were ordered to carry away the wounded. Smith was in medium trench mortar batteries Y/4 A.F

Eye witness: Yes.
Description: About 5 ft. 6 very dark, single about 27. From Leederville, Perth.

Informant: Gunner J. Nugent 2111 7th Aus. M.T. (late Medium T.Ms.) Y/4 A.
5th Southern Hos: Milton Section, Portsmouth.

Home address: C/o State Savings Bank of Victoria,
Elizabeth Street,
Melbourne.

P.

3.5.18.

E.C. Hughes.

A.I.F. Nist Part 2 - V.114. H.M.A.T. "Commonwealth", 26th. April, 1919.

4th. Medium T. M. Bty. SMITH, Gnr. M.V.B. 2709.

May 3/17.

Short, dark, nuggetty. Called "Smithy". Came from Leederville, West Aust. At the time the Battery was termed "Y4A M. T. M. Bty". When waiting to go over, a shell came over and blew up ammunition - 6 a.m. 5 others were knocked. (- Cpl. ESOK, 8th. Aust.; Gnr. JENNER, 8th. Aust.; Gnr. HUNTER, West. Aust.; Gnr. COCKSHELL, 8th. Aust.; and ? DWYER. SMITH was blown in half. Circumstances at time did not permit of burial. Locality, right in front of Bullecourt Embankment about 700 yards distant. Ecoust-St.Mien probably more definite. (It should be noted that friends of JENNER and others have received acknowledgments to letters in which they stated all had been buried, when they knew that they had not been buried but had been churned up by subsequent shell fire. Correspondence to relatives of SMITH should be written in the ~~light~~ manner which could meet this contingency).

Eyewitness:- 2709 Gnr. F. N. Been,
8th. Medium T. M. Bty,
formerly "Y4A".
Private Address:- "Tesca", Waratah St.
Canterbury, Sydney, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Searcher:- Henry Millard.

No.10562 T/Cpl. Ropat. & Dumb. Dept. London
formerly 2nd. Aust. Casualty Clearing Station.
Private Address:- 19 Marion Street,

4th Batty H.&M.
Trench Mortars

SMITH Gnr H.F.B.
2709

Killed in action 3-5-1917

I knew Smythe personnally being in the same battery as myself I saw him killed by an explosion caused through enemy bombs on the 3-5-1917 before daybreak He was killed instantly He was 5'6 in height dark complexion and came from West Australia.

Inf. 1567
Cpl. E.J.Brooks
8th Batty.
A.T.M.

Private address
Millicent
South Andtralia

R.I.Ormsby
H.M.A.T.Norman
18-8-19

Lady Hughes

Norman Court, Southsea,

Hants.

7th May

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of 4th inst., concerning the late 2709 GNR. H.W.B. SMITH, 4th Heavy Trench Mortar Battery, A.I.F. for the address of whose people - 2111 Gnr. I. Hugent is asking - we beg to inform you that we are not allowed to give it. If however, he will address the letter to Gnr. Smith's next of kin C/o this Office we will be pleased to forward it to them through our Local Office in Perth.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) [signature]

SECRETARY.

A. I. F. 54th Bn. DOYLE, R. H. 1596.

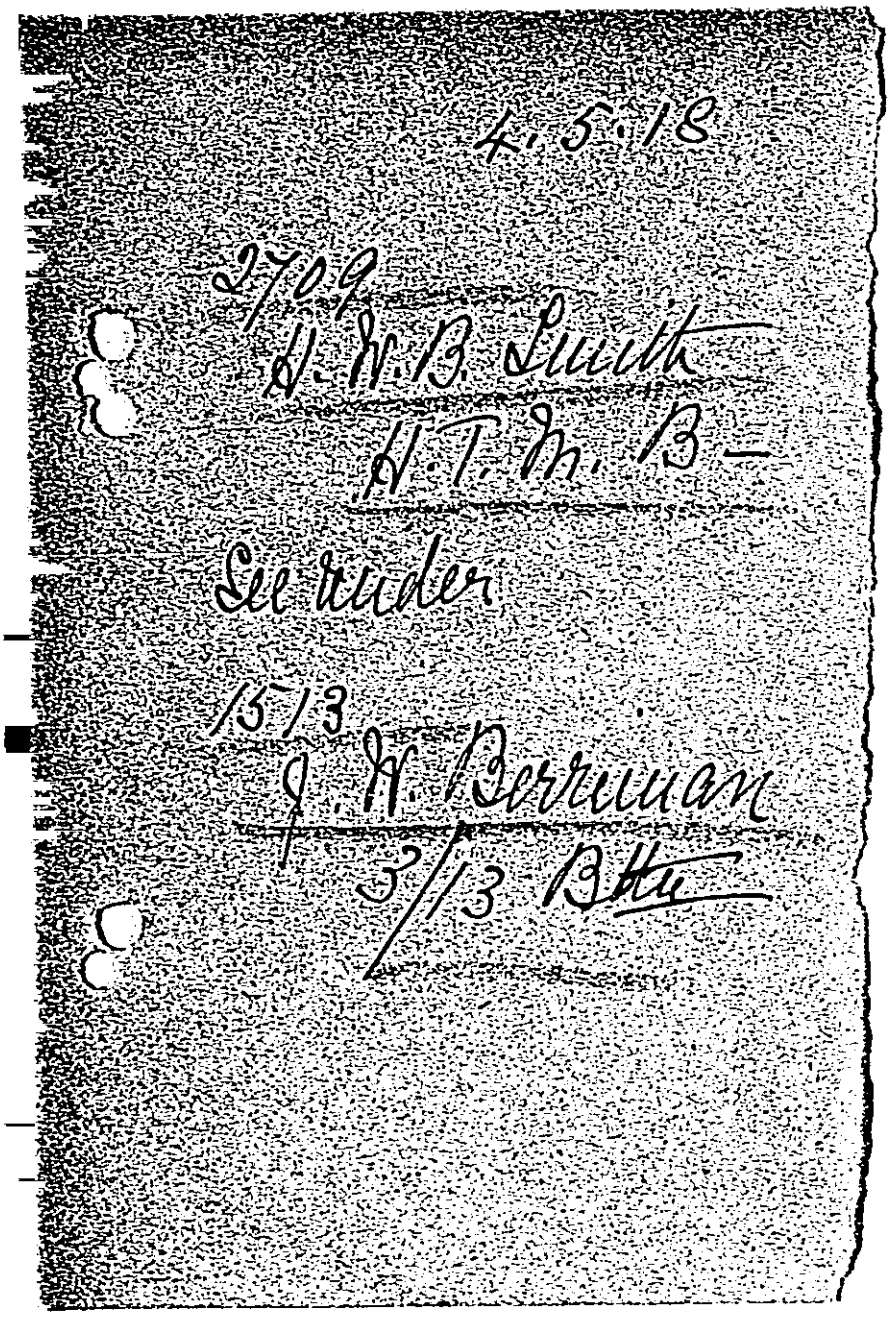
Killed Sept.16/17. Det.D/B.

At Polygon Wood on the 27th Sept./17. I saw a group of 21 men struck by a big shell and all were buried by a fall of groudn in the trenches; I assisted to dig them out and only 10 were brought out alive - badly wounded and bruised. Among the dead was my friend Doyle (I know his initials are R.H.) and I knew him well but he was hardly recognisable, he was so badly knocked about. I recovered his Pay Book and identity disc and handed them in. Doyle and the 10 other dead were buried there on the spot. Doyle came from Manley, N.S.W. where I know him in civil life.

Reference: Sgt.C.C.Murray, 318, B.Coy.

No.11 Stationary, Rouen, 1.6.18.

[illegible]



4.5.18

2709
H. W. B. Smith
H. T. M. B —

See under

1513
J. W. Berriman
3/13 Bttu