

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

3424 Private  
Douglas Thomas  
Smith

1st Pioneer Battalion



2540304I

A.I.F. 1st Pioneer Battn.

SMITH  
D.T. 3424

"KILLED 25/8/18"

He was killed at St Martin's Wood on 25th August. I did not see him hit, but helped to bury him next day in a trench near where he fell. A cross was erected over his grave. He was a Pte in D Coy. 15th Pltn.

Informant:- Cpl. Williams,  
D Coy., 1st Pioneer Battn.

NOTE:- Cpl. Williams gave me the same report about Bottomley, D.T. Smith and Thoroughgood, but was called away before I got any more details. I was unable to come across him again. H.S.C

H. S. Cowan  
22/1/19  
1st Div. H.Q.  
London  
8/2/19  
HG

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A.I.F. 1st Pioneer Battn.

SMITH  
D.T. 3424

"KILLED 25/8/18"

I saw him hit at St Martin's Wood on 25th August about 11 p.m. by the same shell that got A.J. Bottomley, we were on a wiring party in front of an infantry advanced post. He was badly smashed up and was killed instantly, never moved or spoke. We carried him about 20 yards into a trench and left him there that night. Cpl. Barrett went out next day with a party to bury him and others. He was a Pte in D Coy., 15th Pltn, only a younger, with dark curly hair.

Informant:- Cpl. M.C. Gray 4202,  
D Coy.,  
1st Pioneers Battn.

NOTE:- Cpl. Barrett on way back to Australia.

J. S. Cowan  
22/1/19  
1st Div. H.Q.  
London  
8/2/19  
HG

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Havre  
Aust Pioneers 1.

3rd February 1919.  
Smith D.T. 3424.

K. 25th August 1918. Det D/B.

I saw him killed by a shell at 2 a.m. at St Martin's Wood. He was killed on the spot. Two of us carried him into a trench, and he was left there that night, and a burial party buried him next day. He was buried near the trench. His effects were handed to the Company Officer.

Inf:- Cpl K.C. Gray No. 4202.  
Aust. Pioneers 1. D.  
Austra. Camp.

CRR.

*M.T.S.*

S

PP.

Havre  
Aust Pioneers 1

13th February 1919.  
Smith D. T. No 3424.

K. 25th August 1918. Det D/B.

I didn't see him killed, but I saw his grave at St Martins near Hamel, and I have written to his mother telling all I know, and where the grave is.

Inf:- Pte J.E. Paris No. 3338.  
Aust Pioneers 1. C.  
Austra. Demob. Depot.

IAH.

S

PP

1st PIONEERS A.I.F.

SMITH D. I. ~~EVANS~~  
No. 342.

Killed 25/8/18.

Informant states that he saw a cross which had been made for the grave of Smith and saw the party that set out to put it in position. He believes that the grave was at Troop.

Informant: Private F. A. Evans, 2965,  
D. Company. *(General)*

Home address: 390 Miller street, North Sydney.

V.R.G.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, HARDWICK,  
19/2/19.

STONEY BUREAU

*F.A.*

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1st PIONEERS, A.I.F.

SMITH, Private  
D.T. No. 3424

"Killed 25/8/1918".

Informant described Smith as about 5ft.3" high, slight build, fair complexion, aged about 21, a Carpenter in civil life.

Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company, 15th Platoon. On 25/8/18 the Battalion was in front of St. Martin's Wood near Harbonnieres. While they were out at night fixing wires in "No Man's Land" Smith was hit by a shell and died almost at once without speaking. Informant was about 20 Yards away and saw him soon afterwards lying in a trench with a man who had been killed with him. He was buried in the trench near where Informant saw him by a burial party, but Informant was not present.

According to Informant Smith was a well liked chap.

Informant;- No. 4095, Pte. G.M. Tierney,  
"D" Company, 1st Pioneers.

Private address;- 32 Belmore St., KNMORE.

W.E.G.  
Victoria Barracks,  
SYDNEY. 11/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

5.

A.I.F. 1st Pioneers D Coy.

SMITH  
D.F. 3424 Pte

Killed 25.8.18

5' 2" - medium complexion age 22, single, From New South Wales near Sydney.

Smith was killed instantly by shell at Proyart on 25.8.18 while advancing with his Unit. He would be buried on the field about 1 1/2 miles S. from Proyart near the D/S. I did not see him dead or buried - The information was obtained by me being C/M/S to this Company.

Informant:- 3689 R. Barnes C/Q/M/S  
1st Aust. Pioneer Battn.

90 Brunke Rd  
Hamilton West  
Newcastle,  
N.S.W. Australia.

OSW

London  
23.6.19  
HG

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A.I.F.  
1st Australian Pioneer Battalion.  
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SMITH, Private  
D.T. No. 3424

"Killed 25/8/1918".

I have already given a report at the Victoria Barracks,  
but further, I have Pte. Smith's Cigarette Case, which I got from  
his dug-out, and will send it on if the address of his people is  
sent to me. Was in the same Section as Smith.

Informant;- No. 4095, Pte. G.U. Tierney,  
Private address;- 32, Belmore Street,  
ENMORE.  
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G.S.A.  
A.I.F. Furlough Bureau,  
Sydney. 24/4/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

*S. C. Saff.*

1st. Par. Battn

SMITH, D.F.  
3424

K. AUG 25 1918

D. COY. Fair to Garage 20-21, 5'6. He was killed instantly by a shell the night of Aug 25th at St. Martin's Wood and was buried there -- a cross was erected.

Inf. Opl. S. Waring  
2215 D. Coy.  
1st. Par. Battn

R. G. Wheeler  
H. M. A. T. City of Poonah.  
15-8-19.

*Smith*  
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1st Para.

SMITH, D.F.  
3424, Pte.

Killed in action 25/8/18.

He was killed instantly by shell fire on 25/8/18 near Warfusee and was buried behind the line near the same village. A Cross was erected to his memory.

Informant:- Pte. R.F.C. Holloway, 3803,  
1st Para. Btn.

E.S. Smith,  
H.M.A.T. Soudan,  
28/6/19

*Ad [unclear] [unclear] 1/5  
Ed [unclear]*

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

1st PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F.

SMITH.  
D.T. 3424.

"KILLED. 25.8.18."

I was talking to Smith and Bottomley, when they were both killed instantly by the same shell during the early hours of the 25th, and were buried near where they fell, right alongside the main road from Amiens to St. Quentin and a rough cross was erected. About a week later I took the crosses up for both these men and Lance-Corporal Copeland.

This occurred in the Battle of Proyart, near St. Martin's Wood.

Description: He was short, dark, medium build, and about 5'6" in height.

I remember when he first came to the Battalion, about 2 years before he was killed.

INFORMANT: F. Barrett,  
1st Pioneer Battalion.

Home address: Tudor Street, CAMPSIE, Sydney, N.S.W. ✓

R.H.P.  
H.M.T. "Port Darwin",  
30.7.19.

*J.A.*  
SYDNEY BUREAU.