

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

4886 Private  
Edward George Smith

54th Battalion



2540413J

A.I.F. 54th Btn  
late 2nd

SMITH  
Edw. Geo. 4886

"K/A.19--20-7-16"

No trace Germany  
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

London  
18-10-19

8

Have

25th May, 1917.

54th AUSTRALIANS

SMITH, M.G. 4886

M. 19-20.7.16.

Sergt. Bartier of the 54th battalion, B Co. who was with his unit on the 9th of this month, can give all details of M.G. Smith who was killed in the German trenches at Fromelles. Sergt. Reddin of the 54th battalion, B Co. can also give further particulars.

Informant: Pte G.S. Hickey, 4797  
54th Australians, B Co.,  
H. St. Grantully Castle.

Written by Reddin, 31.5.17

RBS

S  
1 for Boulogne

54th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Smith.  
E. G. 4886.

"Missing 19-20.7.16."

Re 4886 Pte. E. G. Smith who is reported missing since 19.7.16. I  
saw him in German front line about 11.p.m. on the 19.7.16 he  
was then wounded and he spoke to me as I passed him. He did not seem  
to be seriously wounded and I could not stay with him as we were so  
badly cut up. Height 5'7" brown hair just beginning to grow a mous-  
tache and about 9 stone 7 weight. I was Sgt. Major of reinforcements  
that E.G. Smith was attached to from Australia (also 4801 C. D.  
Holliday) I received a postcard from you last February it was address-  
ed c/o Union Jack Club, London. I was in France when I received it,  
and I immediately gave you all particulars re 4801 C. D. Holliday and  
I am sorry to say but I think that 4886 E. G. Smith has shared the  
same fate as C. D. Holliday. On the 23rd 7.16 I was present when  
there were about 80 of our lads buried close to Laventie near Sally  
and neither 4801 or 4886 were among them.

Letter from:-

Cadet B. Bedding,  
No. 2 Officers Cadet Bd.,  
Cambridge. 22.6.17.

London.  
20.7.17.

S. */for Smith*

54th Battn.  
A.I.F.

SMITH.  
E.G. 4886.

"Killed in Action 19/20-7-16"

Re the above named soldier's effects. His kit bag was not deposited at this Store and none of his belongings have been received here from the field. In view of the fact that Private E.G. Smith was first reported Missing then Killed in Action, it is very unlikely that anything will come to hand at a later date.

Letter from:- O.C.  
A.I.F. Kit Store.  
HAMMERSMITH.

London.  
13-1-19.

S.

Mr. W. Smith  
Fern Hill  
Main Rd.  
Coominal  
N.S.W.

11.12.18

Re 4586 Plc E. G. Smith 54<sup>th</sup> Batt  
M. 19.20.7.16

C1 Custodian. A ref seal.

C

C

C

Evre

15th November 1918.

Australians. 30.

Rush (MC) Ment B.D.

D/W 4th September 1918. Det D/S.

This officer was killed on the left of Peronne. He had charge of D.Coy., and during the night Fritz was bombarding. While he was in the trench he was hit by a piece of shell in the head. I saw him at our D/Station and he was practically dead. I don't know about burial.

Inf:- Pte J.F. Sponder No. 3876.

A.I.F. 50. A. III.

Austra. Conv. Depot.

OWSG.

PP.

31.5-17

Sgt REDDIN / BC

54 Battalion

B E F

for

4886

E. G. SMITH

54 Battalion

M. 19/20. 7. 16

*[Handwritten signature]*

8.6.17

RECEIVED



WPE/HC. 4a.

A.I.F. 2. 22.11. 2000.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

OK. 495/1/31.



TELEPHONE: Hammersmith 0808 1900 & 1901.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Kit Store,

110, GREYHOUND ROAD,

FULHAM Hammersmith,

LONDON. S.W. 6.

4886  
E.G. Smith  
54 Bn  
K in A.

19. 20. 7. 16.

32. 8th January 1919

Dear Madam,

No. 4886 Private E.G. SMITH, 54th Battalion, A.I.F.  
- Deceased -

With reference to your letter of the 12th ultimo enquiring regarding the effects of the above-named late soldier on behalf of his Mother in Australia - his kit bag was not deposited at this end and none of his belongings have been received here from the field.

In view of the fact that Private E.G. Smith was first reported Missing then Killed in Action, it is very unlikely that anything will come to hand at a later date.

Yours faithfully,

*W. Stewer*  
Lieutenant.

O.C., A.I.F. Kit Store.

The Secretary,  
Australian Red Cross Society,  
36, Grosvenor Place,  
L o n d o n. S.W.1.

July 4th. 1 917.

Cadet B. Redding,  
No. 2 Officers Cadet Battn.,  
Corpus Christi College. *Cambridge*

Dear Mr. Redding,

We have to thank you for your letter of the  
22nd. June concerning :-

4886 E.G. SMITH, 54th. Battn., A.I.F.

and for the information it contained. We are glad to know  
that you will help us with any information for enquirers at  
any time. Again thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

*V. D.*  
*J. L.*

ack  
2A-771

No 2. Officers Quarters B.  
Corpus Christi College  
Cambridge

22-6-17.

To Secretary of Wounded and missing, A.I.F.

Your letter to hand dated 8-6-17 re 4886 Pte.  
Smith E. G. who is reported missing since  
19/7/16. I last seen him in German front  
line about 11. PM. on the 19-7-16 he was then  
wounded and he spoke to me as I passed him  
he did not seem to be seriously wounded  
and I could not stay with him as we were  
so badly cut up. Height 5-7. Brown Hair just  
beginning to grow moustache and about 9-7 weight.  
I was Sgt. Mjr. of reinforcements that Smith E. G. was  
attached to from Australia (also 4801 L. D. Holliday)  
I received a P.C. from you last February it was  
addressed to Union Jack Club London I was in  
France when I received and I immediately  
gave you all particulars re. 4801 L. D. Holliday  
and I am sorry to say but I think that 4886  
E. G. Smith has shared the same fate as L. D. Holliday  
On the 23<sup>rd</sup> 7-16. I was present when there  
were about 80 of our lads buried close to.

Laventie near Sully and neither 4801 or 4886 were  
among them. It is my duty to my comrades and  
the breard ones to supply you with any information  
that I can, and a duty I will always carry out.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully  
Capt. B. Reading

~~4886~~

~~E. G. SMITH~~

~~54 Batt<sup>th</sup> AIF~~

M/19/20 7/6

S

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Enquiry Dept. for Wounded & Missing,  
British Red Cross Society & Order of  
St. John of Jerusalem  
No. 4 Branch, Havre B.L.F.

ENQUIRY

Surname *Smith* No. *4886*

Christian Name *Pte Edward G*

Regiment *A.I.F.*

Btn *54* Company *B* Pltn

Date reported *Missing 19/20.7.1916*

Whether official *This name was in our list  
till June '17*

Inquirer *Mrs E. Smith*

*Jerrhill*

*Via Corrimal  
N. S. W.*

Date *6/11/17*

*2 slips S.O.*

RECEIVED  
9 DEC 18  
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

4886  
Mr E. G. Smith  
Sympson St. 1F

11.12.18

Fern Hill  
Main Road  
Borrimal

To The Red Cross (London) 5. 10. 18

Just a few lines to see if you can do anything for me in regard of my son who was reported missing fourteen months and then I received word to say that he was killed in action I have never received any of his belongings and nobody seems to of seen him. Miss Hunt received a letter from a soldier who was in his company and he says he helped to bury my son. I went out to see her to see if she would give me the soldier's name and address but she would not I don't you think that she is a mean sort of a girl not to give me his name and address. It is going in three years now so I think it is nearly time I received something belonging to him. He was reported missing in Feb 19 or 20 (1916)

I.  
He was in that big battle Poziers  
in July 1916) His M<sup>rs</sup> Hunter says  
that the soldier that sent her food  
is in the hospital My son's number  
& address No 4886  
I remain yours Private E. J. Smith

M<sup>rs</sup> W. Smith

Sun Hill

Main Road

Boonah

N. S. W.

Australia

B. Company

54<sup>th</sup> Battalion

14<sup>th</sup> Brigade

5<sup>th</sup> Division

Dec. 12th, 1918.

The C.C.  
A.I.F. Kit Stores.  
110 Greyhound Road.  
FULHAM.

Dear Sir,

We would be glad if you could give us any information concerning the personal effects of 4886 Pte. E.G. SMITH. 54th Battalion. A.I.F. who is officially reported to be missing since 19-20.7.16.

We are making this enquiry on behalf of his Mother in Australia who is anxious to know whether any of his belongings have been recovered.

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

MR.

Secretary.



L

I am sending you one of his photos  
so you may be able to do something  
for me in regard to my son.

Remain

Yours truly

G. W. Smith

Fern Hill  
Main Road

Corumal

G. W. Smith

His Number

~~40 2856~~

~~Private Edward George Smith~~

B Company

54<sup>th</sup> Battalion

14<sup>th</sup> Brigade

5 Division

France

Ferns Hill  
Main Road  
Corrimal  
3. 11. 18.

Dear Miss Deakin

Just a few lines  
to see if you can do anything for  
me in regard to my son who was  
reported missing fourteen months &  
then he was reported killed in  
action he was reported in July 19<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1916  
(1916) so you see it is a long while  
I have never received any of his  
belongings back. So I hardly believe  
that he is killed Miss Hunter of Woonona  
received word from one of his mates to  
say that he was killed and that he  
assisted to bury him so when she  
put it in the paper I went out to  
her to see if she would give me his  
name but she would not do so. So I  
thought it was very mean on her part. I was  
advised to write to you and see if  
you could find anything out about him  
for me.

Mrs. W. Smith,  
Fern Hill.  
Main Road.  
Corrimal.  
E.S.W.  
AUSTRALIA.

January 2nd, 1919.

Dear Madam.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your further enquiry of 3.11.18, for 4886 Pte. E.G. SMITH . 54th Battalion. A.I.F. who is now officially reported Killed in Action on 19-20.7.16. We are placing his name on a new enquiry list we are making for circulation among the returned prisoners and in all camps and hospitals in England, and will at once advise you through our Sydney Office of any information we may receive.

We are herewith returning the photograph you sent as we fear it will not be needed for identification.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.