

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

**5227 Private  
Ernest John Smith**

**3rd Battalion**



2540507N

3rd Battn. C.C.S.  
A.I.F.

SMITH.  
Ernest John. 5227.

"Died of Wounds 29-5-18"

Died of Injuries at 15th C.C.S. 29-5-18.  
Cert: by A.I.E.Hqs 27-7-18.

London.  
29-7-18.

P.I.

3rd Battn.  
A.I.F.

SMITH  
Ernest John 5227

"Died of Injuries 29-5-18"

Re 5277 Pte. Smith E.J., 3rd Battn. This soldier was admitted to this C.C.S. on 29-5-18 from No.3 Aust.F.Amb. accidentally wounded. He was brought in by the F.Amb. with a severe G.S.W. Abdomen, and on admission was in a very critical condition. He died at 1-50 p.m. the same day. The Chaplain by whom he was buried is at present on leave, and on his return I will ask him to write if he is able to give any further details.

Letter from:- The O.C.,  
No.15 C.C.S.,  
3-8-18

London  
7-8-18  
J.E.A.

S.

A.I.F. 3.

SMITH, E.J. 5227.

D/W May 29th 1918. Dats.

I was away from the Battn when Smith D/W but on getting back I was told that he had been accidentally shot while with a revolver or m.g. ( I forget which) was being cleaned. My informant was Pte Doughty, att to Battn HQ who knew Smith well, and would have been interested in his accident.

He would no doubt be able to give information about his burial.

Inf: A.Partridge. 5154. 3.B.VIII.  
No. 53 General  
BOULOGNE. 22.8.1918.

HH

*J.P.*  
*Witten Doughty*  
*31.8.18*

A.I.F. 3.

SMITH, E.J. 5227.

D/W. May 29/18. Det. D/B.

I did not know Smith personally and do not know details of death. I have seen his grave and have taken note of it. He is buried in the British Cemetery just outside Hazebrouck. Across marks the grave.

Reference: Geo. Alwood, 6702.

No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 31.8.18.

JWA.

(SP)

5

A.I.F. 3rd Btn.

SMITH

E.J. 5227

"Died of Wounds 29-5-18."

In reference to your letter enquiring for - Pte. E.J. SMITH.5227  
I have written to his people telling them all but of course it  
may have been sunk or something - well he was accidentally wounded  
I saw and spoke to him on the stretcher as he was taken away in  
a motor ambulance and he died next day. He was buried in a  
soldier's cemetery up north at a C.C.S. it was near Hazelbrouck  
where it happened. He was a particular friend of mine and I think  
his people would know by this as one of my letters are sure to  
get there."

Letter from - Cpl. J. Doughty.M.M.  
3rd Btn. A.I.F.  
France.

London.  
4-10-18.  
D.W.B.

S.

D/W. 29/5/18.

Informant described Smith as about 5'10" high, medium build, medium complexion, aged about 40.

Informant states that they both belonged to "C" Co. On or about 29/5/18, the Battalion was in reserves close to Bazux near Hazebrouk. On this particular day "C" Company had been on fatigue, and as was the custom in similar cases, a certain number of men were left behind to clean up the machine guns etc. Smith was one of these left behind, but Informant was not. About an hour afterwards when Informant came back to dinner, Captain Mc Dermott told the boys that while Smith's mate was unloading a revolver it went off accidentally and wounded Smith badly. The Captain impressed on the boys the necessity, in view of this accident, of being careful when unloading firearms. The Company heard a few days later that Smith had died of his wounds. Informant added that Smith was very well liked, and all the boys had a good word for him."

Informant - Private A.G. McRae, No. 1207,

3rd Battalion, "C" Company.

Present Address - "I" Ward,

George's Heights Military Hosp.  
Hosman.

Home Address - "The Willows, Armidale, N.S.W. ✓

V.B.G.

No. 21 Australian Auxiliary Hospital. Sydney. 11/12/18.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
WOUNDED & MISSING  
ENQUIRY BUREAU

8 15 ON  
15 NOV 78



84, VICTORIA STREET  
LONDON, S.W. 7.

6864 Pte. V. L. Smith

19th Battalion

A.I. Smith

16

*Handwritten:*  
Australia  
10-11-78  
M. L. H.

~~TO THE  
GENERAL  
POST OFFICE  
LONDON  
W.C.2~~

D.C.  
19-10-17

Monte Video  
17/10/17

Australian Red Cross

I am very anxious  
to find out the whereabouts of my brother.  
I have written about a dozen  
letters to him and also written to  
Thorsberry Rd. but have got no  
reply from either. I saw him the  
night before Bullecourt on the  
2nd of May, just before I got  
wounded, if you could find out  
anything about him I would be  
very grateful his address is 5227 Pte E. Smith

Yours faithfully  
Pte V. L. Smith 5884  
7th Batt

12 Platoon  
C company  
3rd Batt  
1st Brigade  
of 9th  
France

off 3rd unit  
H & company  
about the video camp  
Weymouth



Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE SECRETARY,"  
WOUNDED AND MISSING  
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

54, VICTORIA STREET.

LONDON, S.W. 1.

November 5th, 1917.

5884 Pte. V.L. Smith,  
19th Battalion, A.I.F.,  
No 63 Hut, Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for

5227 Pte. E.J. Smith,  
~~2nd~~ Battalion,  
A.I.F.

we beg to inform you that there is no official report of  
any casualty so presumably he is still well and with his  
Battalion.

Unless we hear from you that you are still anxious  
about him, and have reason to believe him a casualty, we  
shall not continue our inquiries.

Yours faithfully,

*Vera Beakie*  
SECRETARY.  
*(A.M.)*



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
WOUNDED & MISSING  
ENQUIRY BUREAU

24, VICTORIA STREET  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

LONDON S.W. 1.

8. 15 PM

5 NOV 17



6884 Pte. V. L. Smith.

19th Battalion,

A.I.F.

UNDELIVERABLE

A.P.C.

RETURN TO SENDER

HO

Mount ~~...~~

~~...~~

*Admiral*  
*6-11-17*  
*1917*

November 5th, 1917.

5884 Pte. V. L. Smith,  
19th Battalion, A. I. F.,  
No 63 Ent, Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for

5227 Pte. E. J. Smith,  
5th Battalion,  
A. I. F.

we beg to inform you that there is no official report of any casualty so presumably he is still well and with his Battalion.

Unless we hear from you that you are still anxious about him, and have reason to believe him a casualty, we shall not continue our inquiries.

Yours faithfully,

*Miss Ryan*  
SECRETARY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE SECRETARY,"  
WOUNDED AND MISSING  
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

5884 Pte. V.L. Smith,  
19th Batta, A.I.F.,  
No 65 Hut, 4 Coy,  
Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth.

November 15th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry about your brother

5227 E. J. SMITH,  
3rd Battalion,  
CT Coy, A.I.F.

We are glad to tell you he is at present home on leave  
until 25.11.17, his present address being

War Chest Club,  
Horseferry Road,  
Westminster. S.W. 1.

We should advise you to communicate with him at once.

Hoping you are feeling better yourself.

Yours faithfully,

*Vera Deakin*  
SECRETARY.

*L.B.*

5884 Pte. V. L. Smith,  
19th Batta, A. I. F.,  
No 63 Hut, - Coy,  
Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth.

November 15th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry about your brother

5227 E. J. SMITH,  
5th Battalion,  
C. Coy, A. I. F.

We are glad to tell you he is at present home on leave  
until 25.11.17, his present address being

War Chest Club,  
Horseferry Road  
Westminster, S. W. 1.

We should advise you to communicate with him at once.

Hoping you are feeling better yourself.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

L. B.

OC's draft

July 29.

The O. C.

15<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station

B.E. 7.

5227 P.O. Q. J. Smith 3<sup>rd</sup> Blk A-17

died of wounds 29-5-18.

18th. A.I.F.

Wallach W. Capt.  
K. I.S.I.S. D. & R.

"Wallach was killed near a quarry outside Villiers  
Brookwood. He was buried near this quarry."

Eye Witness.

Description:

Informant:- Capt. Harper, 18th. A.I.F.  
3rd London General Hospital,  
Wandsworth, S.W.

Home address:- Rydalmore Hospital,  
Sydney, N.S.W.

12.7.1943 W.E. Butcher.

W. E. B.

12th. A.I.F.

12th. A.I.F.

12th. A.I.F.

12th. A.I.F.



To  
Pl-Dougherty  
3rd Battery H.Q.  
A.I.F.

Abmi  
5227 Pl E. J. Smille  
3rd Battery  
A.I.F.

J/W May 29/18

Written 31.8.18  
MRS



The Secretary,

Aust. Red Cross Society. Dimples 29.5.18

5277 5 227  
Private John Smith  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn

S. R. 52



Reference No 5277 Private John Smith E. J., 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn A. I. F.

This soldier was admitted to this C. C. S. on 29/5/18  
from No 3 Aust. Aid. Amb. accidentally wounded.

He was brought in by the Aid. Amb. with a severe  
G. I. W. Abdomen and on admission was in a very

critical condition. He died at 1.50 p.m. the same day.

The Chaplain by whom he was buried is at present on leave  
and on his return I will ask him to write if he able to give

any further details, please.

W. J. Crawford

Sp. Col. R. A. M. F. C.  
of 15 C. C. S.

Oct. 25. 9. 18.  
H.H.B.

5227  
To the Field of Smith Co  
3rd Bn  
20/9/18  
Aug 29. 5' 18  
S  
2

Dear Sir

In reference to your letter  
inquiring of 5th Co of Smith 5227. well I have  
wrote to his people telling them all but  
of course it may of been drunk or some  
thing - well he was accidently wounded I seen  
him & spoke to him on the stretcher he was  
taken away in a moto ambulance. He died  
next day he was buried in a Soldiers cemetery  
up north at a (C.C.) it was near Hazelbrouck  
where it happened - he was a percutian friend  
of mine I think his people would know by  
this as one of my letters are sure to get there

Yours sincerely

Wm. H. B.

3rd Bn