629/23

No. 2534 Lance Corporal
SMITH, George Joseph

45th. Battalion
6.4.18.
Killed in action
(Father) Mr. M. Smith

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier George Joseph Smith
2. Unit and Number (if known) 45th Battalion No 2534. Lance Corporal
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)—
   Town (if any) Sydney District ✓ State ✓
4. What was his Birthplace Mandlestown Wexford Ireland
5. Date of Death 6th April, 1918.
6. Place where Killed or Wounded Derincourt, (France)

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling Seafaring
2. Age at time of Death 29 years.
3. What was his School Christian Brothers
4. What was his other Training Naval Training
5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia 18 years.
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars) Was in the Navy
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment—
   See Capt's letter herewith
8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship)—
   No –
9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information—
   Name Mrs. Johanna Smith
   Relationship to Soldier Mother
   Address 6, Mandlestown, Wexford Ireland
10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information—
    Name Capt. Michael Smith
    Address 6, Mandlestown, Wexford Ireland

NOTE.—This Folder is Addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne. Please fold in four, and stick down gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.

D.1089/11.19.—C.17702.—15M.

Rockland
Co Wexford
3 March 1920

I have known the late
George Joseph Smith
45 Batt Australian Imperial Forces
since he was born.
His family have been our neighbours
for generations and have always
been held in the highest respect
This young man's death cast
a great gloom all about here
but we were proud of the part
he took in the late war &
his loyalty to King & Country.

John E Barry
J.P., D.L. for County Wexford
Recruiting Officer
for Co Wexford.

629|76

6. Mandlestown.
Wexford.
Ireland.

2534 L/Cpl. G. J. Smith 4th Bn. 4/3/20

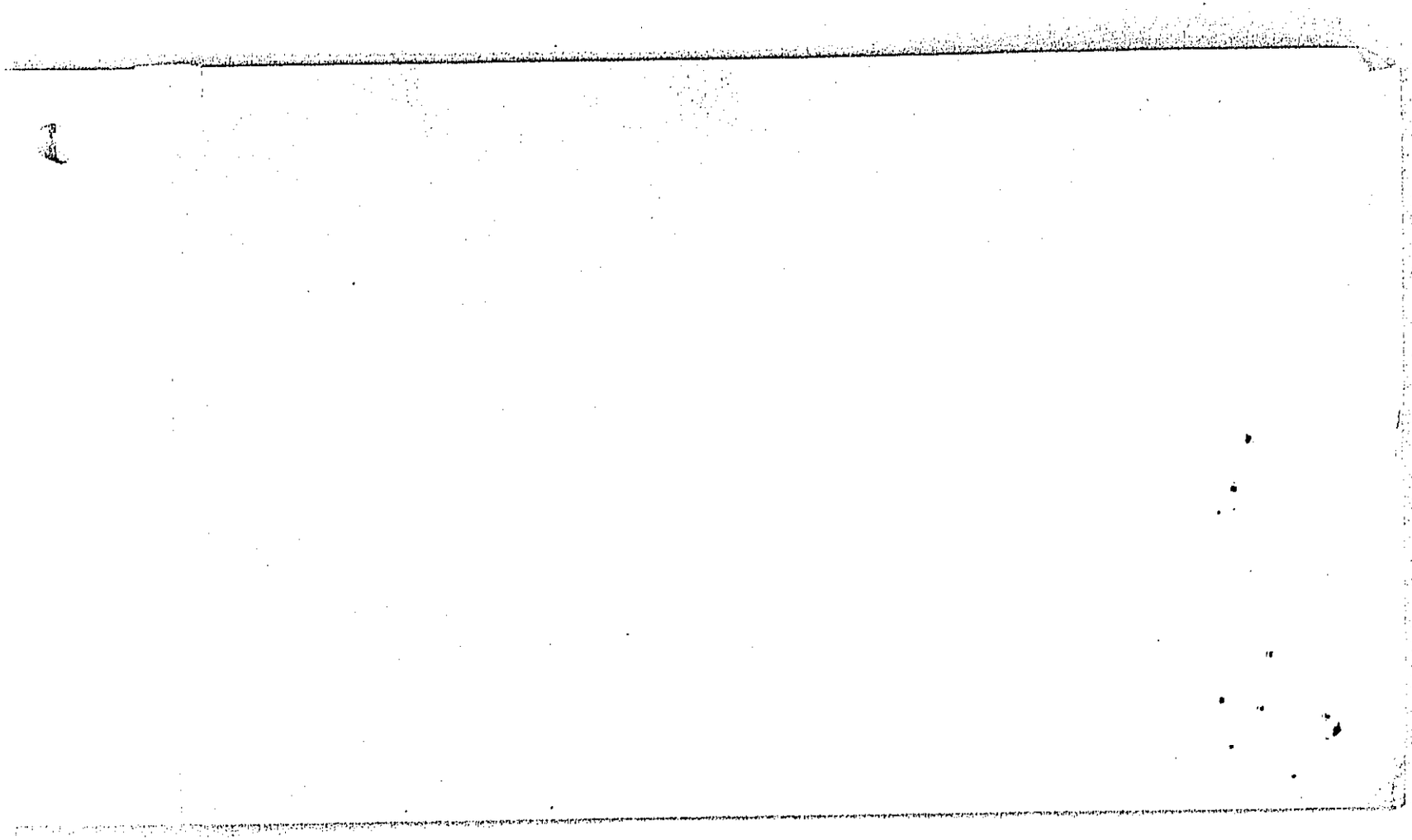
To Secretary. Department of Defence Melbourne.

Sir.

Enclosed you will find a letter & copy of another. the Original one which I have a wish to retain. of the above deceased Soldier.

You will see by both the brave man he was & how courageous. when not eighteen years old he had a wish to go in large

ships & see foreign countries
left his father's ship he
being Capt. sailed in a
ship called the "Naiad"
from England to Sydney.
within twelve days of same
port & he aloft. the rope
gave way under his feet.
& he cracked on to the
deck. picked up as dead.
when ship arrived he was
taken to "Hospital" where
he recovered & remained
in Australia. got attached
both to country & people.
which after he gave his
life for. he was always



40552-1106/20

Copy of Officers Letter.

France.

14/4/18

Dear Mrs. Smith.

No doubt you have by this time been informed of the death of your Son G. J. Smith. We the Officers. N. C. O's. & Men of his Company all deeply deplore his death. & wish to express our very deep Sympathy, with you in your Sad bereavment.

We all feel his loss keen as his cheerful disposition & good natured Lad made him a general favourite.

Signed By.

Capt. Adams
L P Pimly Lt.
J. Watt Lt.
A. Clayton Lt.
J F Moroney Lt.
R. Booden 2nd Lt.
Frank A. Rose Lt.

[illegible]

As a Soldier. he was admired throughout the battalion. and easily ranked as one of our very best frontline men.

We sincerely trust it will be some consolation to Mrs that his end was sudden & painless. but that he was prepared. and died facing the enemy like the true Soldier he was.

Again expressing sincerest sympathy with yourself & all relatives & friends.

Yours Sincerely
Lt Ferguson. Capt.
O/C

