

# Connected to Codford



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**18437 PRIVATE**

**W. W. SMITH**

**MIDDLESEX REGIMENT**

**27TH AUGUST, 1916**

*He Died, We Lived*

## William Walter SMITH

William Walter Smith was born around 1882 at Swindon, Wiltshire, (according to details on the 1891, 1901 & 1911 Census) to parents Edgar & Maria Mary Smith. (UK Soldiers Died in the Great War lists William Walter Smith's place of birth as Codford, Wilts).

The 1891 Census recorded William W. Smith as a 9 year old living with his family at 3 Union Row, Swindon. His father was listed as Edgar Smith (Upholsterer, aged 49, born London. William's mother was not listed on this Census. William was one of ten children listed on this Census, all born at Swindon except the eldest son George. The children were listed as George C. (Butcher, aged 21, born London), Emily C (aged 17), Charles E. (Painter, aged 15), Mary L. (At school, aged 14), Elizabeth (At school, aged 12), then William, Emma M. (At school, aged 8), Ruth F. (aged 6), Harry (aged 4) & Arthur (aged 2).

The 1901 Census recorded William Smith as a 19 year old Liner, Carriage Works, living with his family at 36 Waverley Rd, Walthamstow, Essex, in a 4 roomed dwelling. William's mother was listed as Maria Smith, Widow, aged 56, born Hoxton, London). William was the eldest of 4 children listed on this Census – Ruth (General Servant, aged 17), Henry (Carpenter, aged 15) & Arthur (Aged 12). Also listed was Lily Ebesworth, a 4 year old Boarder.

William Walter Smith married Annie Rosina Evans in December quarter, 1907 in the district of West Ham, Essex.

The 1911 Census recorded William Walter Smith as a 29 year old, married Baby Carriage Painter living with his wife & son as well as his mother, brother & sister. The family of six were living in a 6 roomed dwelling at 37 Kingsley Rd, Walthamstow, Essex. William's wife & son were listed as Annie Rosina Smith (aged 23) & William Walter Smith (aged 2, born Walthamstow, Essex). William & Annie had been married for 3 years & had 1 child only. William's mother was listed as Maria Mary Smith (66 year old widow). His brother & sister were listed as Arthur John Smith (Shop fitter & maker, aged 22) & Ruth Francis Smith (Cap Machinist, aged 27).

William Walter Smith enlisted at Shoreditch, Middlesex. He was residing at Walthamstow, Essex at the time he enlisted & was attached to Middlesex Regiment with the rank of Private & a service number of G/18437.

Private William Walter Smith was killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. He was attached to 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment at the time of his death.

Private William Walter Smith was buried in Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, France - Plot I. G. 19. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Walter Smith, 18437, 20<sup>th</sup> Bn., Middlesex Regiment, as the son of Edgar and Maria Smith of 29 Loveridge Rd, Brondesbury, London; husband of the late Rose Smith. Native of Swindon.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment**

20th (Shoreditch) Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) was raised in Shoreditch on the 18th of May 1915 by the Mayor and Borough. In July 1915 they joined 118th Brigade in 39th Division and moved to Aldershot. In February 1916 they moved to Witley and transferred to 121st Brigade, 40th Division. They proceeded to France, landing in June 1916 and the division concentrated near Lillers. They went into the front line near Loos and were later in action in The Battle of the Ancre on the Somme.

William Walter Smith is remembered on Walthamstow War Memorial website.

Private William W. Smith was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. His Medal Index Card does not show a place or date he first entered a Theatre of War.



**British War Medal & Victory Medal**



### **Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, France**

Maroc British Cemetery is located in the village of Grenay, which is about 15 kilometres south-east of Bethune.

The cemetery was begun by French troops in August 1915, but it was first used as a Commonwealth cemetery by the 47th (London) Division in January 1916. During the greater part of the war it was a front-line cemetery used by fighting units and field ambulances, and protected from German observation by a slight rise in the ground. Plot II was begun in April 1917 by the 46th (North Midland) Division and by the middle of October 1918, Plot III, Row A and part of Row B, had been filled. The remainder of Plot III, and the ends of certain rows in Plot I, contain graves brought in after the Armistice from the battlefields and small cemeteries (including Maroc Churchyard), north and east of Grenay.

Maroc British Cemetery now contains 1,379 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 264 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 89 casualties known to be buried among them. In particular, 87 officers and men of the 6th London Regiment, who died on 25 September 1915 in the capture of Loos, are now buried (but without individual identification) in Plot III, Rows H, J, K and L. The cemetery also contains 45 French and German burials.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



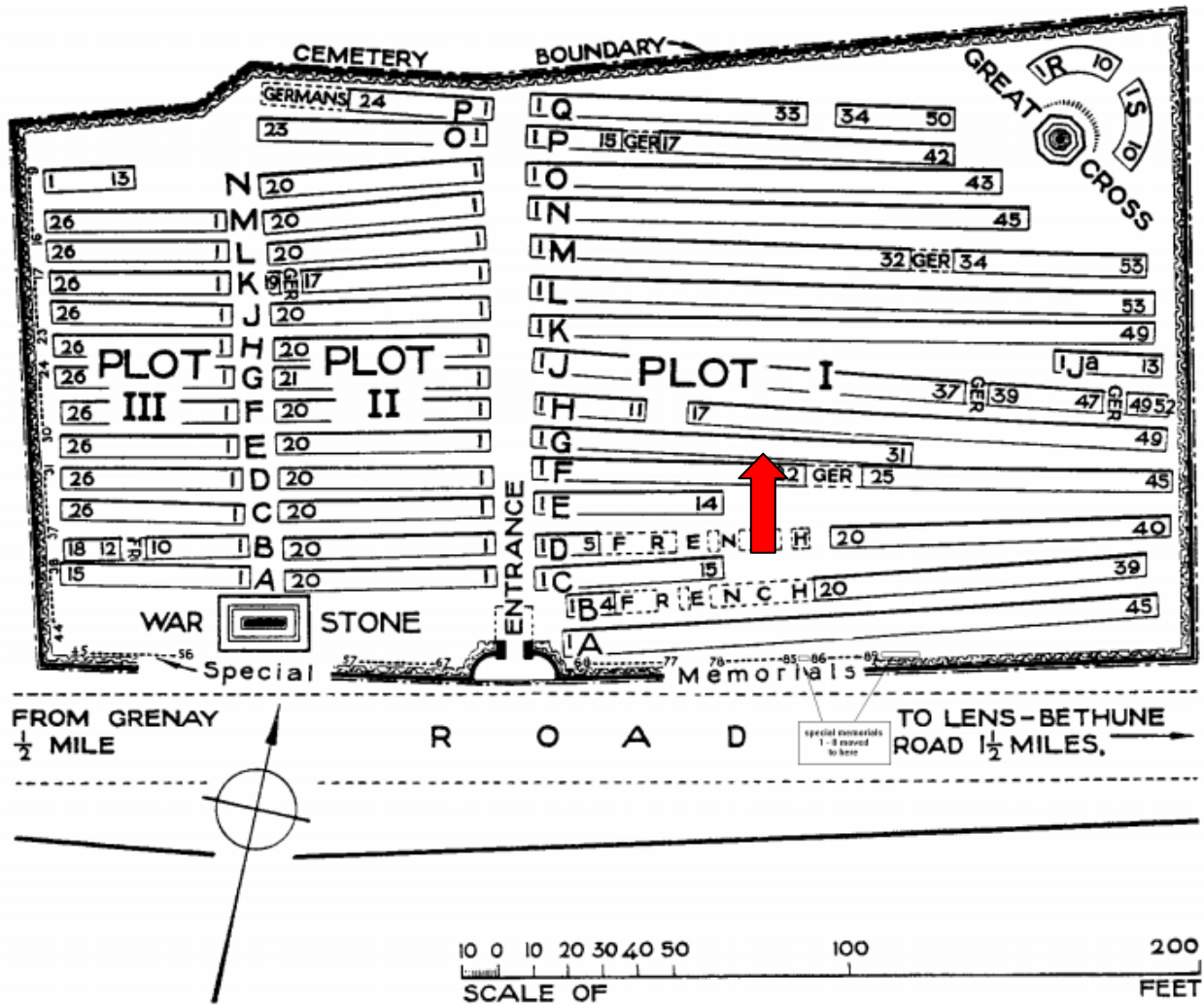
**Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, France**



Photo of Private W. W. Smith's CWGC headstone located in Maroc British Cemetery, France.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



MAROC BRITISH CEMETERY