

# Hindon

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War 2



5573117 L. CPL

**D. L. SMALL**

THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

2ND OCTOBER, 1942 AGE 25

*Rest Beloved, Gently Sleep*

## **Dennis Leslie SMALL**

Dennis Leslie Small was born in 1917 to parents Henry James Small & Kathleen Beatrice Small (nee Sherfield). Dennis Small's birth was registered in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire in the September quarter of 1917. (A birth for Thomas R. Small (mother's maiden name Sherfield) had been registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of Tisbury.)

Dennis Small's parents had married at Pertwood, Wiltshire in 1909. Henry J. & Kathleen Small were listed in the 1911 England Census living at Pertwood. Both were aged 27 years & had been married for 2 years. Henry Small was a Farm Carter, born East Knoyle, Wiltshire & Kathleen had been born in Ireland.

A death for Kathleen B. Small, aged 54, was registered in September quarter, 1938 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Dennis Leslie Small enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment. He had a service number of 5573117 & attained the rank of Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporal Dennis Leslie Small died on 2nd October, 1942, aged 25 years. He died on home soil. A death was registered for Dennis L. Small, aged 25, in the district of Dover, Kent.

Lance Corporal Dennis Leslie Small was buried in St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Hindon, Wiltshire – north-east corner. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Lance Corporal Dennis Leslie Small, 5573117, aged 25, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, as the son of Mr and Mrs Henry J. Small of Hindon.

### **NEWSPAPER REPORTS**

#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

Lists of casualties issued by the War Office contain the following entries:-

Died - ....Wiltshire Regiment, L. Corpl. D. L. Small

(*Western Daily Press* – 18 December, 1942)



### **Wiltshire Regiment**

During the Second World War The Wiltshire Regiment raised six Battalions of which four (1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th) saw action in France, North West Europe, Italy, Sicily, the Middle East, Burma and Madagascar. The 6th was a home defence battalion and the 7th, after coastal duties in southern England was disbanded in 1944 to reinforce those in action.

**1939**

#### **4th & 5th Battalions**

When the war was declared the 4th and 5th Battalions were immediately embodied. Earlier in the year the Territorial Army had been doubled, and the 5th Wiltshire's were formed by dividing the 4th into two. Both battalions were part of the 43rd Wessex Division and spent the rest of the year guarding 'Key' points in Wiltshire.

Once reinforcements and equipment had been received the Battalion was engaged in training and anti-invasion exercises in Scotland, followed by a winter based at Aintree Racecourse where there was more training and rescue work during the air raids on Liverpool and Birkenhead.

1940

#### 4th & 5th Battalions

The 4th and 5th Battalion were continuing training and guarding 'Key' points until the German invasion in May when they moved to East Anglia, forming part of a mobile reserve in case of invasion. In November they moved to Kent where they joined General Montgomery's X11 Corps. They were here at the end of the year.

1941

#### 4th & 5th Battalions

In the early part of the year the 4th and 5th battalions were heavily engaged with coastal defence, an invasion was still a possibility and raids and minor landings always a danger. They continued this task for the remainder of the year.

1942

#### 4th & 5th Battalions

In February both the 4th and 5th Battalions moved to Dover where their training was intensified with the emphasis now on 'Battle Drill'. For the remainder of the year they trained very hard notably marching 10 days continuously on Exercise 'Tiger'.

*([The Wardrobe](#) – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire)*



Dennis Leslie Small is remembered on the Hindon War Memorial.



**Hindon War Memorial** (Photos courtesy of Linda Robson 2013)

Photo of Lance Corporal Dennis Leslie Small's Commonwealth War Graves Headstone in St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Hindon, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



**St John the Baptist Church, Hindon** (*Photo by David Milborrow*)



The additional headstone laid at the foot of Lance Corporal D. L. Small's headstone reads:

*In Loving Memory Of Muriel Alice Small Died 1<sup>st</sup> April 2001*

A marriage was registered in September quarter 1939 between Thomas R. Small (older brother of Dennis Leslie Small) & Muriel A. Nicholas in the district of Salisbury. They were married in St. Mary's Church, Dinton, Wiltshire.

A death was registered in the district of North Dorset in April 2001 for Muriel Alice Small, aged 85. A death for Thomas Roy Small (born 10 March, 1915), aged 86, was registered in May 2001 in the district of North Dorset.

