

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



2873 PRIVATE

**A. L. T. SMITH**

46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH FEBRUARY, 1917

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. L. T. Smith is located in  
Grave Plot # 284. C. 9. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Arthur Leslie Thomas SMITH

Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was born at Tamworth, NSW in 1894 to parents Thomas Joseph & Bridget Smith (nee Dignam). He was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Kywarrah, Topwater via Barraba, NSW when he enlisted at Armidale, NSW on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1916 with the 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2873 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – T. J. Smith of Kywarrah, Topwater via Barraba, NSW. (Embarkation Roll & one of the Attestation Papers states Kywarrah, Topwater via Barraba, NSW. Another copy of Attestation Paper shows “Barra” crossed out & “Bingara” written instead & the Application to enlist in the A.I.F. form states “Topwater near Bingara” & the War Pension form also has the address “Bingara”. The personal effects of Pte Smiley were sent to “Topwater via Barraba”.)

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith embarked from Sydney on SS *Port Napier* on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was marched in to 12<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, Camp No. 14 at Codford, Wiltshire from Australia on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was sent sick to Hospital on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith died on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Pneumonia.

A death for Arthur L. Smith, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was buried on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 284.

A War Pension was granted to Thomas Joseph Smith, father of the late Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith in the sum of £1/10/- per fortnight from 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1917.

Private A. L. T. Smith is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 142.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Smith's father – Mr T. J. Smith (Scroll sent August, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith, 2873, of 46th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Thomas Joseph and Bridget Smith of Kywareah, Topwater, Barraba, New South Wales. Born at Tamworth.

(35 pages of Pte Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **LIST No. 279**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Private A. L. T. Smith (Barraba)

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – Friday 16 March, 1917)*

---

#### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones**

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Pte Arthur Leslie Thomas Smith does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Private A. L. T. Smith's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



**War Graves at Sutton Veny** (Photos from CWGC)

