

IN MEMORY OF
S/17043 PRIVATE ALBERT ERNEST SMITH
1 / 6th BATTALION GORDON HIGHLANDERS
BORN OSGATHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE
1881 - TUESDAY 24th APRIL 1917



HAUTE - AVESNES, PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE
BRITISH CEMETERY
BURIAL PLACE OF S/17043 PRIVATE ALBERT E. SMITH
LOCATION D2

DRAFT - ONGOING PROJECT

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - NOVEMBER 2022

LOCATION OF CEMETERY

Haute-Avesnes is a village 9 kilometres west of Arras on the south side of the Arras-St Pol road. The British Cemetery is north of the village on the road (C2) leading to Habarcq.

HISTORY INFORMATION

The 51st (Highland) Division started the cemetery in July 1916 and it continued to be used by field ambulances of the divisions holding this part of the line. The cemetery contains 142 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and eight German war graves. The cemetery was designed by A J S Hutton.

Founded over a century ago to commemorate the First World War dead of the British Empire, from the outset the Imperial War Grave Commission's work was defined by the principle of equality of treatment in death. Whatever an individual's rank in social or military life, whatever their religion, they would be commemorated identically – with their name engraved either on a headstone over an identified grave or on a memorial to the missing.

(The above information is taken from the CWGC website)

GRAVE DETAILS

Unfortunately, the author has not been able to locate a photograph of Albert's grave but besides his personal details it is engraved with a cross and the following words. See documentation at end of publication and certificate on next page:-

BELOVED

NOT DEAD, ONLY GONE BEFORE

S/17043 Private Albert E Smith is recorded as dying from wounds.

**TAKEN FROM CERTIFICATE INFORMATION ON
CWCG WEBSITE**

In Memory Of
Private

A E SMITH

Service Number: S/17043

1st/6th Bn., Gordon Highlanders who died on 24 April
1917 Age 36

Son of Charles and Martha Smith, of Osgathorpe, Loughborough,
Leicestershire. Churchwarden St. Mary's, Osgathorpe.

BELOVED NOT DEAD, ONLY GONE BEFORE

Remembered with Honour

HAUTE-AVESNES BRITISH CEMETERY

D. 2.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH
OSGATHORPE



S/17403 PRIVATE ALBERT ERNEST SMITH'S GENEALOGY DETAILS

In the 1851 census for Osgathorpe there are no Smiths' recorded.

By 1861 John and Caroline Smith are recorded as being married and living in Osgathorpe. John is given as aged 31 and a Framework Knitter, born in Whitwick. His wife Caroline is 33 and a seamstress born in Thringstone. They have four children, Charles (7), Mary Ann (5), Adeline (3) and George Thomas (1).

In 1871 John and Caroline only have Charles, Adeline and George Thomas living with them, so Mary Ann, is presumed to be away from home perhaps working as a servant, or she could have died even.

In the 1881 census John and Caroline are living at home and still working as a Frame Work Knitter and Seamstress respectively.

The 1881 census records that Charles Smith (son of John and Caroline), aged 27 is now married to Martha, aged 38, who was born in Blackfordby. They have a son Albert aged 5 months, who is the subject of this publication. Little did his father and mother realise what their 5 month old son was going to be faced in his future life when he gave the ultimate sacrifice in fighting overseas for his country.

In the 1891 census Caroline Smith is a widow and post mistress, presumably at Osgathorpe Post Office.

In the 1891 census, Charles, Martha and their son Albert E are still in Osgathorpe but Charles is now a coal mine labourer.

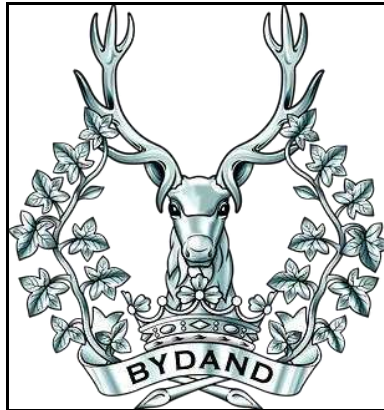
In 1901, Caroline Smith, aged 73, is still post mistress at the Post Office but she has a granddaughter Adeline, aged 14 living with her. There are now no other Smith's recorded living in Osgathorpe, however, Charles and Martha are recorded in the 1911 census so they must have been away when the 1891 census was taken. They had two boarders living with them in 1911, who are given as Limestone Quarry labourers - Thomas Rudkin and George Wilson.

Albert Ernest Smith possibly got married before he enlisted, as what is assumed to be his wife Mrs Janet Smith of Osgathorpe, Loughborough is recorded on his grave records on page 9, but on the index sheet on page 10 only his mother and father, Charles and Martha are recorded. *This requires further investigation as Janet Smith is also not mentioned on the CWGC certificate information on page 3, but his mother and father Charles and Martha are.*

The family lived on Village Street, Osgathorpe.

Albert Ernest Smith was a churchwarden at St. Mary's Church, Osgathorpe, Leics

1 / 6th BATTALION - GORDON HIGHLANDERS



THE GORDON HIGHLANDER'S CAP BADGE

The regiment was formed on 1 July 1881 instigated under the Childers Reforms as the county regiment of: Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, and Shetland. Although the regiment was formed by two regular regiments, it in-fact controlled other units which were of the former Militia and Volunteer Force.

The regiment also raised 21 Reserve, Territorial, Garrison and New Army battalions during the war. These served on home stations, in France and Flanders, and in India.

The 1st Battalion was in England on the outbreak of the First World War (1914-18). It deployed immediately to the Western Front, where it stayed throughout the conflict. The 2nd Battalion arrived there in October 1914, staying until November 1917, when it moved to the Italian front.

The sheer scale of the conflict in the Great War, and the enormous demand for men, transformed the Gordon Highlanders. Some 50,000 Gordons served in its regular, territorial and service battalions. Between 1914 and 1918, the Regiment kept 9 Battalions on the Western Front. By the end of the war they had been awarded 65 new Battle Honours and suffered over 29,000 casualties, 9,000 of whom died. Almost every community and family in the North East, and many elsewhere, were affected.

ARRAS, 1917

From 9 April to 16 May, Allied troops attacked trenches held to the east of the French city of Arras. The ground and date were chosen for the battle as part of a combined operation with the French and included Vimy Ridge as a major objective. There were big gains on the first day, followed by stalemate and a series of small-scale operations to consolidate positions. These battles were largely successful in achieving their limited aims, but were gained at the price of a comparatively large numbers of casualties.

S/17043 Private Albert E Smith is recorded as dying from wounds.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

SECTION FIRST ARMY. REPORT No. 2.

SCHEDULE No. 5.C.

COMMUNE:- HAUTE AVESNES.

PLACE BURIAL HAUTE AVESNES BRITISH CEMETERY (NEW).

Map Ref. Sheet 51c.E.28.a.65405

Land belongs to ENTERED *a.R.25.4.19.*

SLIPS CHECKED. *28.2.21*

The following are buried here:-- PLOT 1.

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Gross Erected or Despatched	Map Reference
1/2 H.F.Amb.	72853	YELLS.	PTE.E.J.	24. 4.17.	E.	D. 1. ✓
1/6 Gordon Hrs.	17043	SMITH.	PTE.A.	" "	"	D. 2. ✓
1/7 A & Suth. Hrs.	278551	DARROCH.	PTE.D.	" "	"	D. 3. ✓
1/4 Gordons.	14397	MURRAY.	PTE.B. <i>GA</i>	25. 4.17.	"	D. 4. ✓
1/3 High.F.Amb.	<i>305255</i> 1867	McINTEE.	PTE.P.	23. 4.17.	"	D. 5. ✓
9/R.Scots.	352034	CAMERON.	PTE.J.	26. 4.17.	"	D. 6. ✓
RFA.att.RGA.	-	WILTSHIRE.	MAJ.P.	25. 4.17.	"	D. 7. ✓
152/Bde., R.F.A.	<i>640387</i>	RANKIN.	SGT.J.	25. 4.17.	"	D. 8. ✓
57/Sigs., R.E.	56499	JENKINS.	SPR.A.G.	" "	"	D. 9. ✓
16/R.Scots.	<i>43687</i>	THOMSON.	PTE.G.	25. "	"	D.10 ✓
M.T., A.S.C.		CASS.	PTE.T.	24. 4.17.	"	D.11. ✓
16/R.Scots.	43878	GIBSON.	PTE.A. <i>27</i>	28. 4.17.	"	D.12. ✓
104/F.A., RAMC.	76700	CALLIN.	PTE.W.G.	" "	"	D.13 ✓
13/Rifle Bde.	S/4235	HUMPHREY.	GSM.E.	28. "	"	D.14. ✓
16/R.Scots.	43236	OLIVER.	PTE.J.	29. 4.17.	"	D.15. ✓
15/ do	43375	PRIOR.	PTE.R. <i>CP</i>	28. 4.17.	"	D.16. ✓
1/65/German Regt.		PORTER.	<i>Offz.</i> Pte. Jakob	28. 4.17.	ZAK "	D.17. ✓
104/F.A.RAMC.	75232	SMALLWOOD.	PTE.W.O.	29. 4.17.	"	D.18. ✓
4/Mid dx.R.	G/42477	GROTHALL.	PTE.B.	29. 4.17.	"	D.19. ✓
103/F.A., RAMC.	65581	PANTER.	SGT.B.	29. 4.17.	"	D.20. ✓
12/Co., M.G.C.	213039	SEEWOOD.	L/C.P.	3. 5.17.	"	D.21 ✓
1/R.Lancs.	<i>6758</i> 226228	LITHERLAND.	PTE.E.	4. 5.17.	"	D.22 ✓
2/Seaforth Hrs.	17600	GILL.	PTE.C.	2. 5.17.	"	D.23. ✓
1/E.Lancs.	36764	FRYERS.	PTE.W.H.	12. 5.17.	"	D.24. ✓
1/5 Gordon Hrs.	285085	McDOUGALL.	PTE.H.	16. 5.17.	"	D.25. ✓
1/K.O.R.R.	11316	THRELFORD.	PTE.F.T.	24. 5.17.	"	D.26. ✓
1/5 Gordons.	240975	FORREST.	PTE.A.G.T.	16. 6.17.	"	D.27. ✓

Card made for Threlford 28.2.21 3/16 396

No. of Contract.....date.....

Name and address of Firm.....

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS.

to this report is attached

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS

(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)

and

TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badged esign).

SCHEDULE "A" PAGE 61

NAME OF CEMETERY.

HAUTE AVENNES BRITISH (NEW)

to be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:-

.. HAUTE AV. B.G.

Badge Design No. and Layout (1)	1st line (2)	2nd line (3)	3rd line (4)	4th line (5)	Centre of Stone (6)	To be stencilled on foot of Headstone below ground level. (7) (8)	
	Number and Rank	Initials NAME and Honours	Regiment	DATE / AGE	RELIG. EMBLEM.	PLOT. -P ROW -R GRAVE-G	No. of Stone,
						P R G	
1186/2A	75682 GUNNER	ST. J. B. HAY	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	22ND APRIL 1917	NONE	1 C 25	88
1186/2A	163803 GUNNER	E. P. BIDDLES	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	22ND APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 26	86
1190/1B	194926 CORPORAL	C. P. BLANCHARD	ROYAL ENGINEERS	23RD APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 27	87
1006/1A	276722 LANCE CPL.	PETER LEADON	ARG. & SOTH'D HIGHRS.	23RD APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 28	86
1050/2C	SECOND LIEUTENANT	HENRY GEORGE BRUNSDON	ROYAL SCOTS	24TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 29	89
1050/2C	26252 LANCE CPL.	JOHN ROBSON	ROYAL SCOTS	24TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 30	80
1057/1A	11323 PRIVATE	G. ROBERTS	N. STAFFORDSHIRE REGT.	24TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 31	81
1036/2D	13561 PRIVATE	J. KROGH	LOYAL NORTH LANC. REGT.	25TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 32	92
1031/1D	19692 PRIVATE	A. WILSON	EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	24TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 33	83
1064/1B	266975 PRIVATE	W. J. PIAYER	ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT.	24TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 34	84
1031/1C	16382 PRIVATE	H. GOODWIN	EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	24TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 35	95
1048/1D	42335 PRIVATE	T. HEMMING GEORGE	ROYAL FUSILIERS	23RD APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 36	96
1048/1D	1038 LANCE CPL.	CECIL THOMAS LAWSON MM.	ROYAL FUSILIERS	23RD APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 37	97
1186/2A	84114 GUNNER	H. HOWES	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	24TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 C 38	98
	PRIVATE	R. HEMME	OOth REGIMENT	23RD APRIL 1917		1 C 39	
1076/1A	72853 PRIVATE	E. J. YELLS	ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS	24TH APRIL 1917	NONE	1 D 1	99
1020/1C	S/17043 PRIVATE	A. E. SMITH	GORDON HIGHLANDERS	24TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 D 2	100
1006/1A	278551 PRIVATE	D. DARNOCH	ARG. & SOTH'D HIGHRS.	25TH APRIL 1917	CROSS	1 D 3	101

§ Headstone for this grave is not included in the Contract.

† A special BADGE DESIGN is provided for use with this Headstone.

No. of Contract.....dated.....

INTERNATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

SCHEDULE B PAGE...77...

Name and address of firm

COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS AND PERSONAL DESCRIPTIONS
to be read in conjunction with
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT A MEMORABLE MILITARY INSCRIPTIONS
together with

NAME OF CEMETERY
HAUTE AVENUE BRITISH (NEW)

TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used
are quoted on the badge design.)

Badge Design No. and stone Layout	Head- No.	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4	No. of Letters in text
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	91					
1032/2D	92	A LIFE FULL OF PROMISE (Mr. Thomas Keogh., 1, Suffolk Road, Liverpool.)	HE GAVE IT WILLINGLY	THAT HIS COUNTRY ^{MAY} MIGHT LIVE		56. 6/4
1031/1D	93	HE SLEEPS (Mrs A.M. Wilson., No.1, Paulhan St, Burnley, Lancashire, England.)	WITH THE GREAT GRAND ARMY OF ENGLAND'S NOBLE DEAD			48 14/-
1064/1B	94	THY WILL BE DONE (Mrs E. Player., 62, Tybridge Street, Worcester.)				13. 7/9
1031/1C	95	HE DIED AS HE LIVED (Mr. William Goodwin., 74, Duke Street, Hulme, Manchester.)	NOBLY DOING HIS DUTY			32 9/4
1048/1D	96	IN LOVING MEMORY OF (Mrs E.F. George., 15, Borrymede Road, Acton Green, Chiswick. W.4.)	MY DEAR HUSBAND	WHO DIED OF WOUNDS		44 12/10
1048/1D	97	DULCE ET DECORUM ^{EST} EST PRO PATRIA MORI (Mrs Annie Lawson., 43, Harrington Road, Leytonstone, E.11.)		MY JESUS, MERCY		42 12/3
	98					
	99					
1020/1C	100	BELOVED (Mrs Janet Smith., Osgathorpe Loughborough, Leicestershire.)	NOT DEAD, ONLY GONE BEFORE			28 9/2
	101					
1020/1B	102	<i>In loving memory</i> UNTIL THE DAY BREAK	<i>Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away</i> AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY			37 10/9
1076/1D	103	TO LIVE IN THE HEARTS (Mrs Mary Steedman., 14, St. Marys Place, Dundee.)	OF THOSE WE LOVE	IS NOT TO DIE		40 11/8
1050/2B	104	A MOTHER'S ALL (Mrs J. Cameron., 28, Moat Street, Slatford Road, Edinburgh.)				11 3/2
1186/2C	105	GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST (Mrs K. Wiltshire., 201, Lowestoft Road, Gorleston, St. Yarmouth.)	O LORD			24 7/-

Names and addresses of Next of Kin are shown in brackets, and will not appear on the Headstone.

£5.9.3

INDEX No. Fr. 53. SEELY, 2nd Lt. Frank Reginald. 1st Bn. HAUTE-AVESNES Hampshire Regt. Died of wounds 13th April, 1917. Age 20. Son of Maj. Gen. the Rt. Hon. BRIT. CEM. J. E. B. Seely and Mrs. Seely, of Brooke House, FRANCE. Isle of Wight. C. 14.

SELWOOD, Lce. Cpl. P. A., 30396. 12th Coy. Machine Gun Corps. 3rd May, 1917. D. 21.

SHAW, Lce. Cpl. Archibald, 300603. 1st/8th Bn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Died of wounds 18th March, 1917. Age 20. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Shaw, of Allanton Farm, Ferniegair, Hamilton, Lanarkshire. Born at Rothsay, Isle of Bute. A. 25.

SKELTON, Pte. John Briggs, 23/1078. 23rd (Tyneside Scottish) Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers. Died of wounds 26th Feb., 1917. Age 40. Son of Christopher and the late Jean Skelton, of Bonnyrigg, Edinburgh; husband of Kate Skelton, of 5, Eastbourne Gardens, Walker-on-Tyne. A. 20.

SMALLWOOD, Pte. W. O., 75232. 104th Field Amb. Royal Army Medical Corps. 29th April, 1917. Age 24. Son of William and Ada Smallwood, of London. D. 18.

SMITH, Pte. A. E., S/17043. 1st/6th Bn. Gordon Highlanders. Died of wounds 24th April, 1917. Age 36. Son of Charles and Martha Smith, of Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leicestershire. Churchwarden St. Mary's, Osgathorpe. D. 2.

SMITH, Serjt. James, 49483. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. "D" Bty. 256th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action 5th April, 1917. Age 44. Son of George and Mary Smith; husband of Lizzie Smith, of 157, Clarence Rd., Derby. Born at Blackfriars, London. B. 6.

SPURLES, Pte. R. C., 409358. 2nd Bn. Canadian Pioneers. 2nd April, 1917. B. 5.

STAFFORD, 2nd Lt. C. F., 24th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 14th April, 1917. C. 12.

STILING, Pte. Harry Edward, 19673. Queen's Bays. 13th April, 1917. Age 25. Son of Harry and Lavinia Sarah Stiling, of 144, Glyn Rd., Clapton, London. C. 8.

STREET, Pte. Arthur Edward, 2081. 2nd/24th Bn. London Regt. 13th July, 1916. Age 19. Son of Mrs. Street, of Camberwell, London. A. 5.

SUMMERS, Pte. T., 22289. 23rd Bn. Manchester Regt. 15th Sept., 1916. A. 11.

SUTHERLAND, Pte. J., 242188. 1st/5th Bn. Gordon Highlanders. Died of wounds 10th April, 1917. Age 23. Son of John and Maggie Sutherland, of Aberdeen. B. 30.

THOMSON, Pte. George, 43687. 16th Bn. Royal Scots. Died of wounds 25th April, 1917. Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Thomson, of Oldhamstocks, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire. D. 10.

THRELFALL, Pte. Fred, 11316. 1st Bn. Royal Lancaster Regt. Died of heart failure 24th May, 1917. Age 34. Son of the late William and Mary Jane Threlfall. Native of Staveley, Westmorland. D. 26.

TUCKER, Lce. Serjt. A. L., 30131. 1st Bn. Somerset Light Inf. 29th March, 1918. Son of Philip Tucker, of East Portlemouth, Devon. E. 3.

WALKER, Pte. Charles Henry, 6071. 2nd/24th Bn. London Regt. Killed in action 13th July, 1916. Age 19. Son of William James and Emily Walker, of 113, College Place, Camden Town, London. A. 2.

WEST, Pte. R., 352480. 1st/9th Bn. Royal Scots. 10th April, 1917. B. 29.

WHITLAM, Pte. Arthur, 40495. 10th Bn. York and Lancaster Regt. Died of wounds 22nd April, 1917. Age 29. Husband of Florence Whitlam, of Crow Hill Lane, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts. C. 24.

WILSON, Pte. Arthur, 19692. 8th Bn. East Lancashire Regt. Died of wounds 24th April, 1917. Age 19. Son of John William and Annie Maria Wilson, of 1, Paulhan St., Burnley, Lancs. Born at Clinton, Mass., U.S.A. C. 33.

WILTSHIRE, Maj. P. 1st (East Anglian) Bde. Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action 25th April, 1917. Age 45. Son of C. H. Wiltshire, Solicitor, Yarmouth; husband of R. Wiltshire, of 201, Lowestoft Rd., Gorleston, Great Yarmouth. Commanded the 251st Siege Bty. D. 7.

WINTLE, Lce. Cpl. George Lewin, 5105. 2nd/24th Bn. London Regt. Killed in action 13th July, 1916. Age 19. Son of Louisa Wintle, of Kennington, London. A. 3.