



William Henry Smith

1893 – 1917

William was born in Hull in 1893. His father was also William Henry Smith, a marine engineer and turner and later a self-employed paper hanger and shopkeeper born in Kirby Lonsdale, Westmorland in 1866 and died in 1934. His mother was Alice Jane (née Topham) born in Hull in 1868 and died in 1917. They were married in Hull in 1891.

William was their only child.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 33, Northgate, Dewsbury but the shop appears to have been in Corporation Street, Dewsbury. In 1911 they lived at 21, Wroe Street, Dewsbury Moor and later at 41, Longfields, Cemetery Road, Heckmondwike. His obituary in the local press stated that the family's shop was in Market Street, Heckmondwike. Alice was reported to be in poor health at the time of her son's death and she died just a few months later on 5th June 1917.

William Jnr. was a single man who was educated at Carlton Road Council School and was connected to the Salem United Methodist Church and Sunday school, Northgate, Dewsbury. He worked as a plumber in the employ of Mr. Parkin of Bond Street, Dewsbury after serving an apprenticeship with Mr. Harold Newsome of Union Street, Dewsbury. He was described as "*a talented piano player*".

He enlisted in April 1917 serving as Sapper 159932 in the 157th Field Company, Royal Engineers. He was killed in action on 13th January 1917 in the Ypres Salient and was buried in Kimmel Chateau Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Kimmel Chateau Military Cemetery is located 8 Kms south of Ieper (Ypres). Kimmel Chateau was north-east of Kimmel village and the cemetery was established on the north side of the chateau grounds in December 1914. It continued to be used by divisions fighting on the southern sectors of the Belgian front until March 1918, when after fierce fighting involving both Commonwealth and French forces, the village and cemetery fell into German hands in late April. The cemetery was retaken later in the year, but in the interval it was badly shelled and the old chateau destroyed. There are now 1,135 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery

William is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Memorial Plaque from the Salem United Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Sapper

William Henry Smith

159932, 157th Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 13 January 1917 Age 23

Son of William Henry and Alice Jane Smith, of 41, Longfields, Cemetery Rd., Heckmondwike, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.