



## Smith Summerscales 1893 – 1917

Smith was born in Beckett Nook, Dewsbury Moor in 1893. His father was Walter Summerscales, a coal miner born in Hanging Heaton in 1865 and died in 1926. His mother was Sarah (nee Woollin) born in West Ardsley in 1865 and died in 1928. They were married on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1885 at Holy Trinity Church, Ossett.

Their other children were; Ann Elizabeth, born in 1886, Rebecca, born in 1890, Fred, born in 1894 and died in 1894, Benjamin, born in 1896 and died in 1897 and Leah, born in 1898 and died in 1898.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 3, Beckett Nook, Dewsbury Moor, in 1901 and 1911 at 30, Leatham, Street, Dewsbury.

Smith was educated at Dewsbury Moor Council School and was a member of the Methodist Church at Westborough, where he had aspirations to become a teacher. He was married in 1916 in Dewsbury to May Belle Milner (born in 1892 and died in 1962). They did not have any children. He worked as a piecer in the cotton spinning mill of Messrs G and J Stubley, Batley. May later lived at 1, South View Terrace, Ravensthorpe and 47, Flash Lane, Mirfield.

He enlisted on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1916 serving as Private 333937 in the 9<sup>th</sup> (Glasgow Highlanders) Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry. He was killed by shellfire in France on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1917, allegedly in the Somme region. His remains were not found until 1920 and he is now buried in H.A.C. Cemetery, Ecoust-St Mein, Pas-de-Calais, France. Smith was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ecoust-St.Mein is a village between Arras, Cambrai and Bapaume. H.A.C. Cemetery is about 800 metres south of the village. 120 graves were made in the original H.A.C. Cemetery between April 1917 and September 1918 but after the Armistice graves were added from the battlefields of Bullecourt and Ecoust and from a number of smaller burial grounds, there are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom and 14 from Australia, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 34 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Smith is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *S. Summerscales* on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the War Memorial in Westborough United Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

**S Summerscales**

333937, 9th (Glasgow Hds) Bn., Highland Light Infantry who died on 31 May 1917

Remembered with Honour

**H.A.C. Cemetery, Ecoust-St. Mein**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.