

SMITH, H. M.

Harold Pasco Maxwell Smith, the third child of Charles Ansell Smith and Helen Malvena Mackenzie, was born at Murrumbeena in 1897.

Four of Charles and Helen's sons enlisted in the AIF and are all listed on the St Jude's Honour Roll: F W D Smith, H M Smith, K A Smith and R M Smith.

Harold enlisted twice: firstly as Harold Pasco Smith in March 1915 and then as Harold Maxwell Smith in July 1915. Some of the information he supplied varied.

As Harold Pasco Smith, he gave his true age of 18 and his father's consent was signed on his form. He also included prior service in Senior Cadets and 48th infantry. This original application was assigned the SERN 502 but was later consolidated under SERN 3268. The AIF Project has an entry under his original service number Harold Pasco Smith. Harold did not proceed overseas at that time.

As Harold Maxwell Smith, he stated he was 22 years old, thus avoiding the need for parental consent to be shown. He did not declare any other service.

This time he proceeded overseas and fought in France and Belgium. Harold Maxwell Smith was wounded in action on 4 October 1917, declared wounded and missing and then declared killed in action, in Belgium, on 4 October 1917.

AIF Project Entry

Harold Maxwell SMITH

Regimental number	3268
Place of birth	Oakleigh, Victoria
School	Surrey Hills State School, Victoria.
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Clerk
Address	Vincent Street, Surrey Hills, Victoria.
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
Height	5' 5.5"
Weight	144 lbs
Next of kin	Father, Charles A Smith, Vincent Street, Surrey Hills, Victoria.
Previous military service	Served in the 48th Infantry, Citizen Military Forces, Kooyong.
Enlistment date	23 July 1915
Place of enlistment	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	24th Battalion, 7th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/41/2

Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A73 <i>Commonwealth</i> on 26 November 1915.
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	8th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 4 October 1917.
Place of death or wounding	Passchendaele, Ypres, Belgium
Age at death	20.10
Age at death from cemetery records	20
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 7), Belgium

The Menin Gate Memorial (so named because the road led to the town of Menin) was constructed on the site of a gateway in the eastern walls of the old Flemish town of Ypres, Belgium, where hundreds of thousands of allied troops passed on their way to the front, the Ypres salient, the site from April 1915 to the end of the war of some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

The Memorial was conceived as a monument to the 350,000 men of the British Empire who fought in the campaign. Inside the arch, on tablets of Portland stone, are inscribed the names of 56,000 men, including 6,178 Australians, who served in the Ypres campaign and who have no known grave.

The opening of the Menin Gate Memorial on 24 July 1927 so moved the Australian artist Will Longstaff that he painted 'The Menin Gate at Midnight', which portrays a ghostly army of the dead marching past the Menin Gate. The painting now hangs in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, at the entrance of which are two medieval stone lions presented to the Memorial by the City of Ypres in 1936.

Since the 1930s, with the brief interval of the German occupation in the Second World War, the City of Ypres has conducted a ceremony at the Memorial at dusk each evening to commemorate those who died in the Ypres campaign.

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	54
Family/military connections	<p>Parents: Charles and Helen SMITH, 'Cloverdale', Lancefield, Victoria. Native of Oakleigh, Victoria.</p> <p>Brothers: 502 Harold Pascoe SMITH* [name does not appear on Nominal Roll]; [819] Lt Kenneth Ansell SMITH, 8th Bn, returned to Australia, 23 October 1918. War service: Egypt, Western Front</p>
Other details	<p>Allotted to and proceeded to join 8th Bn, Serapeum, 24 February 1916.</p> <p>Proceeded from Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force, 26 March 1916; disembarked Marseilles, France, 31 March 1916.</p> <p>Sick to hospital, 23 April 1916; admitted to 7th Casualty Clearing Station, 29 April 1916 (catarrh); transferred to Australian Hospital, 1 May 1916 (bronchitis); to England, 10 June 1916, and admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital; to Australian Convalescent Hospital, Woodcote Park, Epsom, 7 July 1916; proceeded on furlough, 14 September 1916. Proceeded overseas to France, 11 December 1916; rejoined unit, 23 January 1917.</p> <p>Admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance, 7 May 1917 (pyrexia, unknown origin); transferred to 5th Division Rest Station, 11 May 1917; discharged to duty, 24 May 1917; rejoined unit, 25 May 1917.</p> <p>Reported wounded and missing in action, Belgium, 4 October 1917. Court of Enquiry subsequently determined fate as killed in action.</p> <p>Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal.</p>

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*In fact, Harold Pascoe Smith was the same person as Harold Maxwell Smith.

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Saturday 4 October 1919, p. 14.

SMITH.- A tribute to the fond memory and
friendship of my pal,
Pte. Harold Maxwell Smith (Laddie),
killed at Polygon Wood, October 4, 1917.
(Inserted by Dan Matthews, late 14th Battalion.)

SMITH.- In loving memory of our dear son and
brother, Pte. Harold Maxwell Smith (Laddie),
killed in action, October 4, 1917,
Passchendaele, on the eve of his 21st birthday,
after two years' active service.
(Inserted by the home circle, Cloverdale, Lancefield,
late of Vincent Street, Surrey Hills.)

National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article4678566>
(Extracted, original too faint to read)

Australian War Memorial: Roll of Honour Circular

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier *Harold Maxwell Smith*
2. Unit and Number (if known) *8th Battalion No 3268*
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)—
Town (if any) *Surrey Hills* District *Melbourne* State *Victoria*
4. What was his Birthplace *Oakleigh Victoria*
5. Date of Death *4th October 1917*
6. Place where Killed or Wounded *Paschendaele "Barr" "Bruders Ridge"*

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling *Clerk*
2. Age at time of Death *20 years & 10 months*
3. What was his School *State School, Surrey Hills*
4. What was his other Training *nil*
5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars)
Citizens Force 48 Infantry Coy
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment—
*Great grandson of late Admiral Pases who
lost Victoria flag lieutenant at Trafalgar*
8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship)—
Three Brothers served in A.I.F.
9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information—
Name *Charles Russell Smith* *address as found*
Relationship to Soldier *father*
Address *"Cloverdale" Lancefield, Victoria 1931*
10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information—
Name
Address



NOTE.—This Folder is Addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne. Please fold in four, and stick down gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.
D.1035/10.11.—C.10700.