

Surname	Smith
Forename(s)	William Lawton
Initials	W L
Age	22
Honours/Awards	
Date died	07/06/1917
Rank	Corporal
Regiment	Cheshire Regiment
Unit/Squadron	11 th Bn.
Service Number	16838
Cemetery/Memorial	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Grave Reference	Panel 19-22
Further Information	Eldest son of William Wilkinson Smith, and Susan S. Smith, of 18, Edith Rd., Seacombe, Cheshire. Educated at Riverside Council School and attended St. John's Church, Egremont. Joined the army on 7 th Sept. 1914 and was previously wounded in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916.



News Report

Seacombe Corporal Killed

Official news has been received that Corporal William Lawton Smith, of the Cheshire Regiment, who was wounded in the big push on July 16, 1916, was killed in action on June 7. He joined the Army Sept. 7, 1914. He was educated at Riverside Council School, and formerly employed with the Maritime Insurance Company, Liverpool. He attended St. John's Church, Egremont, and was a member of the Sunday School. He was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs. W.W. Smith, 18, Edith Road, Seacombe.

The Rev. H.C. Townshend, C.F., writes:-

"Dear Mrs. Smith, - You may have already heard the sad news about your gallant

son, Corporal W. Lawton Smith, who fell as his company were capturing a German trench, and was instantaneously killed. He is deeply mourned by his friends in the Regiment, he was such a sterling good fellow, good comrade, a brave and intelligent soldier, constantly thinking of and speaking to his intimate friends about his mother. The good influence of his life and death will long be felt by the younger fellows who knew him. He has not lived nor died in vain. I deeply sympathise with you in the sad loss you have suffered, but he belongs first to the Heavenly Father, who created him, and in His keeping he will be kept for you.”

Mr. J.C. Nicholson, secretary of the Maritime Insurance Company, writes:-
“Dear Mrs. Smith:- It is with very great regret that we heard from Mr. Smith of the death of your son and our comrade, Corpl. W.L. Smith. He was regarded here as a steady, conscientious worker of high principle, and one who during the whole of his time with the Company has not only exhibited those qualities, but was of gentlemanly hearing to everyone with whom he came in contact. By those who were his friends on the staff, and who worked in close association with him, he will be specially missed, but all of us will miss him much, as he was so greatly appreciated throughout the whole office. I wish to take this opportunity of assuring you and Mr. Smith and your family that you have our sincere sympathy in your great bereavement, and in the thought that his life, of so much worth, and so valued, should be cut off in his youth and under such circumstances. With our repeated expressions of condolence.”

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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