

**Sergeant George Smith**<sup>©</sup>  
**Regimental number: 13738**  
**15th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry**

**born: unknown - died: 24 June 1917**

Private George Smith was born in Glasgow,<sup>1</sup> the son of George and Mary J Smith,<sup>2</sup> and it was there that he enlisted with the 15th Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry<sup>3</sup> in the first month of the Great War.<sup>4</sup> He went to the Western Front in France on 23 November 1915<sup>5</sup> and survived for about eighteen months.

At the end of June 1917, the battalion was in the line near Nieuport in Belgium, just across the French border. The battalion's war diary notes that, on 24 June, "[t]here was intermittent shelling the whole day inflicting a few casualties. Our aeroplanes were more active, one was brought down on Canal Bank. A patrol went out to find strength of enemy wire for coming raid. Casualties for last two days, 38 OR [Other Ranks—non-officers]."<sup>6</sup> George may have been one of these.

He was unconscious when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station and never rallied.<sup>7</sup> He died of serious abdominal wounds on 24 June 1917. A total of 48 ORs in the 15th Battalion were killed in the month of June.<sup>8</sup>

He was buried in Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave Reference: 1712). This cemetery, which includes 67 Commonwealth graves from the Great War, is a Belgian Military Cemetery on the west side of the churchyard less than a kilometre from the Adinkerke Military Cemetery. Commonwealth troops held the Front from the Belgian coast inland for about 70 kilometres from June to November 1917. No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station was at Adinkerke for a short time in June.<sup>9</sup>

His next of kin was his mother, Mary J. Smith, who was living at 248 Paisley Road in Glasgow.<sup>10</sup> She received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>11</sup> Nothing else is known about his family.

George's death was commemorated in Glasgow's *Evening Times'* Roll of Honour on 3 July 1917.<sup>12</sup> He was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 April 2017), entry for George Smith

<sup>2</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Smith, G., Service No: 13738

<sup>3</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 April 2017), entry for George Smith

<sup>4</sup> Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 April 2017), entry for George Smith

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- <sup>5</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 April 2017), entry for George Smith
- <sup>6</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 April 2017), Regiment or unit: Highland Light Infantry, Sub-unit: 15th (Service) Battalion (1st Glasgow), Division: 32nd Division, Diary entry start date: Jun 1917, Diary entry end date: 30 Jun 1917, Diary dates: 1915 Nov 1–1916 May 31, Diary entry location: Nieuport, Piece description: Piece 2393/1–7: 14 Infantry Brigade: 15 Battalion Highland Light Infantry (1915 Nov–1919 Mar), Piece number: 2393
- <sup>7</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Smith, G
- <sup>8</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 April 2017), Regiment or unit: Highland Light Infantry, Sub-unit: 15th (Service) Battalion (1st Glasgow)
- <sup>9</sup> "Adinkerke Churchyard Extension," CWGC <http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 18 April 2017
- <sup>10</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Smith, G
- <sup>11</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 April 2017), entry for George Smith
- <sup>12</sup> "May to August 1917," *Evening Times* Roll of Honour (<http://www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/ExploreRecords/Pages/Evening-Times-Roll-of-Honour.aspx>: accessed 20 April 2017), entry for Smith, George
- <sup>13</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 April 2017), entry for George Smith