

## 161: Alfred Smith

### Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Alfred Smith

Rank: Lance Corporal

Battalion / Regiment: 4th Bn. King's (Liverpool Regiment)

Service Number: 51264

Date of Death: 25 September 1918

Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Villers Hill British Cemetery, Villers-Guislain, Villers-Guislain, Departement du Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Additional information given by CWGC: None

Alfred Smith was probably the ninth, and last, child of Daniel and Mary Smith of Ness. Daniel Smith, the son of agricultural worker Daniel and Hannah Smith of Little Neston, married Mary Miller at St John's Church in Liverpool in April/June 1859 and their first child, Joseph, was born the following year.

In the 1861 census Daniel was recorded as being a gardener, aged 27, living at Windle Hill. Mary was 22 and Joseph was aged 1. Windle Hill, originally a separate hamlet, is the area of Little Neston to the north of the Chester High Road in the vicinity of the present-day Weatherstones House Care Home on Hanns Hall Road.

Alfred was baptised at Neston 28 September 1882 when Daniel was a labourer living at New Houses. New Houses was a terrace on New Houses Lane, Ness, now the rough track leading westwards from Well Lane, Ness, to the Dee marshes. When the collieries were operating this was one of the main routes used by miners from Ness and the terraced houses, now demolished but situated close to the present-day railway bridge over New Houses Lane, were built to house colliery employees.

Daniel and Mary Smith were living at New Houses at the time of the 1871 census (although their ages were recorded incorrectly) and they seem to have moved there by late 1866 when their son Daniel was born. Daniel was baptised at Neston Parish Church on 7 February 1867 when Daniel snr was recorded as a labourer.

|            |   |              |          |       |                  |          |                  |
|------------|---|--------------|----------|-------|------------------|----------|------------------|
| New Houses | 1 | Daniel Smith | Head     | Man   | 54               | Coachman | do Neston        |
|            |   | Mary         | Wife     | Woman | <del>52</del> 52 |          | do do            |
|            |   | Joseph       | Son      |       | 10               | Scholar  | do Windle Hill   |
|            |   | Elizabeth    | Daughter |       | 8                | do       | do do            |
|            |   | William      | Son      |       | 6                | do       | do Little Neston |
|            |   | Daniel       | do       |       | 4                | do       | do Ness          |
|            |   | Fanny        | Daughter |       | 1                |          | do do            |

1871 census (extract) – New Houses, Ness

|              |    |          |                    |
|--------------|----|----------|--------------------|
| Daniel Smith | 54 | coachman | born Neston        |
| Mary         | 52 |          | born Neston        |
| Joseph       | 10 |          | born Windle Hill   |
| Elizabeth    | 8  |          | born Windle Hill   |
| William      | 6  |          | born Little Neston |
| Daniel       | 4  |          | born Ness          |
| Fanny        | 1  |          | born Ness          |

At the time of the 1881 census the family was still living in Ness although Alfred was yet to be born:

|              |      |       |    |                          |          |        |
|--------------|------|-------|----|--------------------------|----------|--------|
| Daniel Smith | Head | Man   | 43 | Gen <sup>l</sup> Lab     | Cheshire | Neston |
| Mary do      | Wife | Woman | 42 | Wife of do               | do       | do     |
| Elizabeth    | daur | Woman | 19 | emp <sup>d</sup> at Home | do       | do     |
| Daniel       | son  | Man   | 15 | Ag. Lab                  | do       | do     |
| Fanny        | daur | Woman | 12 | Scholar                  | do       | do     |
| Lemuel       | son  | Man   | 8  | do                       | do       | do     |
| Frederick    | son  | Man   | 3  |                          | do       | do     |
| Ernest       | son  | Man   | 1  |                          | do       | do     |

1881 census (extract) – Ness

|              |    |                          |             |
|--------------|----|--------------------------|-------------|
| Daniel Smith | 43 | general labourer         | born Ness   |
| Mary         | 42 | wife of general labourer | born Neston |
| Elizabeth    | 19 | employed at home         | born Neston |
| Daniel       | 15 | agricultural labourer    | born Ness   |
| Fanny        | 12 |                          | born Ness   |
| Lemuel       | 8  |                          | born Ness   |
| Frederick    | 3  |                          | born Ness   |
| Ernest       | 1  |                          | born Ness   |

At the time of the 1891 census Daniel and Mary were still living at Ness Colliery - presumably still at New Houses - but none of their younger children (Lemuel, Frederick, Ernest and Alfred) was in the household and they have not been traced elsewhere in the census returns for England and Wales. However, Fanny Smith had married John Thomason at St Chrysostom's Church, Everton, in late 1888 and they, and their two young children, were living with them:

|                         |               |       |          |          |   |          |                |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------|----------|----------|---|----------|----------------|
| Daniel Smith            | Head          | Man   | 52       | Gardener | + | Cheshire | Neston         |
| Mary Smith              | Wife          | Woman | 52       |          |   | do       | do             |
| John Thomason           | Son-in-law    | Man   | 27       | Labourer | + | do       | Great Sutton   |
| Fanny Thomason          | Daughter      | Woman | 21       |          |   | Cheshire | Neston         |
| Mary Elizabeth Thomason | Granddaughter | Woman | 2        |          |   | do       | Burton         |
| John W. Thomason        | Grandson      | Man   | 3 months |          |   | do       | Ellesmere Port |

1891 census (extract) – Ness Colliery

|                         |          |                      |                     |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Daniel Smith            | 52       | gardener             | born Ness           |
| Mary                    | 52       |                      | born Neston         |
| John Thomason           | 27       | son-in-law, labourer | born Great Sutton   |
| Fanny Thomason          | 21       |                      | born Ness           |
| Mary Elizabeth Thomason | 2        | granddaughter        | born Burton         |
| John. W. Thomason       | 3 months | grandson             | born Ellesmere Port |

Daniel Smith, Alfred's father, died aged 61 and was buried in Neston on 28 November 1898.

At the time of the 1901 census Mary (62) was living on Victoria Road, Little Neston, together with her son William (36, stonemason, a widower with three young children, all born in Bromborough) and unmarried son Ernest (20, a coalminer).

The three children of William recorded in 1901 were: Edward (8), Jane (6) and Joseph (4). Joseph served with the 13<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion Cheshire Regiment in WW1 although he was taken ill and, on 15 June 1916, he was formally discharged as being physically unfit. By that date (aged 19 years 8 months) he had served for 1 year 284 days although, even having been on the front line in France, it is quite possible that he was not involved in any significant action. Joseph died in June 1918, in Neston, from medical conditions exacerbated by his active service and, although not recognised by the CWGC as a war casualty, he is included in this work as **163: Joseph Smith**.

In 1901 Alfred Smith, 17, was boarding with William and Mary Leech at 9 Cleveland Street, Birkenhead when he was recorded as being a general labourer on the railway.

In the 1911 census Alfred Smith is recorded as boarding at 177 Samuel Street, Crewe, with widow Mary Brooks. With Alfred was his 5-year old son, (William) Donald<sup>1</sup> but Alfred's wife was not present in the household and her name, her location, and their date of marriage are unknown.

| CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.  |  |   |   |   |  |                            |                       |  |   |  |   | Number of Schedule 221   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.   |  |   |   |   |  |                            |                       |  |   |  |   | (To be filled up by the Enumerator)  |  |   |  |
| The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables. |  |   |   |   |  |                            |                       |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |  |
| NAME AND SURNAME  | RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family   | AGE (last Birthday) and SEX   | PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE  |   |  |                            |                       | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards |   |  |   | BIRTHPLACE of every person   | NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country                      | INFIRMITY   |  |
|   |  |   | State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—  | Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7) |  |                            |                       | Personal Occupation.   | Industry or Service with which worker is connected.                             | Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.   | Whether Working as Home.  |  |  |   |  |
| of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Serrant, who  | States whether "Head" or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," "Widow," "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Serrant." | For Infants under one year state the age in months at "one month," etc. | Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow" opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards. | Complete present marriage list.   | If less than one year write "under one." | Total Children Born Alive. | Children will Living. | Children who have Died.  | The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. | This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. | No entry should be made for Domestic Service or private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. | Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry. (1) "Employer," (2) "Employee," (3) "In employing person other than domestic service," or (4) "Worker" (that is working for an employer, or (5) "On his account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer). | Write the name of the Country, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. | State whether— (1) "British subject," (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or, (3) If of foreign nationality, state that and the country to which he or she became allied. | If any person included in this Schedule is— (1) "Totally Dead" or "Dead and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile," or (5) "Feeble-minded," state that and the nature of the infirmity. |
| 1   | Mary Brooks  | Widow   | 40  | Widow   | 5  | 10                         | 6                     | 10   |   |  |   |  |  |   |  |
| 2   | Polly Brooks   | Daughter  | 20  | Single  |  |                            |                       |  | 997   | Factory Hand   |   |  |  |   |  |
| 3   | Fred Bostock   | Visitor   | 67  | Widow   |  |                            |                       |  | 140   | Farm Labourer  |   |  |  |   |  |
| 4   | Alfred Smith   | Boarder   | 28  | Single  |  |                            |                       |  | Coal Heaver   | L.N.W. Railway Coy   | Widow   |  |  |   |  |
| 5   | Donald Smith   | Boarder   | 5   | Single  |  |                            |                       |  |   |  |   |  |  |   |  |

1911 census (condensed) - 177 Samuel Street, Crewe

|              |    |   |                      |
|--------------|----|---|----------------------|
| Mary Brooks  | 70 | widow                                     | born Poole, Nantwich |
| Polly Brooks | 20 | granddaughter, factory hand               | born Crewe           |
| Fred Bostock | 67 | widower, visitor, farm labourer           | born Poole, Nantwich |
| Alfred Smith | 28 | boarder, coal heaver, L.N.W. Railway Coy. | born Neston          |
| Donald Smith | 5  |   | born Neston          |

<sup>1</sup> William Donald Smith was born in Neston in mid-1906.



As Alfred Smith's Service Record has not been found nothing is known of his service with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's (Liverpool Regiment) or the circumstances of his death on 25 September 1918 when he would have been 36. However, it is believed that he served initially with the Cheshire Regiment (Service Number 62242) and it is known that he had served previously with the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's (Liverpool Regiment). At the time of his enlistment he was living in Birkenhead and he enlisted in Birkenhead.

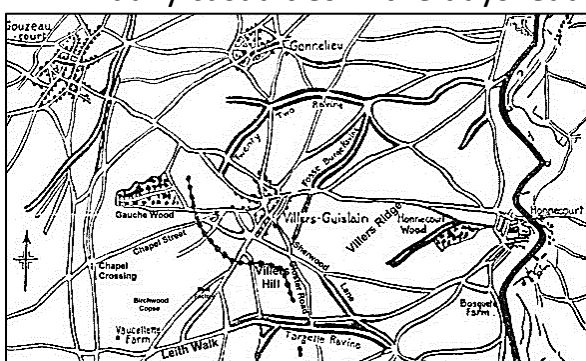
The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment) was an 'Extra Reserve' battalion which was formed on the outbreak of war, in August 1914, in Seaforth. Moving to Edinburgh they mobilised on 6 March 1915 and landed at Le Havre, coming under the orders of Sirhind Brigade, Lahore Division of the Indian Corps., based at Robecq. On 10 November 1915 they transferred to the 137<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 46<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Division and on 3 December 1915 were attached to the 56<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> Brigades, 19<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division. On 27 February 1916 they transferred to the 98<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 33<sup>rd</sup> Division.

Throughout the war the battalion was engaged in action on the Western Front, in 1916 being involved in The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bazentin, the attacks on High Wood and the capture of Boritska and Dewdrop Trenches.

In 1917 they took part in The Arras Offensive, The Actions on the Hindenburg Line, The Operations on the Flanders coast and The Third Battles of Ypres. In 1918 they were in action in The Battles of the Lys, The Battles of the Hindenburg Line and The Final Advance in Picardy. Alfred Smith was killed during the final stages of the war, the period commonly known as The Hundred Days Offensive. At this time the Allied forces launched a series of effective offensives against the Central Powers on the Western Front from 8 August to 11 November 1918, beginning with The Battle of Amiens. The offensive essentially pushed the Germans out of France, forcing them to retreat beyond the Hindenburg Line and leading to their eventual capitulation.

In mid-September 1918 the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's (Liverpool Regiment), located north of the Somme river, moved eastwards from Grouches by bus to Lesboeuf (near Longueval) and were then marched to Léchelle on 17 September. The following day, progressing eastwards, they moved to Fins Ridge near Equancourt before (19 September) moving to the trenches near Villers Guislain. The initial objective was to take the commune of Villers-Guislain (taken on 30 September) before continuing the eastwards push towards the St Quentin Canal and Cambrai.

The War Diary record for this period (see following page) notes a restricted number of daily casualties in the days leading up to the main attack on 29 September. On the day that Alfred died (25 September) one other man was killed and four others were wounded:



Villers Guislain 21 - 29 September 1918

[Source: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/>]

Scale 1 (in yards) 0 1000 2000 3000

|                                   |         |  |      |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|------|
| LECHELLE                          | 18/9/18 | Wet - Battn. left LECHELLE at 5.15 for EQUANCOURT. - 'B' ECHALON at LECHELLE - 5 men to Army Rest Camp. Battn. take up position at FINS RIDGE  | 2/10 |
| EQUANCOURT<br>FINS RIDGE          | 19/9/18 | Fine weather - Battn. started at 8 pm. from trenches in front of VILLERS GUISLAIN - Relieved 9 <sup>th</sup> K.O.Y.L.I. - Relief complete 1am. - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lts. MARSHALL & MASON from Army School. 3 O.R. to leave.  | 2/10 |
| TRENCHES NEAR<br>VILLERS GUISLAIN | 20/9/18 | Fine - Casualties 5 killed 7 wounded 6 O.R. leave to U.K.  | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 21/9/18 | Fine - Battn sent forward fighting patrols to assist attack made by 2 A & S. Hrs. - Casualties 1 killed 6 wounded 4 missing - 3 O.R. leave to U.K.   | 2/10 |
| TRENCHES NEAR<br>VILLERS GUISLAIN | 22/9/18 | Changeable - Some rain. Casualties 3 killed 20 wounded 6 missing - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. H. CRYAN to hospital sick. 1 O.R. leave to U.K.   | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 23/9/18 | Rainy throughout day. - Casualties 1 killed 3 wounded. - Capt. STYRING and Lieut. WHYTE rejoined from leave. - 1 man leave to U.K.   | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 24/9/18 | Showery. - Casualties 1 killed 7 wounded 4 men leave to U.K.   | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 25/9/18 | Fine but cold - Casualties 2 killed 4 wounded - 5 O.R. leave to U.K.   | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 26/9/18 | Fine - Casualties 1 killed 2 wounded - 'B' Echelon move to EQUANCOURT - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. E. CAPSTICK joined Battn. from Base. - 2 O.R. leave to U.K.  | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 27/9/18 | Fine day but cold early morning & evening. - Casualties 2 O.R. wounded. - 2 Lt. E.W. BELL joined Battn. from the Base.   | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 28/9/18 | Same as yesterday. - Casualties. 2 wounded.  | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 29/9/18 | Fine - Battn. attacked VILLERS GUISLAIN at 3.30 am. in conjunction with 2 A & S. Hrs. on the Right. Strong fight put up by enemy - Prisoners taken by Battn. - 3 Officers 107 O.R. Casualties - 2 Lts. G.P. HARPER, and W.C. MARSHALL and 19 O.R. killed 2 Lt. R.H. PARKER, and 55 O.R. wounded & 9 O.R. missing | 2/10 |
| "                                 | 30/9/18 | Fine. - Patrols out during the night - Enemy evacuated VILLERS GUISLAIN - Line pushed forward but B <sup>n</sup> remained in position and became Battn. in Bde Reserve<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. F.H. DAWSON joined Battn. from Base  | 2/10 |

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

LECHELLE 18/9/18 Wet. Batt<sup>n</sup>. left LECHELLE at 5.15 for EQUANCOURT. 'B' ECHALON at LECHELLE - 5 men to Army Rest Camp. Battn. take up position at FINS RIDGE.

EQUANCOURT 19/9/18 Fine weather - Battn. started at 8pm from trenches in front of VILLERS GUISLAIN - FINS RIDGE Relieved 9<sup>th</sup> K.O.Y.L.I. - Relief complete 1am. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. MARSHALL & MASON from Army School. 3 O.R. to leave.

TRENCHES NEAR 20/9/18 Fine - Casualties 5 killed 7 wounded 6 O.R. leave to U.K.  
VILLERS GUISLAIN

" " 21/9/18 Fine. Battn sent forward fighting patrols to assist attack made by 2 A & S. Hrs. - Casualties 1 killed 6 wounded 4 missing - 3 O.R. leave to U.K.

TRENCHES NEAR 22/9/18 Changeable - some rain. Casualties 3 killed 20 wounded 6 missing - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. VILLERS GUISLAIN CRYAN to hospital sick. 1 O.R. leave to U.K.

" " 23/9/18 Rain throughout day - Casualties 1 killed 3 wounded. Capt. STYRING and Lieut. WHYTE rejoined from leave - 1 man leave to U.K.

" " 24/9/18 Showery - Casualties 1 killed 7 wounded 4 men leave to U.K.

" " 25/9/18 Fine but cold - Casualties 2 killed 4 wounded - 5 O.R. leave to U.K.

" " 26/9/18 Fine - Casualties 1 killed 2 wounded - 'B' Echelon move to EQUANCOURT - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. E. CAPSTICK joined Batt<sup>n</sup>. from Base - 2 O.R. leave to U.K.

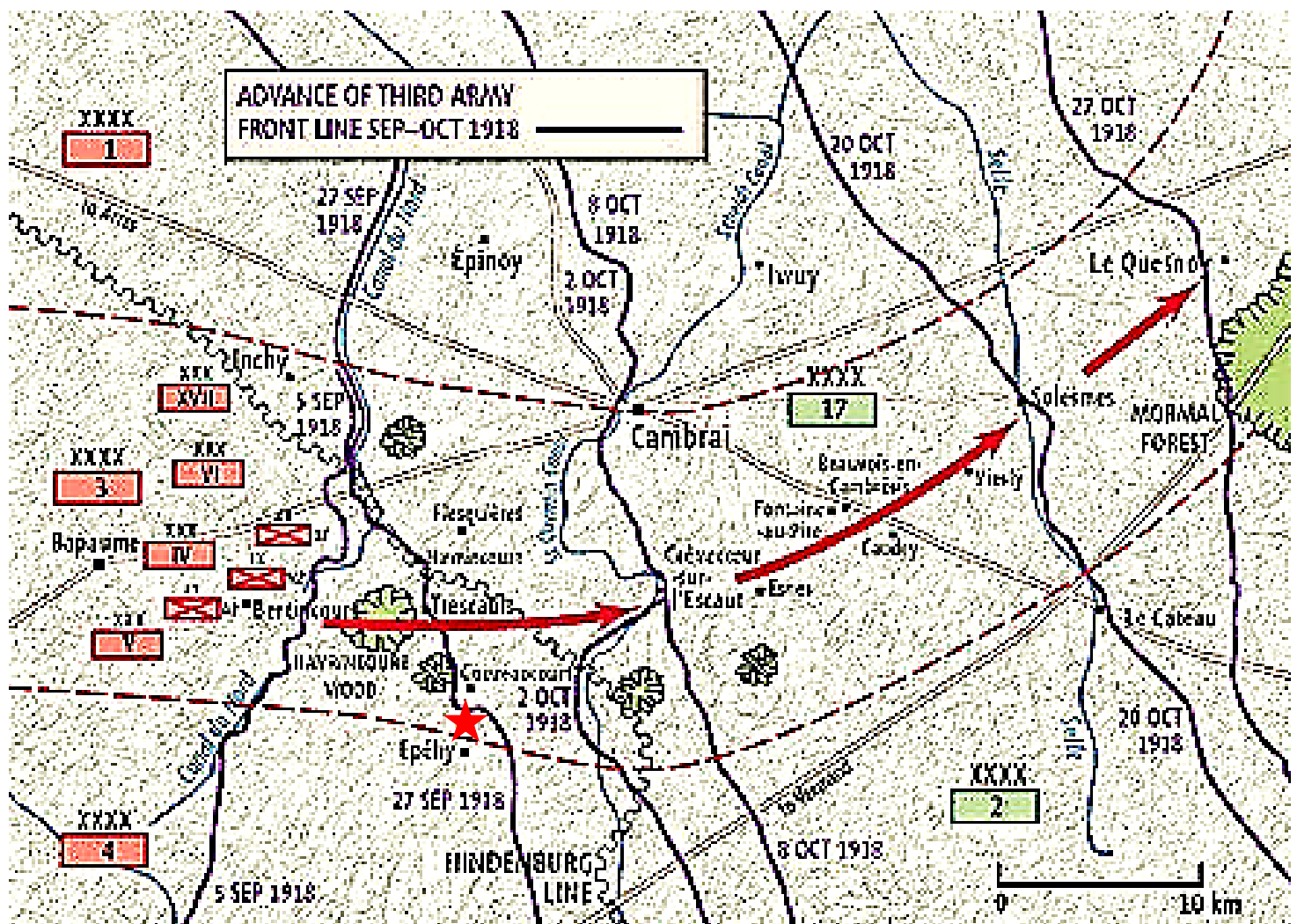
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" " 28/9/18 Same as yesterday - Casualties. 2 wounded.

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" " 30/9/18 Fine - Patrols out during the night - Enemy evacuated VILLERS GUISLAIN - Line pushed forward but B<sup>n</sup>. remained in position and became Batt<sup>n</sup>. in Bde. Reserve. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. F.H. DAWSON joined Batt<sup>n</sup>. from Base.





The eastwards movement of the Allied front line between 5 September and 27 October 1918 and the location of the Hindenburg Line. The approximate location where Alfred Smith died on 25 September is shown by the red star between Épéhly and Gouzeaucourt.

[Source: <http://www.wikiwand.com/de/Hunderttageoffensive>]



Gouzeaucourt in 1918 whilst occupied by German forces. [Source: <http://www.cparama.com/forum/gouzeaucourt-convois-allemands-pendant-la-guerre-1914-1918-t7502.html>]

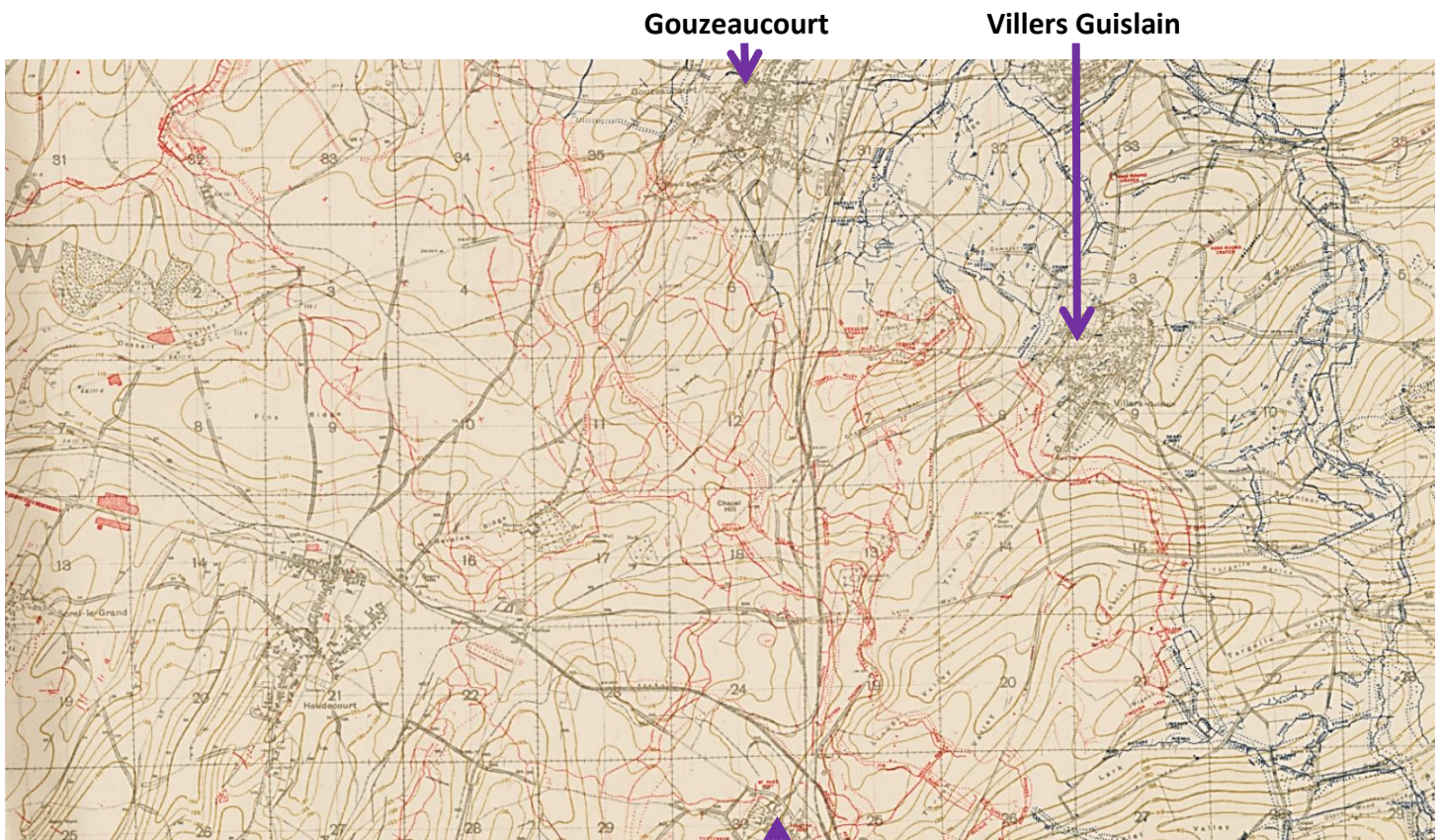




The ruins of Villers Guislain in 1918  
 Despite fierce fighting, Villers-Guislain was in German hands until the end of the war.

Villers Guislain was situated in the Allied sector in front of the Hindenburg Line and during the preparations for the battle it was the hiding place for a tank battalion intended to cover the right flank of the British attack. However, after the 30th November counter-offensive, the village was captured by the Germans. The British, with support from Indian cavalry, attempted to retake it with desperate but unsuccessful attacks, and the village was not liberated until 1918.

[Source: <http://www.amazing-cambrai.com/fiche-1255.html>]



The area between Épehy, Villers Guislain and Gouzeaucourt on 22 September 1918, three days before Alfred Smith died. On this map the Allied trenches and positions are shown in red and the German positions, to the east, are in blue.

[Source:

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/index.cfm#zoom=14&lat=50.0359&lon=3.1164&layers=101465197&b=1>]









having been on the front line in France, it is quite possible that he was not involved in any significant action. Joseph died in Neston in June 1918 from medical conditions exacerbated by his active service and, although he is not commemorated by the CWGC as a war casualty he is recorded as a casualty in this work [see [163: Joseph Smith](#)].

Elizabeth – nothing is known beyond the 1881 census when, aged 19, she was living at home.

William – *may* have married Jane Jones at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne in Liverpool in late 1890 but this is not certain. In the 1891 census William (27, agricultural labourer) and Jane (27, born Wales) were living on Chester Road, Bromborough. However, Jane died in early 1899, aged 32, and in 1901 William (36, stonecutter) was living with his three children (Edward, 8; Jane, 6; Joseph; 4, all born Bromborough), his unmarried brother Ernest and his widowed mother on Victoria Road, Little Neston. In 1911 William (39, labourer, building trade) was living with his two sons (Edward William, 18, domestic gardener and Joseph, 14, agricultural labourer) at 6, New Houses, Ness.

The 1939 Register recorded William at 1 Sunset Cottages, Well Lane, Ness:

|                  |                       |                                  |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| William Smith    | born 7 August 1864    | widowed, builder's labourer      |
| Margaret Edwards | born 29 May 1894      | single, general cook, unemployed |
| Martha G Edwards | born 5 September 1896 | single                           |

The relationship, if any, between William and Margaret and Martha Edwards is unknown.

The date of William's death is uncertain.

Daniel – married Harriet Thomason at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in April / June 1889. In 1901 Daniel (34) was a telephone linesman living with Harriet (30, born Burton) and three children (Joseph Clarke, 11, born Burton; Frank, 8, born Burton; Doris Elizabeth, 6, born Wrexham) at 3 Adam Road, Lower Bebington. In 1911 Daniel (44) was a telephone instrument operator living at 3 Willow Bank Road, New Ferry. Harriet was 40 and in the household were: Joseph Clarke Smith, 21, insurance clerk with Standard Marine; Frank, 18, nurseryman's apprentice at Dell Nurseries (Smith & Sons); Doris Elizabeth, 16, born Denbigh.

Harriet was a daughter of Burton tailor William and Elizabeth Thomason and the younger sister of John who married Daniel's sister, Fanny.

It is believed that Daniel Smith died in Wirral in late 1944 aged 77. Harriet's date of death is uncertain. They have not been located in the 1939 Register.

Fanny - married John Thomason at St Chrysostom's Church, Everton, in late 1888. John was a son of Burton tailor William and Elizabeth Thomason and the older brother of Harriet who married John's brother, Daniel.

In 1901 Fanny (30) and John (37, navy) were living at Windmill Terrace in the village of Royston near Barnsley. Seven children, ranging in age from 11 to 5 months, were in the household and their places of birth - Burton, Ellesmere Port, Whitby, Little Neston, Egremont, Liversedge (West Yorkshire) and Royston - indicate that they had travelled around in the twelve years of their marriage. Fanny Thomason died in Neston in late 1908 aged 39.

In 1911 John Thomason (47, widower, labourer) was living at 23, New Street, Colliery, Little Neston, with seven of his children. The youngest child, Harriet Freda Thomason, was recorded as being aged 2 (her birth was registered in July / September 1908) and it appears that Fanny died not long after her birth.

On the census return John indicated that he had had 12 children of whom 9 had survived. The only adult son in the household, Job Thomason (19, born Whitby) was a coal hewer's loader at the colliery and the last three children (Abigail, 6; Annie, 4, Harriet Freda, 2) had all been born in Little Neston. John Thomson may have died in early 1865 aged 68; although, in census returns, he consistently gave his birthplace as Sutton/Guilden Sutton this was his mother's



place of birth and the early census returns, when he was a child, record that he was born in Burton.

Lemuel - in 1901 Lemuel (26, single) was recorded as a tramway driver lodging at 44 Selwyn Street, Kirkdale, Liverpool. In April / June 1901 he married Elizabeth Mealor, of Neston at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne, the Liverpool Parish Church.

In 1911 Lemuel (38) was a 'domestic chauffeur for medical practitioner' living with Elizabeth (37) and their three young children on Raby Road, Neston.

The 1939 Register recorded the family on Blackey's Lane, Neston:

|              |                    |                     |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Lemuel Smith | born 10 March 1873 | motor mechanic      |
| Elizabeth    | born 26 March 1874 |                     |
| William      | born 11 May 1906   | joiner (journeyman) |

Lemuel and Elizabeth are buried at Neston Cemetery where their gravestone records that Elizabeth died on 23 February 1945, shortly before her 71<sup>st</sup> birthday. Lemuel died 29 April 1948 aged 75.



Frederick – married Martha Alice Dilworth at St Helen's Church, Tarporley, in July / September 1899 and in 1901 Frederick (24, steel maker's labourer) and Martha (25, born Willington, Shropshire) were living with their son Frederick Charles (1 week, born Crewe) at 6 Underwood Lane, Monks Coppenhall, Crewe.

In 1911 the family had returned to Neston and were living at 8 New Houses, Ness; Frederick was 31 and an iron foundry labourer and Martha was 32. They now had a family of five children at home (in their 11 years of marriage three other children had died) ranging in age from 10 to 2, all born in Crewe.

Frederick and Martha Alice are buried at Neston cemetery; Frederick died on 1 October 1933 aged 54 and Martha died on 18 May 1949 aged 73. Buried with them is Frederick Charles, recorded as their eldest son, who died 22 January 1969 aged 67.

In the 1939 Register Martha was recorded as living at 'Melrose', Talbot Avenue, Little Neston, with her unmarried children:

|                   |                      |                                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Frederick C Smith | born 26 March 1901   | single, surveyor's chain man          |
| Gladys V Smith    | born 3 November 1903 | single, laundress (at Private School) |

Two lines of the record have been redacted

Martha A Smith  
Beryl Foden

born 26 December 1876      widow  
born 18 August 1928

The relationship, if any, between the Smith family and Beryl Foden is unknown.  
Gladys Smith married George Harry Bott at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in early 1942.



Ernest - at the time of the 1901 census Ernest (20, coal miner) was living on Victoria Road, Little Neston, with his mother Mary and his widowed brother William and his children. Ernest married Mary Jane Booth of Childer Thornton at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne, the Liverpool Parish Church, in April / June 1902 and in 1911 Ernest (31, coal miner) and Mary Jane (27) were living with their four children (all born in Neston, two others had died) at 7 New Street, Colliery.

Ernest and Mary Jane (Molly) are buried at Neston Cemetery; Mary Jane died on 30 March 1954 aged 62 and Ernest died on 7 April 1970 aged 90.

In the 1939 Register the family is recorded at 5 New Street, Neston:

|              |                      |   |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| Ernest Smith | born 22 January 1880 | corporation employee,<br>general labourer |
| Mary         | born 1 July 1883     |   |
| Alfred       | born 23 June 1916    | single, general labourer,<br>oil works    |
| Vera         | born 14 July 1918    | single, paid domestic<br>duties           |

One line of the record has been redacted

|        |                    |   |
|--------|--------------------|---|
| Ronald | born 5 August 1924 | single, market<br>gardener's apprentice |
|--------|--------------------|---|

Vera Smith married Harold Basford at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in early 1940.



As the name of Alfred Smith's widow is not known, the date of her death is also unknown but it is believed that Donald Smith, the only child of Alfred recorded in the 1911 census, died on Wirral in early 1941 aged 35.