

162: Alfred A. Smith

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Alfred Smith
 Rank: Private
 Battalion / Regiment: 6th Bn. King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)
 Service Number: 13130 Date of Death: 10 August 1915 Age at Death: ?
 Buried / Commemorated at: Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Canakkale, Turkey
 Additional information given by CWGC: None

Alfred Smith (the middle initial, although given by the CWGC, is not shown in his other records) was probably the last child of farm labourer John and Ada Virginia Smith.

John Smith married Ada Bond at Christ Church, Thornton-Cleveleys, in April / June 1883. Both originated from near Blackpool and, for reasons which are unknown, had moved to Wirral by mid-1885. Ada was a daughter of Anthony and Margaret Bond of Thornton, Lancashire; in 1871 Anthony was recorded as a Railway Station Master but in 1881 Margaret (Anthony was not at home) described herself as a farmer's wife.

At the time of the 1891 census, before Alfred had been born, the family was living at 'Westwoods', Thornton Hough:

John Smith	Head	Mr	32				Thornton Lancashire
Ada V. Smith	Wife	Ms	28				Fleetwood
Emmeline	Daughter		5				Neston
Maggie L. Smith	Daughter		3				Neston
Ada V.	Daughter		1				Thornton Lancashire

1891 census (extract) – Thornton Hough

John Smith	32	farm labourer	born Thornton, Lancs.
Ada V.	28		born Fleetwood
Emmeline	5		born Neston
Maggie	3		born Neston
Ada V.	1		born Thornton, Lancs.

Emmeline was born in April / June 1885 and named after one of Ada's sisters. No baptism has been found for her at Neston Parish Church. Maggie Ethel Smith was baptised at Neston, where the address was recorded as 'Westwood', on 15 July 1887 when John's occupation was given as labourer. Ada Virginia jnr was born in Thornton, Lancashire, perhaps when the family was visiting John's relatives.

Following the birth of Ada, John Edward Smith was born in early 1892 and Alfred was born in early 1894 although neither was baptised at Neston Parish Church. John Smith, Alfred's father, died sometime before the 1901 census (his date of death has not been identified with certainty) and Ada moved her family back to Thornton-le-Fylde:

Ada Virginia Smith	Head	Wid	25	/							to Fleetwood
Emmeline Smith	Serv	S	15	/	Dressmaker	Worker					Cheshire Neston
Maggie Ethel	Do	S	13	/							Do Do
Ada Virginia	Do	S	11	/							Lancashire Thornton
John Edward	Son		9	/							Cheshire Neston
Alfred	Son		7	/							Do Do
Arthur Gregory	Boarder	S	25	/	Chemical Works Clerk	Worker					Cheshire Runcorn

1901 census (extract) – 3 Heyes Street, Thornton, Blackpool

Ada Virginia Smith	35	widow	born Fleetwood
Maggie Ethel	15	dressmaker	born Neston
Ada Virginia	11		born Thornton
John Edward	9		born Neston
Alfred	7		born Neston
Arthur Gregory	25	boarder, chemical works clerk	born Runcorn

Ada Virginia Smith remarried in Fylde (again, at Christ Church, Thornton-Cleveleys) in April / June 1902, her husband being gardener Matthew Dollman. As the son of railway engine driver Henry and Marnie/Maria Dollman it is possible that Ada's parents knew the Dollman family as Ada's father was recorded as a station master. Matthew Dollman was a bachelor and he and Ada went on to have their own family.

GENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

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.

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 Person 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—	Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which worker is connected						
Matthew Dollman	Head	36	Married	4	2	2	Gardener	Fleetwood			
Ada Dollman	Wife	46	do	9	2	2		Fleetwood			
Emmeline Smith	Step-daughter	25	Single				Dressmaker	Neston Cheshire	12.0		
Maggie Smith	Step-daughter	23	Single				Milliner	Neston			
Ada Smith	Step-daughter	21	Single				Cashier	Thornton			
Alfred Smith	Son	17	Single				Gardener	Neston Cheshire	12.0		
Phyllis Dollman	Daughter	8						Thornton			
Irene Dollman	Daughter	4						Thornton			

I certify that—
 (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.
 (2) I have entered the name and front in Columns 3 and 4 respectively, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
 (3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: *Ad*

Total	Males	Females	Persons
	2	6	8

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Bathrooms, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Matthew Dollman*
 Postal Address: *Burgon House, Church St, Thornton-le-Fylde*

1911 census (condensed) – Curzon House, Church Road, Thornton-le-Fylde

Matthew Dollman	36	gardener	born Fleetwood
Ada	46		born Fleetwood
Emmeline Smith	25	step-daughter, dressmaker	born Neston
Maggie Smith	23	step-daughter, milliner	born Neston
Ada Smith	21	step-daughter, cashier	born Thornton
Alfred Smith	17	step-son, gardener, domestic	born Neston
Phyllis Dollman	8		born Thornton
Irene Dollman	4		born Thornton

Matthew and Ada had been married for 9 years and both children had survived.

Alfred Smith's Service Record has not been found (although it is believed that he enlisted in Fleetwood) and so it is not possible to give details of his army service or the circumstances of his death when he was killed in action in Gallipoli on 10 August 1915 when he would have been about 21. However, it is of interest to note that Alfred A Smith died on the same day, and in the same Gallipoli campaign, as Daniel Taylor [See [165: Daniel Taylor](#)].

The 6th Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) was formed at Lancaster on 9 August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First New Army and came under the command of the 38th Brigade, 13th (Western) Division.

On 13 June 1915 the troops embarked for Egypt and on 6 July 1915 they arrived in Gallipoli where they engaged in various actions against the Turkish forces including the Battle of Sari Bair in which, most probably, Alfred lost his life.

For the three months since the first landing of Allied troops in late April 1915, the Anzac beachhead at Gallipoli had been a stalemate. In August an offensive (which later became known as the Battle of Sari Bair) was intended to break the deadlock by capturing the high ground of the Sari Bair range of hills, and linking the Anzac front with a new landing to the north at Suvla Bay. In addition to the main advance north out of the Anzac perimeter, a number of supporting attacks were planned from the existing trench positions.

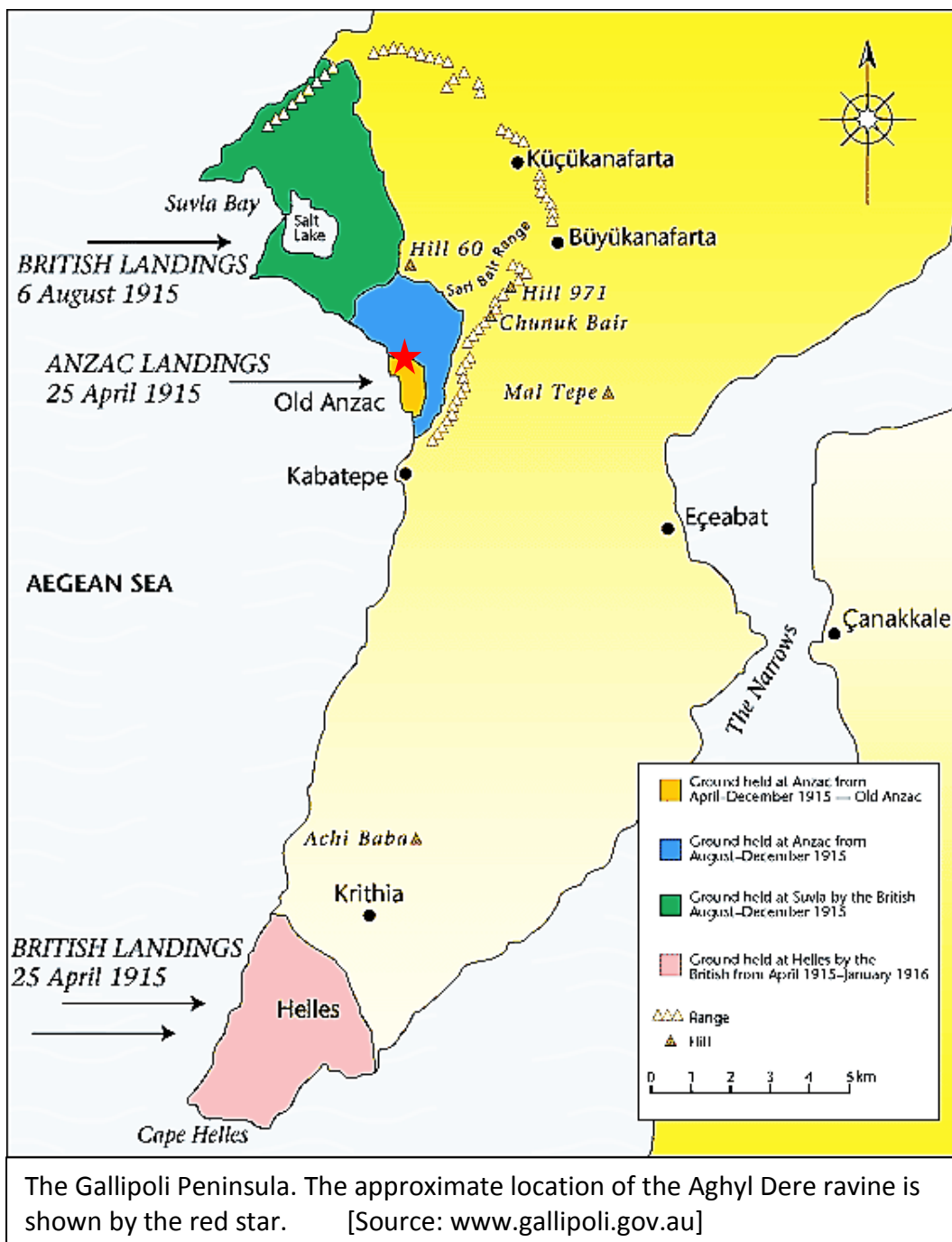
It is known that, on 9 August, the 6th Battalion King's Own repulsed an attack near a deep and heavily-vegetated ravine called Aghyl Dere and it was probable that Alfred Smith died immediately following this action.

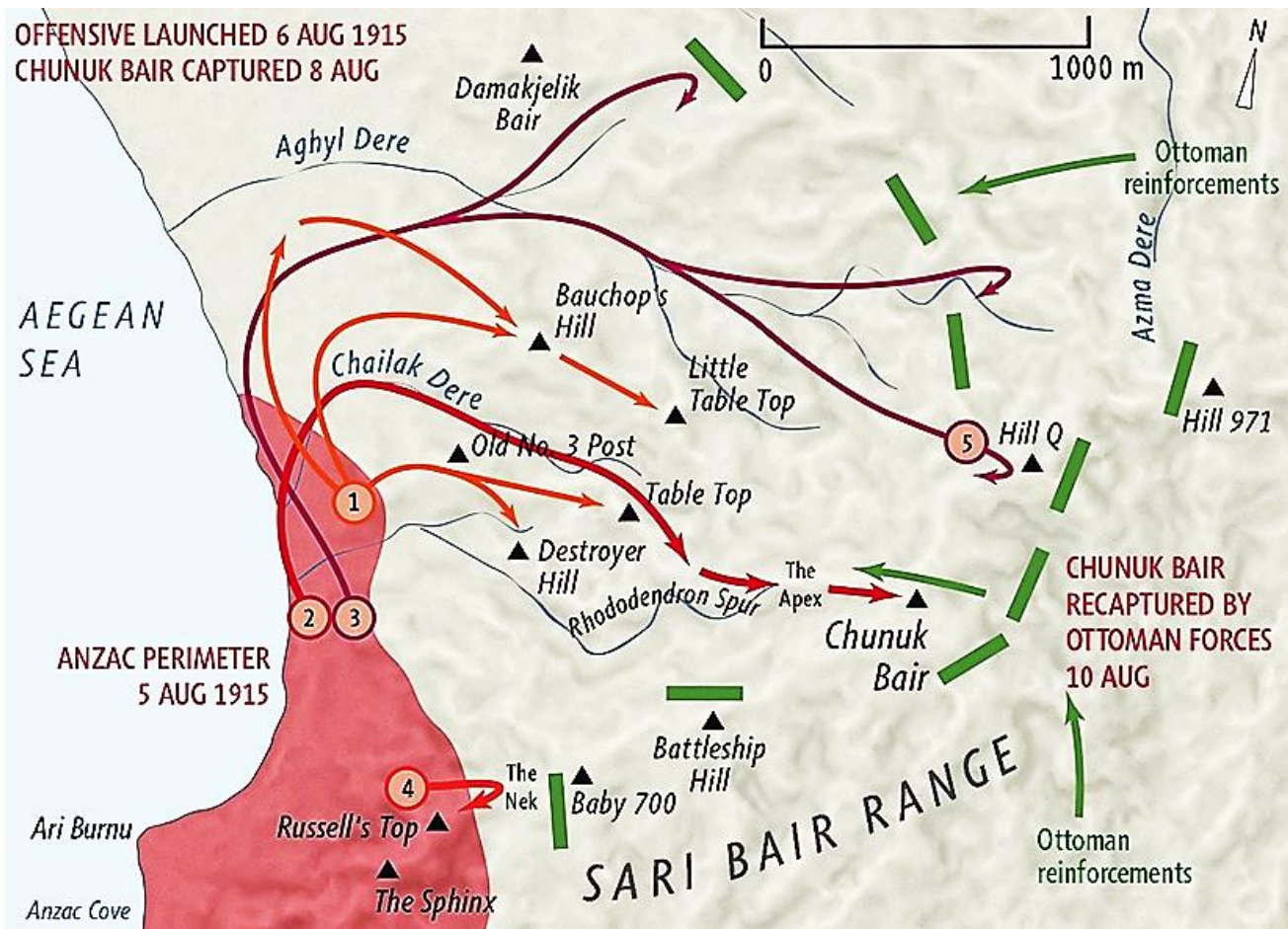
The General Officer Commanding the 38th Brigade was Brigadier General Anthony Hugh Baldwin and, at this time he was supported by Brigadier General F E Johnston leading the New Zealand Brigade. Francis Earl Johnston was a New Zealand-born British Army officer who was seconded to the New Zealand Military Forces but he was, at this time, suffering ill-health and it was considered that he displayed poor judgement in coordinating the battalions of the brigade. Tim Travers, Professor of History at the University of Calgary, has commented that Johnston was 'sinking into incoherence at this point' and has written the following observation of the activity of the 38th Brigade in Gallipoli in attempting to take Hill Q at Sari Bair on 9 August:

But Johnston struggled to 'run the show' himself, and said that the best route was up the Chailak Dere, across to the Aghyl Dere, and then up to Hill Q via a small building known as the Farm. Baldwin's Brigade spent the whole day trying to reach the Farm, through gullies jammed with wounded and dead men and animals. It seems the wounded being moved down against the upward flow of Baldwin's men was a critical factor in delaying the column. One participant in the march, Captain Hicks, 10th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, remembered the 'hot dusty swollen brown stinking corpses lying about everywhere.' In the area of the Farm, heavy machine-gun fire halted the advance, caused very heavy casualties, and prevented any attack in conjunction with Allanson. The column lay down, and when ordered to move, Hicks and his men could do little because of heat and exhaustion. But he did notice two New Zealanders bringing in four snipers they had just captured. The snipers were being led off to be shot: 'The Turks caught us by the hand and begged for mercy. But we weren't feeling very merciful to snipers just then.' According to Captain Hicks, his company was then sent up from the Farm onto Rhododendron Spur under

heavy shrapnel fire, but were told there ‘we were not wanted. I received a very cold welcome from General Johnston, and had to take my half company down the Chailak Dere and round up the Aghyl Dere again.’ At the same time, according to Temperley, morale in Baldwin’s column generally became poor, and some 300 men from the column tried to surrender to the Turks. Temperley stopped this by turning a machine-gun onto them. No doubt morale was low because Baldwin’s column was punished heavily in the Farm area that day, although the war diary of the 6th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, part of Baldwin’s column, merely recorded on 9 August that they were told to take the left ridge of Sari Bair (either the left flank of Chunuk Bair, or Hill Q), but stopped 250 yards from the summit, and entrenched, while suffering just one man killed, and a few wounded. Later on, when the Turks attacked with a massive assault at dawn the next day, 10 August, all along the Sari Bair crest, the 6th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles stayed for an hour and a half, and then were given orders to retire: ‘by whom it has not been possible to ascertain.’ Hicks remembered that the gullies were ‘full of men running for all they were worth’. Two courageous officers stood in the gully and stopped the rout. Evidently, the men had reached the end of their tether.

[*Gallipoli 1915* Tim Travers Tempus Publishing Ltd, Stroud 2001]





The map shows the relative positions of the wooded ravine of Aghyl Dere and Hill Q in the Sari Bair range of hills. [Source: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/sari-bair-offensive-map>]

At 4.30 a.m. on August 9th, the Chunuk Bair ridge and Hill Q were heavily shelled. The naval guns, all the guns on the left flank, and as many as possible from the right flank..... took part in this cannonade, which rose to its climax at 5.15 a.m., when the whole ridge seemed a mass of flame and smoke, whence huge clouds of dust drifted slowly upwards in strange patterns on to the sky. At 5.16 a.m. this tremendous bombardment was to be switched off on to the flanks and reverse slopes of the heights.

The New Army troops attacked with a fine audacity, but they were flung back from the height and then pressed still further down the slope, until General Baldwin had to withdraw his command to the vicinity of the Farm, whilst the enemy, much encouraged, turned their attention to the New Zealand troops and the two New Army battalions of No. 1 Column still holding the southwest half of the main knoll of Chunuk Bair.

Constant attacks, urged with fanatical persistence, were met here with a sterner resolution, and although, at the end of the day, our troops were greatly exhausted, they still kept their footing on the summit. And if that summit meant much to us, it meant even more to the Turks.

At daybreak on Tuesday, August 10th, the Turks delivered a grand attack from the line Chunuk Bair Hill Q against these two battalions, already weakened in numbers, though not in spirit, by previous fighting.

First our men were shelled by every enemy gun, and then, at 5.30 a.m., were assaulted by a huge column, consisting of no less than a full division plus a regiment of three battalions. The North Lancashire men were simply overwhelmed in their shallow trenches by sheer weight of numbers, whilst the Wilts, who were caught out in the open, were literally almost annihilated.

The ponderous masses of the enemy swept over the crest, turned the right flank of our line below, swarmed round the Hampshires and General Baldwin's column, which had to give ground, and were only extricated with great difficulty and very heavy losses.

Adapted from: *The Battle of Sari Bair* by British Commander-in-Chief Sir Ian Hamilton

Source: Source Records of the Great War, Vol. III, ed. Charles F. Horne, National Alumni 1923

212188	108.194	Smith Alfred	6. 10m Royal Lance Peg Pte 13130	10. 8. 15 Fres-ton Gallipoli 10/15	6	8	10	6	8	10	M.6.1.16	3: 1: 16 68: 10 2	mo: ada Dollman Mo. A. Dollman	6	8	10.
		A. 7 W 5070	13130	WAR GRATUITY. 1919/20 Transfer #57041 H 19 Regd. Paper 1957 602 Serial No. 2650 54	3	-	-									

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In May 1919 Alfred’s mother, Ada Dollman, received a payment of outstanding wages of £6 8s 10d from the army and a War Gratuity of £3. This, a total value of £9 8s 10d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £1460 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

4			
Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
SMITH Alfred	R. Lanc R	Pte	13130
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	H2 103 75.	609	Kin A
BRITISH	do	do	
15 STAR	H/2/3 B	189	
Theatre of War first served in	50) Asiatic		
Date of entry therein	13-6-16		

The eight-month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black

Sea. The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. On 6 August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac, and the climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts. However, the difficult terrain and stiff Turkish resistance soon led to the stalemate of trench warfare. From the end of August, no further serious action was fought and the lines remained unchanged. The peninsula was successfully evacuated in December and early January 1916. The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. [CWGC]

Ada Dollman, Alfred's mother, died on Fylde (in the Fleetwood district) in late 1952 aged 87 and Matthew Dollman, Alfred's step-father, died on Fylde in late 1960 aged 85. In the 1939 Register (29 September) they were living at 82 Church Road, Thornton-Cleveleys, north of Blackpool:

Matthew Dollman	born 12 November 1874	gardener in private service
Ad. V	born 28 February 1865	

Emmeline Smith, Alfred's elder sister, married George Arthur Smith Guard at Christ Church, Thornton-Cleveleys, in late 1920.

In the 1939 Register they are recorded as living at 64 Chapel Street, Chorley:

George A S Guard	born 1 November 1885	sewing machine salesman and collector
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Emmeline	born 20 April 1885	
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Emmeline died in the Blackpool South district, aged 76, in mid-1961 and George died, also in the Blackpool district, in mid-1971.

George and Emmeline had a son, George Smith Guard, who was registered on the Fylde in mid-1923.

Maggie Ethel Smith, Alfred's sister, married Wilfrid Wilson Gleave at Christ Church, Thornton-Cleveleys, in July/September 1913 and in 1939 they were living at 118 Liverpool Road, Widnes:

Wilfrid W Gleave	born 1 March 1886	research chemist, electrolytic chlorine
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Margaret E	born 30 May 1887	
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Grant S	born 25 May 1917	university student (engineering)
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Margaret Gleave died in the Blackpool & Fylde district in early 1975 and Wilfrid Gleave died in the same region in late 1982.

Ada Virginia Smith, Alfred's sister, married John James Richardson at Christ Church, Thornton-Cleveleys, in mid-1918. In 1939 they were living at 7 Fairfield Road, Fulwood, Lancashire, an affluent northern suburb of Preston:

John J Richardson	born 23 March 1888	upholsterer
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Ada V	born 5 October 1889	
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Ada died in the Preston district, aged 77, in mid-1967. John Richardson may have died, aged 80, in the Amounderness region of Lancashire (which includes Preston), in mid-1968.

John Edward Smith, Alfred's brother, married Jessie Roscoe at Neston Parish Church in mid-1914 and in the 1939 Register they are recorded as living at 4 Shones Croft, Mill Lane, Ness:

John E Smith	born 16 September 1891	labourer
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Jessie	born 10 December 1889	
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Lewis	born 16 September 1919	single, joiner
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Possibly four lines have been redacted

John Edward Smith died, aged 62, in late 1954 and Jessie died, aged 78, in mid-1968.

Phyllis Naomi Dollman, a half-sister of Alfred, married Herbert Holford (or *Halford*) at Christ Church, Thornton-Cleveleys, in mid-1937 and in September 1939 they were living at 14 Knowle Avenue, Thornton-Cleveleys:

Herbert Holford	born 9 July 1907	joiner setter-out, bench hand
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Phyllis N	born 11 December 1902	
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One line of the record has been redacted

Although the record has a redacted line, it has not been possible to identify any children of Herbert and Phyllis.

It is not known when Herbert and Phyllis died.

Irene Dollman, Alfred's second half-sister, married Matthew Bousfield at Christ Church, Thornton-Cleveleys, in mid-1934 and it is believed that they had three children: Michael Owen (registered early 1944) and twins Gillian and Susan (registered early 1946).

In 1939 they were living at 7 'The Willows', School Road, Thornton, Thornton-Cleveleys:

Matthew Bousfield	born 24 August 1905	master baker
Irene	born 15 April 1906	assistant teacher, Elementary

One line of the record has been redacted

It is not known when Matthew and Irene died.