

96: Kenneth Montgomery Crook Smyth

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]
 Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Kenneth Smyth
 Rank: Private
 Battalion / Regiment: 51st (Training Reserve) Bn. Manchester Regiment
 Service Number: TR3/84806 Date of Death: 01 November 1918 Age at Death: 18
 Buried / Commemorated at: Christ Church, Willaston
 Additional information given by CWGC: The son of James M. and Ethel M. Smyth of Moyheelan, Willaston. His brother George Nevill Conyngham Smyth died on Service in the 1939 - 1945 War.

Buried at Christ Church, Willaston, Kenneth Montgomery Crook Smyth, the son of James and Ethel Mary Smyth, is also commemorated on the Christ Church War Memorial where he is recorded as Signaller K M C Smyth.

James Montgomery Smyth and Ethel Mary Crook married at Christ Church, Edge Hill, Liverpool in April/June 1899 and Kenneth Montgomery C Smyth was born in Great Crosby, Sefton, (north Liverpool) on 4 June 1900.

James Montgomery Smyth, born in Ireland, was the son of a Presbyterian minister and the family had moved to the Crosby area when James was young. In 1901 the family was living at 12 Regent Road, Great Crosby, with two of James' unmarried sisters living in the house next door; they were in the same house in 1911:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 110
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after selection.)

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 Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
			Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	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). Children who have died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.						
James Smyth	Head	54	Married 11	3	3	—	Head Overseer Rate Collector Parish of Liverpool	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ethel Mary Smyth	Wife	40	Married 11	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kenneth M. C. Smyth	Son	10	—	—	—	—	School	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alexander W. Smyth	"	7	—	—	—	—	School	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
George N. C. Smyth	"	7 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Christie Smith	Servant	15	Single	—	—	—	General servant (domestic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—		Total	
(1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.	Male	Female	Persons.
(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 2 and 4 separately, and have entered their sum with the total number of persons.	4	2	6
(3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on this Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.	Initials of Enumerator		

(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, Transoms, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count soldiers' 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: *Kenneth Smyth*
 Postal Address: 12 Regent Rd. Gt. Crosby, Lanes.

1911 census (condensed) – 12, Regent Road, Great Crosby

James Smyth	54	assistant overseer & rate collector Parish of Liverpool	born Co. Derry, Draperstown
Ethel Mary	40		born Liverpool
Kenneth M.C.	10		born Crosby
Alexander W.	7		born Gt. Crosby
George N.C.	7 months		born Gt. Crosby
Christie Smith	15	general servant (domestic)	born Bootle

James and Ethel had been married for 11 years and all three of their children had survived.



James helped in the foundation of the Balfour Institute, a Board school, in Smithdown Road in Liverpool and he later became Superintendent-Registrar (with legal custody of all the birth, marriage and death registers) of Liverpool.

It was probably in 1912 that the Smyth family moved to Willaston and the large

12 Regent Road, Great Crosby [Google StreetView]

double-fronted semi-detached house

called 'Moyheelan' (now unnamed) on Hooton Road to the east of the village. The reason for the move to Willaston is unknown but it is believed that they had no further children.

In April 1913, now attending the Presbyterian Church in Neston, it is recorded that:

On April 13 1913, Mr J.M. Smyth, elder from Blundellsands, being present, was associated with the Session, and was at once appointed Presbytery representative. It is not until May, 1918, that we find him appointed to the work he did with such conscientious care – that of Session Clerk. Though he lived at Willaston, three and a half miles from Neston, he attended regularly every Sunday evening. His wife with him was a member of the church who did devoted service, and his elder son [Kenneth] was Secretary of the Sunday School, and his name, with that of that of another young member whose confession of faith has just been alluded to, Mr George Butcher [see entry 97: William G. R. Butcher], is on the War Memorial. Mr Smyth continued as representative elder to the Presbytery up to the time of his death, which took place on December 14 1930 [when he was 73].

[The Story of the Presbyterian Church of England at Parkgate and Neston, 1858 – 1933
Charles Cowan Lundie 1933 R. Aikman & Son, Manchester]

This same small booklet also notes that:

The Session records do not tell us much respecting the Sunday School, but we learn at this period that there is a dearth of teachers ie 1919. We learn also of the Kenneth Smyth Memorial. This was funded by Mr J.M. Smyth in memory of his son who died through the war, and consists of a sum of money to fund a prize or prizes for work done in the school for which the late Kenneth Smyth was such an earnest worker.

Ethel Mary Smythe died, aged 57, on 18 April 1928.

Kenneth's younger brother, George Nevill Conyngham Smyth, joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in WW2 and, as a Flying Officer (RAFVR 141352), was killed on 26 June 1944. It is believed that he was unmarried.

George was one of six crew aboard a Halifax Mark V s/n LL366 'M2' of 1667 Heavy Conversion Unit which crashed shortly after taking off from Sandtoft airfield in North

Lincolnshire on a night bombing exercise. The aircraft, which may have struck overhead power cables, came down near Thorne in West Yorkshire. He has not been located in the 1939 Register.



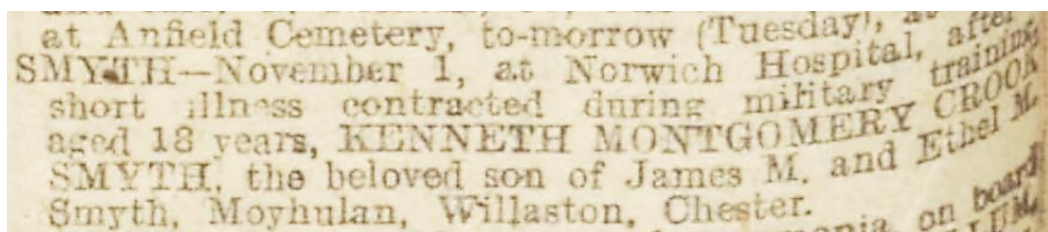
The Handley Page Halifax four-engined heavy bomber (this is not the Mark V version)

[Source: www.tracesofwar.com/sights/104211/Crash-Site-Halifax-DT627.htm]

Kenneth enlisted in Liverpool and, whilst details of his service and the exact circumstances of his death are unknown, it is known that he died in Norwich Hospital, Norfolk, following a short illness contracted whilst he was undergoing his military training.

On 27 October 1917 the 225th Graduated Battalion (formerly the 50th Training Reserve Battalion from the 14th Cheshires) was at Halesworth in north-east Suffolk as part of the 203rd Brigade and the 68th Division became the 51st Battalion. The troops were moved to Yarmouth for the winter and by May 1918 were at Herringfleet, also in Suffolk, where it remained. At this time, particularly following the passing of the Military Service Act in 1916, there were more recruits and reservists than could be accommodated and trained for active service units and many battalions were held in reserve in the UK.

Nothing has been found of Kenneth Smyth's military service although the booklet *Parkgate and Neston Presbyterian Church of England : The Centenary History (1857 – 1957)* records that ...*Kenneth was for a time Secretary of our Sunday School until his death on active service in 1918.* However, it is unlikely that he ever served overseas with the army.



Liverpool Echo - Monday 4 November 1918

Kenneth's brother, Alexander Wallace Smyth (born 24 March 1904), died in the Birkenhead area in late 1967 aged 63. He married Edna M Cowper (born 13 September 1912) at St Andrew's Church, Toxteth Park, Liverpool in mid-1935; no children are known.

In the 1939 Register Alexander, a *salesman, electricity supply company*, and Edna (shown as *Enda*) were living at 1 Selso Road, Deswbury. It is not known when Edna died.

820404	<i>6/64847</i>	<i>Smyth</i>	<i>51 (9)</i>	<i>1.11.18</i>	<i>Preston</i>	<i>✓ 4 18 3 ✓</i>	<i>12.5.19</i>	<i>Ja. James M</i>	<i>5 4 9</i>
	<i>1/7</i>	<i>Kenneth</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Sichner</i>	<i>12/18</i>				
		<i>To</i>	<i>TR. 3/84806</i>	<i>horrid</i>					
		<i>C</i>	<i>Plt.</i>		<i>12.18</i>	<i>✓ - 6 6</i>			
		A. F. W. 5070 SENT DATE 23.4.19		Effects 13 19 10 24 Transfer 28 4 Regd Paper 19047 Serial No. 2644		<i>Not Adminicd</i>			

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 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 July 1919 Kenneth’s father James received a payment of outstanding wages of £5 4s 9d from the army. This is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £810 in 2016.

As Kenneth died before completing his training he was not entitled to a War Gratuity, a payment introduced in December 1918 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.

In Loving Memory of
KENNETH M. C. SMYTH
 51st Manchester Regiment
 The Beloved Son of
JAMES M. and ETHEL M. SMYTH
 Born 4th June 1900
 Died on All Saints Day 1 November 1918
 ‘Looking Unto Jesus’
 Also the Above **ETHEL M. SMYTH**
 Born 29th Oct. 1870, Died 18 April 1928
 Also the Above **JAMES M. SMYTH**
 Born 21 Jan. 1857, Died 14 Dec. 1930

