## **SMITH, Walter Cecil**

**Reference: Beecroft Church of England Roll of Honour, Beecroft Roll of Honour, Beecroft War Memorial, Tony Cunneen book**

[Born 1896, Walgett district, son of Horatio W. and Larty Smith]

**AIF Project details:**

Regimental Number: 9722

Enlistment Date: 5 Apr 1915

Place of Birth: Walgett, NSW

Age: 21 years

School: Walgett Public School, NSW

Occupation: Plumber

Address: Abbotsford, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 21

Height: 5’ 6 ½”

Weight: 138lbs

Chest Measurement: 30.5-34”

Complexion: Dark

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Religious Denomination: Church of England

Next of Kin: Father, Horatio William Smith, ‘Myee’, Walton Crescent, Abbotsford, NSW

Previous military service: Nil

Rank on enlistment: Private

Unit Name: Dermatological Hospital, 3rd Reinforcement (MED26.8.1 DERM.R3]

AWM embarkation Roll number: 26/103/1

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A67 *Orsova* on 11 Mar 1916

Roll title: 1 Australian Stationary Hospital – 14 to 16

Reinforcements 2 Australian Stationary Hospital

Rank from Nominal Roll: Private

Unit from Nominal Roll: 56th Battalion

Fate: Killed in Action 26 Sep 1917

Place of death or wounding: Polygon Wood, Ypres, Belgium

Date of death: 26 Sep 1917

Age at death: 21

Age at death from cemetery records: 21

Place of burial: No known grave

Commemoration details: The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 29), Belgium

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial: 163

Miscellaneous information from cemetery records: Parents; Horatio and Lanty Smith, Walton Crescent, Abbotsford, NSW. Native of Walgett, NSW

Family/military connections: Cousins: 31 Pte Alfred Eric Catterall, 34th Bn., returned to Australia, 11 May 1919; 32 Pte William John Catterall, 34th Bn., killed in action, 13 Oct 1917.

Other details: War service: Egypt, Western Front

Admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital, Abbassia, 24 April 1916 (mumps), discharged, 5 May 1916.

Embarked for England, 15 Sep 1916. Admitted to Bulford Military Hospital, 3 Oct 1916.

Proceeded overseas to France, 16 Nov 1916; taken on strength, 56th Bn., 7 Dec 1916.

Wounded in action, 3 Feb 1917 (shell wound, face); transferred from 15th Australian Field Ambulance to 45th Casualty Clearing Station, 4 Feb 1917; to 5th General Hospital, Rouen, 5 Feb 1917 (gunshot wound, face); to 2nd Convalescent Depot, 13 Feb 1917; to 5th Division Base Depot, Etaples, 22 Feb 1917; re-joined 56th Bn., Mar 1917; on leave to England, 6 Sep 1917; re-joined unit from leave, 20 Sep 1917.

Killed in action, 26 Sep 1917

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

**AWM (Australian War Memorial): Roll of Honour**

**Cecil Walter Smith** [also referred to as Walter Cecil Smith]

Service No. 9722

Rank: Private

Unit: 56th Australian Infantry Battalion

Enlistment Date: 25 January 1916

Fate: Killed in action

Fate Date: 26 September 1917

Date of Death: 26 September 1917

Place of Death: Belgium

Cause of Death: Killed in action

Age at Death: 21 [born 1896 Walgett district; parents: Horatio W. & Larty

Place of Association: Beecroft

Cemetery or Memorial Details: Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 12, 13, 62-64, 67, 87)

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 May 1915 (Beecroft honour board)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 29 Oct 1917 (death notice)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 26 Sep 1918 (in memoriam)