

In Memory of
Corporal
Samuel Smith

11221, 8th Bn., Cheshire Regiment who died on 09 April 1916

Remembered with Honour
Basra Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Corporal Samuel (Sam) Smith

8th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment

Died: 9th April 1916

How Died: Killed in Action

Country of burial: Iraq

Cemetery or Memorial: Basra Memorial, Shatt-al-Arab

Town Memorial: Altrincham

Extra Information:

Born during the September quarter 1895 in the Altrincham R.D. - ref: 8a/188, the son of Samuel & Elizabeth Smith (nee Johnson).

1901 Census - 7 Navigation Road, Broadheath - aged: 5 - born: Broadheath. Head of household - Samuel Smith - aged: 52 - occ: Cabinet Maker - born: Manchester. Also Elizabeth Smith - Wife - aged: 45 - born: Manchester. Plus 6 elder siblings.

His father - Samuel, died in 1908, aged: 59.

1911 Census - 17 Navigation Road, Altrincham, Son - (Listed as SAM Smith) aged: 16 - occ: Engineers Miller - born: Altrincham. Head of household - Elizabeth Smith - Widow - aged: 56 - born: Manchester. Plus 5 elder siblings.

SDGW states that he was born at St. Alban's, Broadheath and enlisted at Altrincham.

MIC - confirms that he held the rank of Corporal and states that he was posted to (2b) = Balkans (Gallipoli) on the 26th June 1915. That he was awarded the 15 Star, the BWM & the VM. His date of death was accepted as being on the 9th April 1916, indicating that there was some uncertainty as to which day he was killed.

In February 1915 the 8th Bn, Cheshire Rgt moved to Pirbright and in June 1915 embarked for Egypt and thence to Gallipoli. They were evacuated from Suvla on the 19th and 20th of December 1915, and after a weeks rest they moved to the Helles bridgehead. They were in action during the last Turkish attacks at

Helles on the 7th of January 1916 and were evacuated from Helles on the 8th and 9th. The Division concentrated at Port Said, holding forward posts in the Suez Canal defences.

On the 12th of February 1916 they moved to Mesopotamia (Iraq), to join the force being assembled near Sheikh Sa'ad for the relief of the besieged garrison at Kut al Amara. They joined the Tigris Corps on the 27th of March and were in action in the unsuccessful attempts to relieve Kut. The first Battle of Kut, begun on the 5th April 1916, the final British attempt to relieve the Turkish siege of Sir Charles Townshend's beleaguered 10,000 troops garrisoned at Kut.

Attacking at dawn on the 5th April 1916, the British were surprised to discover the Turkish first line unoccupied and regrouped preparatory for a frontal assault upon Fallahiyeh that same evening. Fallahiyeh was duly taken following an advance across mud-soaked terrain, but at heavy cost. Meanwhile a secondary attack along the other bank of the Tigris River encountered relatively light opposition. With Fallahiyeh secured reserve forces were set in place in readiness for a follow-up attack against Sannaiyat the next morning. Despite these early successes, British casualties were nevertheless uncomfortably high: 2,000 on the first day alone.

Progress was much more difficult to come by on the following morning. Attack after attack upon Sannaiyat was repulsed over succeeding days. 1,200 British casualties were incurred alone on 6 April, with additional losses suffered the next day and on 9 April.

Until 1997 the Basra Memorial was located on the main quay of the naval dockyard at Maqil, on the west bank of the Shatt-al-Arab, about 8 kilometres north of Basra. Saddam Hussein ordered it to be moved to a new site, 32 kilometres along the road to Nasiriyah, in the middle of what was a major battleground during the first Gulf War.

Memorials found on:

Altrincham & District Roll of Honour

Broadheath Congregational Church



Basra Memorial to the Missing of Mesopotamia