



Bessie – Kay – Bill - Sid



SHERBROOKE FUSILIER REGIMENT

Written by: Nick Corrie

Assisted by: Gary and Lynda Smith



MOTTO: TO THE POINT

Name: William James Smith

Rank: Trooper

Service Number: A 106964

Born: 9 March 1915

KIA: 12 August 1944

Served in: WWII

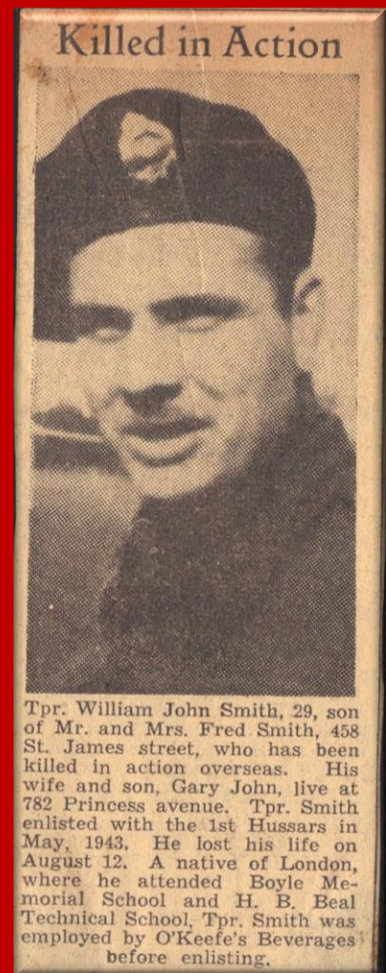
Service: Canadian Army

Battle Group: 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade

Regiment: 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment
(Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment)

Service Details: Served from March to May 1943 with 6th (Reserve) Canadian Armoured Regiment (First Hussars) before going Active. After basic armoured training as a gunner at Camp Borden with the Canadian Armoured Corps, he was transferred to England for more advanced training. Finally, TOS in France on 28 July 1944 with "C" Squadron of the Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment.

During the action to close the Falaise gap in August 1944, his tank received a direct hit from a German Tiger tank equipped with 88mm gun. William successfully exited his burning Sherman, but he was machine gunned on the ground.



William John Smith – Personal History:

His early life leading up to and including his service in WWII

Smith is an Anglo-Saxon name. The name was originally given to a metalworker (the blacksmith). It is derived from the Old English word *smid*, probably derived from "smitan," which meant "to strike with a hammer." The spelling_variations under which the name Smith has appeared include Smith, Smyth, Smythe and others. **BENIGO NUMINE:** By Devine Providence

In Canada, Smith is the 1st most popular surname with an estimated 192,145 people identified with it. In fact, Smith is the most common surname throughout the English-speaking world, the United States topping the list with 2,500,000 people rejoicing daily under that moniker.



William John Smith was born to English parents Fred and Emma Smith in London, Ontario, on March 9, 1915.



Frederick Smith b. December 1, 1877 or 80 in Colchester, Colchester Borough, Essex, England, d. July 13, 1953. Emma Keattch Smith b. March 1879 Lewisham London, England d. August 17, 1959. Both buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, London.

Details of William's early life are largely unknown, but one can speculate it was not unlike that of so many other boys growing up in a small Canadian town in the first half of the twentieth century. Born during WWI, the horrors of the Great War would only become known to him as he grew into manhood, probably told to him by both his war seasoned veteran father and brother James; their experiences described below. His young impressionable years were charged by images seen through the antics of the Roaring Twenties, an era filled with stories of aviation adventurers and wing walking barnstormers, crazy exploits and gyrating flappers, gangsters and boot-leg booze. All this madness disappearing down a ten-year dark hole of economic depression and hardship which in turn - was ended by another war displaying advanced weaponry inflicting more death and destruction.



Bessie – Kay – Bill - Sid

Not untypically then, William (Bill) grew into adulthood and apparently felt so well suited to life in London, to eventually at age 22, marry Kathleen (Kay) Francis Avey, age 23, on June 29, 1937. The wedding was a very cordial affair, celebrated as a double wedding since Kate's sister Bessie married Bill's brother Sidney.



Kay's parents were: George Franklin Avey b. December 25, 1880, England, and Elizabeth Moorehouse Avey b. September 30, 1874, Middlesex Cnty, Ontario. Maintaining the English connection, Elizabeth's parents were from Yorkshire England. The couple married July 9, 1901, in London. Both tragically died in their home at 728 York Street from carbon monoxide poisoning (faulty furnace) on November 26, 1944. They are buried at Woodland Cemetery, London.



Introducing more British parentage into William's life reinforced a cosy association that would blend well into the multitude of other English immigrants and their descendants who filled out the ranks of the expanding Canadian citizenry.

Records of William's employment are scanty both as a married man and later as husband and father. His enlistment papers in 1943 list him as a beverage salesman with Associated Bottlers Ltd.*

*According to Vernon 1941 London Directory, William previously had worked as a salesman with O'Keefe's Beverages Ltd. The directory also lists his older brother Fred as a salesman with O'Keefe's. A good guess is that both companies were affiliated with O'Keefe's Brewery in Toronto.

Military historians have researched to exhaustion the countless reasons compelling a man to join-up during a conflict of war. One fact stands out: if the recruit had strong ties to "The Old Country," Mother England in this instance, the connection serves as an obvious fundamental reason for a man to leave hearth and home to go off and fight in some far-away war. Considering William's subsequent army service, the Smith family serves as a good example of the old-country influence upon him, coupled with an added strong military presence extending from his father and older brother James's service in World War One - the Great War.



William's father, despite parental obligations in his newly adopted country, when he heard the bugle call in WWI coming from back home in England, he joined the Canadian army to fight against the wicked Hun.

A successful search through Library and Archives Canada WWI digitised files, produced 132 pages of Frederick's military history. The records show that England-born Fred came to Canada in 1913 with wife Emma. They had eight children, with one deceased. Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914, with Canada automatically following suit. Fred wasted no time in making his own declaration on October 23 to become part of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force.



He sailed for his old home country in April 1915 on the SS Grampian. He lingered in England until September then was transferred to France. All is well and good up until this point in his rushed military life. And oh yes, one other point, Fred was a cook, 2nd class.

No-man's-land in France was pock-marked with huge craters gouged out by constant artillery barrages. Any man near the front lines found himself vulnerable to the deluge, even a cook. In one such barrage, Fred took refuge in a trench which may have saved his life after a round landed nearby smothering him with mud. He remained unconscious until he reached a medical post for

treatment. This single near lethal incident was the beginning of numerous medical examinations culminating in a decision that he was medically unfit for further service; he was then pointed on his way back to Canada with a diagnosis of Shell Shock. His just reward was an honourable discharge in April 1916.

Apparently, Fred didn't adjust to peaceful employment pursuits back in his adopted London. He couldn't concentrate, shook uncontrollably and remained unsettled for the next two years. What to do? Well, by 1918 the war in Europe raged on but its importance to the world's order of peace and harmony found competition in Russia, the home of the communist revolution. In response, the world's democracies banded together to form another force to counter the communists.

Canada decided to send troops to Siberia: The Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force. This pledge attracted Fred's attention, drawing him back to the army recruiting office where he miraculously passed the medical examination on 23 October 1918 then



headed off across Canada to a west coast port for shipment to Siberia. The medical officer who passed Fred as a physically fit recruit despite knowing of his shell shock discharge two years before, made a big mistake. In Victoria, Fred's old maladies returned and he was hurried back to London for another medical discharge on 22 April 1919.



An additional search to that made for Frederick's army records from Library and Archives WWI files, has revealed an interesting detail reinforcing the military heritage existing in the Smith household. William's brother James at the age of 17, on 25 January 1915 joined the same 18th Battalion to which his father had joined. The coincidence doesn't stop there. Both sailed to England on the SS Grampian on 18 April 1915 and both quickly suffered debilitating wounds once in France. Father Fred's shell shock was matched by a rifle bullet wound to James's right knee. After receiving extensive treatment in English hospitals, James was assigned to work in Army Headquarters for some months, finally

returning to Canada on the *SS Adriatic*, arriving in Halifax on 10 September 1919.

With the outbreak of a new war in 1939, the dual influences of William's English and war-scarred family would have become inescapable influences colouring his future.

The parental ties connecting William to England were reinforced by his older English siblings here in Canada: Fred, age 44; Alfred, age 38; Louise, age 39; Emma, age 37. Veteran brother James, age 46 in 1943, lived in England (reason unknown?) on the front-line of defence against Hitler's Blitz onslaught.

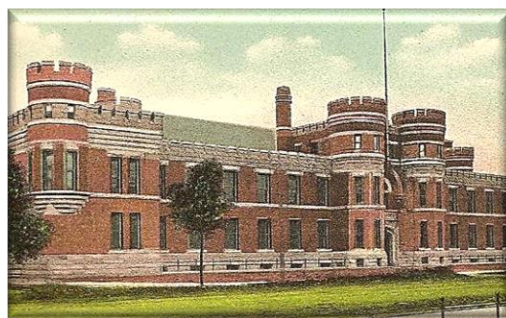
His brother Sidney, age 27, as noted above, was married to Kate's sister Bessie; that makes two young Smith households consisting of four English descendants of three English parents. The "over 'ome" connection dominated. He couldn't escape it even if he wanted to.

With his sister Emma, who had recently joined the Canadian Army Woman's Corps (CWAC) and even younger brother Henry, already in the Army Reserve, he naturally felt compelled to do the same, to join the army in some capacity.



At that point he was age twenty-eight with a wife and son, Gary John, age one year old. Totally committed to join up? Not quite, he cautiously inched his way in.

William's first choice for military service was with an Armoured Corps reserve regiment: the First Hussars. Located in London since 1856, with the outbreak of war in 1939, the Regiment converted from cavalry to armour and operated as two units: The Reserve Force serving from the London Armouries and the Active Force located overseas in the UK, and after D-Day, in action in North West Europe.



The Nominal Roll for the First Hussars, WWII Reserve Regiment, has two interesting entries. Recruited 5 November 1942 was younger brother Henry Claude (Duke) Smith, A 400424. Next, following him on 4 March 1943, was brother William John

Smith, A 400440. (Henry went Active at some point but his service history is unknown except that he did see active service in North West Europe.)

Making a definite gesture to move away from the Reserve and civilian life, William in May 1943, swung the hammer, rang the bell and won a free trip to Camp Borden to join the ranks of the Canadian Armoured Corps (CAC) and become:

Trooper William John Smith, A 106964.

He had joined the ranks of the Active Army and thereby had volunteered to go overseas and “do his bit.”



Note: In Canada then as now, if a recruit to the regular forces wants to be a “tanker,” he joins the Armoured Corps directly. Once trained, he is posted to an armoured regiment. It was through this practice which William followed.

By this single act he committed himself to fight wherever the Canadian Army deemed appropriate. He could be sent to any theatre of war in which the army was fighting. During the WWII European campaign, the Canadian Army fought in Italy and after 6 June 1944, D-Day, in North West Europe. William would come to know it well.

Note on WWII Conscription in Canada:

The Mackenzie King - Liberal Government, passed on 21 June 1940 the National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA). By this act, the government had the power to deem all “...persons to place themselves, their



services and their property at the disposal of His Majesty...for the defence of Canada,” In 1942, the Act was changed to allow

the government to send a conscript into a theatre of war, i.e. overseas service. Age: between age 18 and 40.



There were exemptions for health and occupation and for married men. The added parental designation pretty much secured an exemption. For most men then, of eligible age without an exemption, the choice was either wait for the draft or volunteer. William on the other hand was safe; he couldn't be forced.

For a man with no exemptions thus threatened by conscription, there was however, one other way to escape the government's sharpened claws – join the Reserve Army. Incredibly, even though William was free from conscription, that is what he did, along with brother Henry, when they joined the First Hussars.

Many men followed this path, a choice which allowed them to continue working at their civilian jobs and live at home, free from the draft. Simply put – it was a dodge! A way to avoid active service. Perfectly legal and above board.

William's departure from the Hussars and loss of his secure Reserve Army status in 1943, is emphasised here to underline his resolve to serve and fight in the active force. That move acknowledges the probable importance of his family's English and military heritage upon that decision. - There are no other so obvious reasons. - Finally, younger brother Henry can be accredited with coming under the same influence, pushing him to active enlistment. They both could have sat out the war at home in London in the Reserve but they didn't. English heritage? Smith warriors? Readers are invited to decide for themselves.



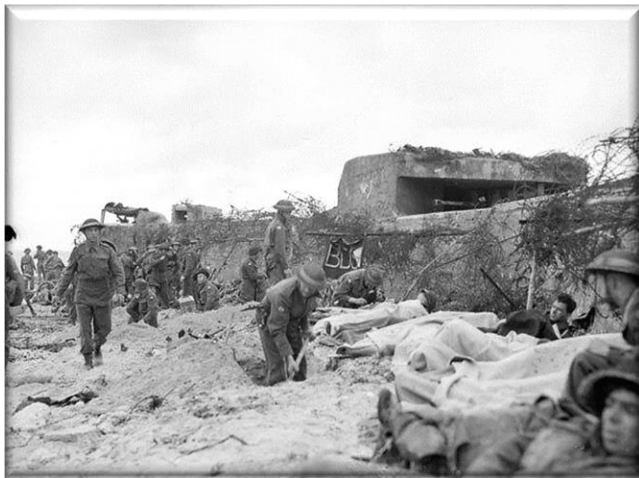
William's service record was obtained from Library and Archives Canada. Subsequently, his training record, referenced here, is derived from the 33 pages obtained in 2021.

Camp Borden was the home of the CAC. Rushed into service in 1940, all recruits to the Corps trained at this facility. William's first real introduction to military life took place one month later on 17 June when he was sent to Chatham, Ontario, for some basic "square bashing" and other fundamentals all designed to mould the civilian into a soldier.

Once back in Borden, actual tank training was conducted. He was selected to be a Gunner/Operator which meant he was trained to not only fire the gun, but act at different times as loader and wireless operator. Men selected for this fighting role were the best trained of all five crewmen in a Sherman tank. The simplest definition for a tank is "mobile gun," meaning a competent gunner is essential. It's his job to lay the gun on the target accurately and fast, the faster the better, because the enemy tank is trying to knock you out first. His reward on 27 November 1943 was a big boost in pay to \$1.50 per diem.



On D-Day, three Canadian Armoured Regiments stormed the beaches. Coming ashore in floating tanks, known as DD Tanks or Duplex-Drive (the tanks had propellers on the rear for propulsion in the water, but once ashore, the tracks operated normally) were the Fort Garry Horse and the First Hussars. Operating in reserve was the Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment who later landed dry directly upon the beach. The violent enemy reception that day against vulnerable floating tanks struggling to reach shore without sinking shook-out all the bravado which months and even years of training had produced in monumental proportions within the battle- inexperienced Canadian troops. No amount of training could prepare a man for the onslaught which they encountered that day.



The constant booming of guns, big and small, the ear-splitting crack and screaming of their rounds through the air, mixed with the smell of cordite, a noxious smothering gas discharged by both sides, the images of bodies floating in blood red seas or strewn about the beach in mangled poses - the entire spectacle shook the untried tankers to the core. Those first few hours of battling to shore

had expunged their smug composure. Nevertheless, they soldiered on, and, if they survived D-Day, they would never forget the horrifying experience. And that was just day one! They didn't know it, but eleven more months of the same awaited them.

The determination of the German army to resist invasion and retreat further inland was apparent from D-Day on. SS Panzer units fought like the fanatics they were. Canadian troops soon learned that to be captured might mean execution, aka murder, at their hands. The wounded fared no better.

Months before this action, back in Canada on 15 February 1944 William embarked for the United Kingdom, arriving there on the 24th. The war behind the front lines was one of technology, a struggle to constantly improve the weapons issued to the fighting man. The weapons in the UK by 1944 were more advanced than those used

in Canada because war time production couldn't keep up to the ever-expanding demand. From the North American factory door, all new improved weapons went directly overseas where they were most needed. As a consequence, more advanced gunnery practice was necessary to bring him up to speed with the latest issues of tanks and guns. With advanced training completed, he disembarked for France where he was TOS (Taken On Strength) on 28 July 1944 with the: 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment), "C" Squadron.



The Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment's name is derived from two Militia regiments in Sherbrooke, Quebec: Les Fusiliers de Sherbrooke, a francophone infantry unit, and the Sherbrooke Regiment, an English-speaking machine gun unit. It was converted to an armoured regiment in 1942 becoming 27th Armoured Regiment (The Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment) initially as part of the 4th Armoured Brigade. By the time it went into action it was in the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade.

The armoured corps lineage of the Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment is carried forward to the present-day as the: Sherbrooke Hussars.

In the main, the well emplaced enemy had fighting experience gained on the Eastern Front against the Russians, knew the country-side better and in too many cases, was prepared to die for the Fuhrer. The Allies, on the other hand, consisting of Canadian, British, Polish and American troops, though green and inexperienced, had an unlimited supply of materials which the Germans did not. The combination turned the tide to put the enemy on the run. By August, the whole German army

was threatened with annihilation as the Allies encircled them, cutting off their retreat to the Father Land.

Assigned to fight with the Sherbrookes, William's arrival coincided with, except for the D-Day fighting with its obvious importance, the next biggest battle the Allies fought. Military historians still discuss and analyse it today, referencing it as - closing the Falaise Gap.

Author and military historian Mark Zuehlke, in the Preface of his 2011 book *Breakout From Juno, July 4 - August 21, 1944*, describes this period in bold terms: "The months of July and August 1944 saw the greatest cataclysm of combat on the western European front during all of WWII."



Falaise, the French birthplace of William the Conqueror, located some 31 miles inland from the Channel coast, found itself quite unwittingly the target for Allied troops to meet and halt the German retreat. After the town was bombed and shelled into a complete state of ruin by Allied forces, the Canadians, British and Poles pushed down from the north while Patton's American forces fighting farther south, raced across France determined to link up at Falaise and put the Germans "in the bag."

More than 2,500,000 men, Allied and German, found themselves "locked together in unrelenting battle in the narrow confines...of Normandy." In answer to the struggle, two plans came forth from Canadian Command Headquarters, both designed to advance the action from the north and reach Falaise: Operation Totalize from 7 August to the 11th, followed by Operation Tractable on 14 August. Neither operation was entirely successful. It was into this time frame of deadly tank warfare that William found himself recruited.

Perhaps a quotation about this famous and highly successful tank battle (proviso: too often the results of tank vs tank worked against the regiment) gleaned from

Sherbrooke history files will help explain where the regiment was at that time and the type of opposition they faced:



Sherman "Firefly" equipped with 17 pounder anti-tank gun. Equivalent to German 88mm

During Operation Totalize, A Squadron of the regiment, commanded by Radley-Walters, was in a support position with six 75 mm Shermans and two 17-pounder Sherman Fireflies in a walled chateau compound when the SS tank commander Michael Wittmann, one of the highest scoring German tank commanders of the war, led a heavily armoured counterattack on 8 August 44 near Gaumesnil attempting to drive a seam between British and Canadian formations. The Sherbrooke tanks were placed behind stone walls with holes knocked out for firing positions about 300m broadside to the German platoon's axis of advance. The Canadian tanks quickly destroyed two Tiger tanks, two Panzer IVs and two self-propelled guns, while British tank fire destroyed three other Tigers as the German counterattack collapsed. Wittmann and his crew in their Tiger I tank, were killed by tank fire from either British or Sherbooke tanks. Modern investigations and interviews suggest the Sherbrooke tanks actually destroyed the German Tiger tank number 007 that was commanded by Wittmann as the British tanks, of 3 Troop, A Sqn, 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, were probably too far away.

To more fully understand the magnitude of the war in North West Europe, consider the following facts: From 6 June 1944 to 21 August when the gap was finally closed is 77 days. In those hectic days of constant battle, the Canadian army moved a mere 36 miles from the landing ground on the Channel to Falaise. One needs to keep these figures in mind when trying to comprehend the deathly struggle which took place, day after day, to close the gap and capture the enemy.

Added to the above statistics is the number of tanks lost to enemy action during eleven months of tumultuous fighting. A normal compliment of tanks in a Canadian armoured regiment is 60. Counting tanks issued to the First Hussars from 6 June to

8 May in Germany, the regiment lost 350 tanks, a 580% turnover. The causes for this high loss figure are many, but every tanker who survived the war would give grudging credit to the lethal German 88mm gun which could penetrate Sherman tank armour with deadly force and all too often left evidence of burning wrecks on charred battle grounds.



Consider for evidence the report recorded from a captured German officer at that time: "I had barely reached the Canadian hedgehog position...when our 88mm guns started to fire on the Canadian tanks and infantry. Tigers and Panthers advanced in order to encircle the positions on the hill. One Canadian tank after another was knocked out and ended in smoke and flames..."

American made Sherman tanks offered good service, but their low velocity 75mm guns were no match for the up-gunned German tanks and their ubiquitous 88mm guns. The Sherman advantage was in numbers: 50,000 were manufactured and did service in all parts of the world, but they had one big disadvantage. Most people smoked in those days, creating a profitable market in cigarette lighters.



One popular brand was the Ronson. Its slogan was: "They light every time." And so did the Shermans, a bad feature which earned them the seriocomic name of "Ronson."

An 88mm round could go through Sherman armour like corn through a goose. A Sherman crew was either four or five. The deceptive small impact hole seen on the outside fragmented on the inside to kill, wound and finally, but quickly, set off fuel and ammunition explosions. Only a fortunate crew member got out, only to contend with a spray of machine gun fire as a reward.



The determination of Canadian armoured regiments who were suffering heavy tank losses, gained no sympathy from Generals Simonds and Crerar. The critical mood at headquarters felt the armoured advance failed to adequately support their infantry and carry the battle to the enemy, thus stalling the entire operation.

On 11-12 August, three battalions of The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Rileys) were to advance through chest-high wheat fields near the river Laize, each supported by a squadron of Sherbrook tanks. Their at first peaceful combined advance, was suddenly raked by MG 42s, followed up with mortar rounds, sending the Rileys flying every which way. Four Tiger tanks equipped with the lethal 88mm gun suddenly emerged from

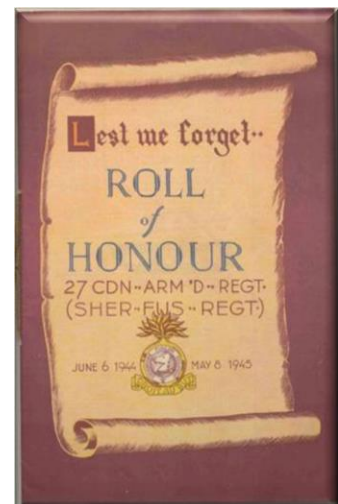


cover to fire on the vulnerable exposed Shermans. In short order, five Sherbrooke Shermans were soon burning. Whether it was in this particular action that Trooper William John Smith found himself is impossible to say, but the date, place and circumstances verified below, strongly suggest his encounter wouldn't have differed by much.

In 1996, Michael F. Smith, a cousin of William's son Gary Smith, visited the French fighting ground upon which William was killed and wrote a paper describing the countryside he saw along with an historical account of the operations taking place in August 1944: Operation Totalize and Tractable. He also was fortunate to interview William's younger brother Henry, aka Duke, who fought in this area himself and knew some details surrounding how his brother was killed. Michael recorded that Henry believed despite William's tank being hit by an 88mm round, he managed to escape the ensuing inferno only to be machine gunned on the ground.

The date was 12 August 1944.

Interment at Bretteville-sur-Mer Cemetery, France



The tragedy of a serving Canadian man or woman, killed while engaged in combat during WWII, reverberated all the way back home to loved ones who would never see the individual again. There were no funeral home visits, no eulogy or grave side prayers all of which help friends and family finalise the deceased's passing. For the survivors, life went on.



For bereaved wife Kathleen, the future meant assuming the sole responsibility in raising young son Gary. Since May 1943, with William off to war, she had steadfastly dealt as a single mother with war time shortages and the vagaries of life in general. She met the challenge with determined reticence and fortitude. Kay was not the type of woman to give up or feel sorry for herself. She simply moved on to start again.

Kay's parents lived at 728 York Street in London. She didn't need more misfortune in her life when in November 1944, her parents died in their beds, asphyxiated by furnace gases. Good accommodation in war time was often hard to secure; given the shortage, Kay and Gary could have just as easily been living there too.

Despite the stigma associated with the house, mother and son moved in. Ever resourceful to make a living, Kay opened the house to take in boarders. Gary for a time attended Lorne Avenue Public School, then graduated to attend Clarke Road High School.

After graduation, Gary was employed by M.M. Dillon Limited, Consulting Engineers, and all in good time, he married the charming Lynda Prowse on September 5, 1964. They have one daughter, Kelly Lorraine, born March 3, 1974.

Kathleen moved on from York Street to 695 Cheapside Street, seeking new work with pharmacists Cairncross & Lawrence and later a position with Canada Trust.

Kathleen (Kay) Francis Smith, nee Avey b. April 17, 1914, in London, Ontario,
d. November 15, 2000 *same*. Buried Woodland Cemetery.

The London Daily Free Press

EVENING EDITION—MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1944

News of London City,
Sports, Financial
and Classified

LONDON COUPLE ASPHYXIATED BY COAL GAS

**Start Mosquito
Contract In Feb.**

In answer to a query from city council regarding the future wartime use of Central Aircraft, Ltd., Capt. Allan Johnston, M.P. for London, said that the firm would be in a position to start a mosquito contract in February next.

**Oxford Is Proposed
As Through Street**

**Propose Change
In Bus Service**

"Queer" buses of the London Street Railway Company will continue to run on the same route as at present, but the company is proposing to change the service to Oxford Street.

**Bodies Are Found
In York St. Home**

George F. (Frank) Avey, proprietor of Plumbing Firm, and Wife, Are Victims; Fumes Arise From Broken Pipe at Back of Furnace; Tragedy Discovered by Daughter

George Franklin (Frank) Avey, 64-year-old proprietor of George F. Avey & Son, plumbers, and his wife, Elizabeth, 72, were asphyxiated by coal gas yesterday morning in their home at 728 York street. Their bodies were found lying on the kitchen floor by a daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Smith, 783 Princess avenue, whose own husband, Tpr. William J. Smith, was killed in action in France on August 12.

Dr. A. R. Reutledge, coroner, said the deaths were accidental and there would be no inquest.

Fumes from a broken pipe at the back of the furnace spread through the house and asphyxiated the couple. The body of a pet cat, also a victim of the fumes, was found in the basement.

Found by Daughter

Mrs. Smith found her parents' bodies at 10.30 o'clock. She first went to the front door of the house and when there was no response to her knocks, she walked to the



George Avey Mrs. G. Avey

back door and entered the home. A son, Montgomery (Monty) Avey, had left the home at 9 o'clock in the morning to drive to Strathroy, and at that time both his parents were alive and there was no trace of coal gas fumes in the house.

The daughter called physicians who worked for some time in an effort to revive the couple.

Well-Known Plumber

Mr. Avey was one of the best-known plumbers in London. For 25 years he was an employee of the former firm of Noble and Rich, plumbers, and for the past 22 years had operated his own business. Active in Masonic circles, he was a member of Acacia Lodge, A.F. & A.M., and also a member of London Chapter, Order of Chosen Friends. Born in London, he had lived in the city all of his life.

He is survived by one son, Monty, London; three daughters, Mrs. Edna Adams, Mrs. Kathleen Smith and Mrs. Sydney Smith, London; two brothers, Robert and Thomas, London; three sisters, Mrs. Albert Burgess and Mrs. Ed Lence, Hamilton; Mrs. Bruce Taylor, London.

Native Londoner

Mrs. Avey was born in London, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Moorhouse, and had lived in the city all of her life. In addition to the immediate members of the family she is survived by a brother, William Moorhouse, of Sarnia.

A double funeral service will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the A. L. Oatman funeral home, Rev. Gladstone Wood, pastor of King Street United Church, will officiate. Burial will be in Woodland Cemetery.

AVEY — Suddenly, at her late residence, 728 York St., on Sunday, November 26th, 1944, Elizabeth, beloved wife of the late George Franklin Avey. Resting at the Oatman funeral home, King and Colborne Sts., where funeral services will be held in the chapel on Tuesday, November 28th, at 2 p.m. Interment in Woodland Cemetery.

AVEY — Suddenly at his late residence, 728 York St., on Sunday, November 26th, 1944, George Franklin, beloved husband of the late Elizabeth Avey. Resting at the Oatman funeral home, King and Colborne Sts., where funeral services will be held in the chapel on Tuesday, November 28th, at 2 p.m. Interment in Woodland Cemetery.

Dates Ration Coupons Valid

Here are the dates on which ration coupons are valid:

Butter coupons 62 to 67 now valid; 68 to 69 expire November 30.

Sugar coupons 14 to 47; canning coupons 57 to 61 now valid. Canning sugar coupons expire December 31.

Preserves 11 to 32 now valid; 33 and 34 valid November 30.

One preserves coupon is good for 12 fluid ounces jam, jelly, marmalade, maple butter, honey butter, or fountain fruits; or 3 pounds maple sugar; or 20 fluid ounces canned fruit; or 24 fluid ounces (12 lb. net) extracted honey; or 3 pounds (net) of cut comb honey; or 15 fluid ounces corn syrup, cane syrup or blooded table syrup; or 24 fluid ounces of maple syrup or 40 ounces of molasses; 12 fluid ounces of cranberries.

MRS. HELEN TANNER DIES IN HOSPITAL

Mrs. Helen Tanner, widow of Homer Tanner of London and Toronto, died today in St. Joseph's Hospital after an illness of several months. Mrs. Tanner was an active member of First-St. Andrew's United Church, and active in Red Cross work.

A daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hamilton, Mrs. Tanner is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Josephine Robinson, a sister, Mrs. Fred Granger, and a brother, Lorne Hamilton, all of London.

The body will rest at the home of Fred Granger, 181 St. James street, until Tuesday. The funeral will be held from the George E. Logan and Sons funeral chapel on Wednesday at 2 o'clock, with interment in Woodland Cemetery.

HOLD SALVAGE DAY RAIN OR SHINE

Rain mustn't stop the putting out of salvage, and ward four citizens are reminded that tomorrow is salvage day, rain or shine.

"We'd rather have the paper wet than not at all," officials agreed when some residents reticent about putting bundles of paper out for collection when it was raining.

Ward four did well last month, donating 18 tons of paper, but they did better the month before when they gathered 20 tons, 80 per cent of their 26-ton objective. If every one of the 6,500 households in that ward does its part, the collection

FINGERPRINTED NOMINAL ROLL
1850 (b)

M.F.M. 2
A.F.B. 213
750M-5-42 (4308)
H.Q. 1772-39-1645

JUN 11 1943

(To be completed in triplicate. Copy designation to be shown by striking out terms not applicable.)

Unit **NO. 1 DISTRICT DEPOT (AF) GEN. LIST** Regimental Number **A 106964**

ACTIVE FORMATIONS AND UNITS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

ATTESTATION PAPER

1. Surname **S M I T H**

2. Christian Names **WILLIAM JOHN**

3. Present address **782 Princess Ave., London, Ontario, Canada**

4. Date of birth **9th March, 1915**

5. Place of birth **Canada** **Ontario** **London**
(Country) (County or Province) (Town or Township)

6. Citizenship **Canada**
(Or What Country are You Now a Citizen)

7. Religion (state denomination) **United Church of Canada**

8. Trade or Calling **Salesman**

9. Married, Widower or Single **Married**

10. Name of next of kin **Mrs. Kathleen Frances SMITH**

11. Relationship **Wife**

12. Address of next of kin **782 Princess Ave., London, Ontario, Canada**

13. Do you belong to, or have you served in a Reserve Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army? **YES**

A-400440 6th A.R. (I.H.) (RF) March 1943... Present Date
(If Yes, Give Unit and Dates of Service)

14. Have you served in (a) an Active Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army? **NO**
(If Yes, Give Regimental No. and Unit) (b) Any other Naval, Military, or Air Force? **NO**
(If Yes, specify Unit and Period of Service)

15. Did you serve during the Great War 1914-1918? **NO**
(If Yes, specify Regimental No., Unit and Dates of Service)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION

I, **William John S M I T H**, do solemnly declare that the above particulars are true, and I hereby engage to serve in any Active Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army so long as an emergency, i.e., war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended, exists, and for the period of demobilization after said emergency ceases to exist, and in any event for a period of not less than one year, provided His Majesty should so require my services.

Date **27 May 43** *W. J. Smith*
(Signature of recruit)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION

I, **William John S M I T H**, do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty.

Witness *James D...* *W. J. Smith*
(Name) (Rank) (Signature of Recruit)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OR ATTESTING OFFICER

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answers to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided by law.

The above questions and answers were then read to the recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me,

at **London, Ont., Can.** this **27th** day of **May** 19 **43**

James D... *W. J. Smith*
(Signature of Magistrate, Justice or Attesting Officer) (Signature of Recruit)

for O.C. No. 1 District Depot (AF)
Officer or Rank and Unit or appointment.

N.B.—ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT ANY PERSON MAKING A FALSE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS IS LIABLE TO A PENALTY OF SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT

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ATTESTATION PAPER.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

No. _____
Folio. *11*

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? *Frederick Smith*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Bishopsthorpe, Danfordshire, Eng*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Eulwia Smith wife*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *305, Lakeside St. London, Oct*
5. What is the date of your birth? *1 Feb 1880*
6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Labourer*
7. Are you married? *Yes*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *Yes*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *Yes*
If so, state particulars of former service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

(Signature of Man). *Frederick Smith*
(Signature of Witness). *John J. Bapt*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Frederick Smith*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

(Signature of Recruit) *Frederick Smith*
(Signature of Witness) *John J. Bapt*

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Frederick Smith*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as my duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Majesty, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

(Signature of Recruit) *Frederick Smith*
(Signature of Witness) *John J. Bapt*

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *London* this *23* day of *Oct* 1914.

(Signature of Justice of the Peace) *John J. Bapt*
(Approving Officer) *John J. Bapt*

2

20 M. 541.
H. O. 1779-1-12.

Original 18th Bn 2nd Cont. 1st Div. C

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. *1170*
Folio. *52170*

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your name? *James Smith*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Shoreham Kent Eng.*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Mr T. Smith 12th*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *(Mother and) 300 Chesapeake St. London*
5. What is the date of your birth? *June 18th 1894*
6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Laborer*
7. Are you married? *No*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *No*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *No*
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

James Smith (Signature of Man).
E. S. Fleming (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *James Smith*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

James Smith (Signature of Recruit)
E. S. Fleming (Signature of Witness)

Date *Jan 25th* 1915

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *James Smith*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

James Smith (Signature of Recruit)
E. S. Fleming (Signature of Witness)

Date *Jan 25th* 1915

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been fully entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *London* this *25th* day of *January* 1915.

E. S. Thyle (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

E. S. Thyle (Approving Officer)

M. F. W. 23.
10-11-14.
H.O. 117-2-11.

Trooper SMITH, William John,

A 106964,

KIA, 12 August 1944.

Operation "TRACTABLE"- to close the Falaise gap.

Bretteville-sur-Mer Cemetery, France

Plot 7 Row A Grave 2 - Age 29

Trooper Smith was transferred to the Sherbrooke Fusiliers at time of death. His arrival in France 28 July 1944 coincided with the worst battles the Canadian army experienced in WWII. His Sherman tank was hit with an 88mm round and upon exiting his gunner's seat, he was hit by machine gun fire.

