

WILLIAM SMALES – Private 27701, 10th Lancashire Fusiliers, 2nd Sep 1918, Age 29

William Smales was born in Woodlesford (near Halton) in Leeds in 1889, the son of Ada and Charles William Smales (a coal miner)^{[1] [2]}. By 1911, aged 23, he was still living with his parents and 18 year old sister, Hannah, at 4 Britton Terrace, Halton, Leeds and working as a Print Compositor.

In July 1915, aged 25 he married Agnes Rose May Smith (26, daughter of a Thomas Smith), by which time his father has passed away. Agnes was born in Richmond and was living in Brompton on Swale according to the 1901 Census (at Railway Cottages).

| 1915. Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Patrick Church</u> in the Parish of <u>Whitthorpe</u> in the County of <u>York</u> | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| No. | When Married. | Name and Surname. | Age. | Condition. | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname. | Rank or Profession of Father. |
| 403 | July 21 st 1915 | William Smales | 25 | Bachelor | Private | Britton Terrace Halton | Charles William Smales (Deceased) | |
| | | Agnes Rose May Smith | 26 | Spinster | | City Hospital Street | Thomas Smith | Thomas Plate Layer |

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by License on the 21st of July 1915 by us,

This Marriage was solemnized between us. (William Smales) in the presence of us. (Edmund Wilfrid Mason) Ernest W. Wilson
(Agnes Rose May Smith) (Ada Hannah Harper) Vicar

William Smales - 1915 Marriage Certificate

William probably left for training soon after his marriage and his medal card shows that he first entered the theatre of war on 3rd December 1915, serving as Private 27701 in the Lancashire Fusiliers.

| Name. | Corps. | Rank. | Regtl. No. |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|
| SMALES | Lanc Fus | Priv. | 27701 |
| William | | | |
| Medal. | Roll. | Page. | Remarks. |
| VICTORY | H/1/101 B/42 | 8652 | K. in A. 29. 18. |
| BRITISH | | | |
| 15 STAR | H/1/101 B/3 | 233 | |
| Theatre of War first served in | (4 ^a) | | |
| Date of entry therein | 3. 12. 15 | | |

K. 1980

William Smales - Medal Index Card

The 10th (Service) Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers was attached to 52nd Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division and took part in a number of key battles [4] including Passchendaele which William seems to have survived.

However, he seems to have been killed during one of the final offensives of the war when the 17th Division took part in the Second Battle of Bapaume and the capture of Mont St Quentin and Péronne between 31 August - 3 September 1918.

William was killed in action and has no known grave. He is commemorated on Panel 5 & 6 of the VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL. The CWGC records state that he was the son of Ada Smales, of 4, Britton Terrace, Halton, Leeds, and the late Charles Smales and the husband of Agnes Rose May Smales, of 4, Rose Cottages, Romanby, Northallerton, Yorkshire.



Vis-en-Artois Memorial

Sources:

- (1) 1881 Census (RG12; Piece: 3667; Folio 48; Page 6)
- (2) 1901 Census (RG13; Piece: 4198; Folio: 9; Page: 10)
- (3) 1911 Census (RG14PN27163 RG78PN1552 RD501 SD2 ED1 SN76)
- (4) 10th Battalion movements
<http://www.lancs-fusiliers.co.uk/tourspostings/10LFToursPostings.htm>
- (5) Commonwealth War Graves Commission
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1748784>
<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/79200>