

PRIVATE ALBERT SMITH

3083014, 14th Quebec Regiment, Canadian Infantry

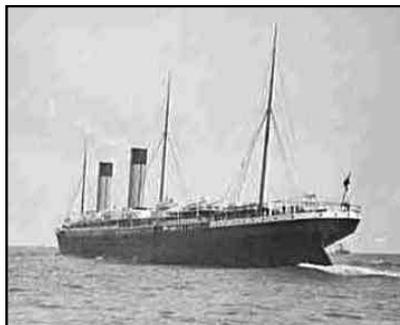
Died aged 38 on 21 December 1918

Buried with honour at *Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France*; X11 D25

Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross and in the Abbey



*Terlincthun British Cemetery,
Wimille, France*



SS Oceanic, 1899-1914
[Wikipedia]



*Canadian
Infantry*

ALBERT SMITH was born in Tewkesbury on 7 April 1880, the son of William Henry Smith and Ellen Mary (formerly Collins), who were both born in Tewkesbury. William was a General Dealer who died aged 40 in 1898; Ellen was a Machinist at the Collar Factory in Bank Alley. The family lived at various times in Orchard Court, Bank Alley, Double Alley and Chance Street, and in 1911 Ellen lived in Station Street with two unmarried daughters. In 1901 Albert was a Bricklayer's Labourer with Collins & Godfrey, then a major employer in Tewkesbury, and played for the firm's football team.

In 1906 Albert emigrated to Canada at the same time as married machinist William Baker, sailing on the *SS Oceanic* (before 1910 the largest ship afloat) from Liverpool on 11 April and arriving in New York on 19 April. He was a single man whose declared occupation was that of 'Mason'. He had paid \$40 for his own ticket and was en route to Toronto to stay with F. Rice at 8 Maitland Place. He confirmed that he had never been in prison, was neither a polygamist nor an anarchist, and that he was in good health.

Albert Smith volunteered in March 1917 at the age of 37, joining the 14th Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The battalion was originally formed on 27 August

1914 and served overseas with the 3rd Infantry Brigade of the 1st Canadian Division from 15 February 1915, when it arrived in France, until the Armistice in November 1918.

On his attestation papers Albert declared that he was then living in the USA at Exchange Street, New Haven, Connecticut. He was working as a Painter, was still single, and had never served in any armed force. He was 5'6½" tall, with a '*girth when fully expanded of 38"*', of medium complexion with blue eyes and brown hair, and was Presbyterian by religion.

The 14th Infantry Battalion fought in most of the major engagements on the Western Front from the time of its arrival to the end of the war.

Private Albert Smith survived the battles in which his battalion was involved but died soon after the Armistice on 21 December 1918, of pneumonia during the influenza pandemic. He is buried in *Terlincthun British Cemetery*, Wimille, near Boulogne, which was attached to a hospital centre and rest camp.

Albert's brother, **Frederick Smith**, volunteered in the Gloucestershire Regiment and rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major.

In 1917 Albert's widowed mother was living at Malthouse Cottage, Station Street, and in 1924 it was reported that she was to visit his grave.