

Wyndham Alexander Smith

Second Lieutenant, Gloucestershire Yeomanry (Royal Gloucester Hussars). Killed in action at Katia on the Sinai Peninsula on Easter Day, 23rd April, 1916. Commemorated on JERUSALEM MEMORIAL, Israel. Panel 3.



Lieut. Wyndham Smith
(Killed). (Photo, Diffe.)

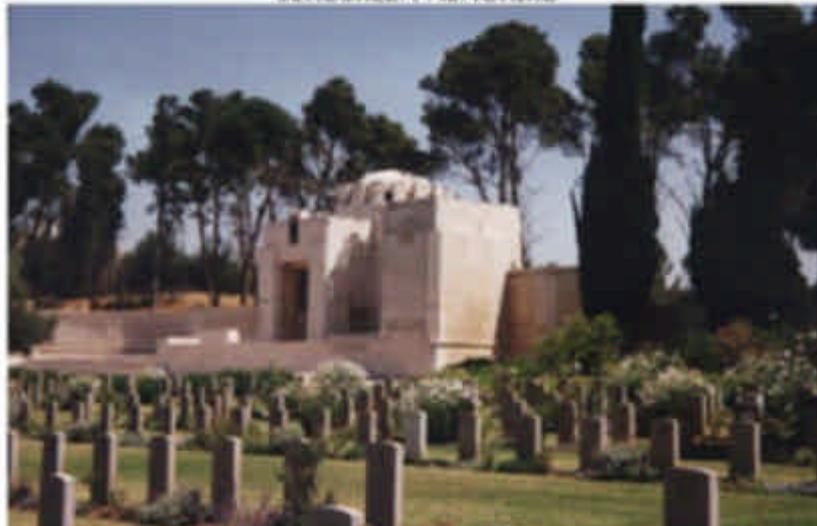
CWGC

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant WYNDHAM ALEXANDER SMITH

Royal Gloucestershire Hussars
who died
on 23 April 1916

Remembered with honour
JERUSALEM MEMORIAL



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Wyndham Smith: 060516 Reported missing and a letter from him about conditions with Yeomanry.
130516 Reported POW.
200516 Reported killed.
010716 Solicitor's advertisement for claims on the estate.
Solicitor is Baker his previous partner.
091216 & 161216 Dedication of memorial to W.S.

Wyndham Alexander Smith was born in Warrington in 1887 and was the son of a solicitor, Wyndham Smith and his wife Blanche. He was educated at Mostyn House School in Cheshire and then at Winchester College. He was then articled to Sidney Baker, a solicitor in Tewkesbury. When he qualified they went into partnership as Baker & Smith of Tewkesbury and Upton, although the Upton office in Old Street only opened on alternate Thursdays. On 26th November, 1912 Wyndham Smith married Sarah Maude Darlington at Guarlford Parish Church: she was the twenty-eight year old daughter of William and Sarah Darlington of Clevelode Farm. Mr and Mrs Wyndham Smith lived in "Lawnside" in New Street. As well as practising as a solicitor Wyndham Smith was the first Secretary of the Upton Farmers' Union who made a presentation to him when he joined the Gloucestershire Yeomanry soon after the outbreak of war. In January 1916, after the end of the Dardanelles expedition, the British troops were sent to Egypt to refit, reorganize and undertake the defence of Egypt against the Turks and their German and Austrian allies. It was decided that defensive positions would be taken up beyond Katia on the North Sinai road some 30 miles east of the Suez Canal. Second Lieutenant Wyndham Smith wrote to the *Upton News* on 5th April 1916 describing the conditions in which the yeomanry brigade from Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire found themselves: his letter was published on 6th May alongside the report that he was missing. On Easter Sunday, 23rd April, there was strong attack by Turkish and German forces in the area around Katia: the yeomanry sustained considerable losses including the death of Lt Wyndham Smith and the capture of Lt Col Charles Coventry, the commander of the Worcestershire Yeomanry and second son of the Earl of Coventry of Croome Court. In September 1916 in a letter to *The Times* The Earl of Coventry complained that in the recently published official report of the "affair at Katia, in April last, there does not appear one word of praise of the gallant fight which was made against overwhelming odds by those who are now prisoners, or of those whose lives were sacrificed through no fault of their own." "Surely," he continued, "they deserve a more generous acknowledgement of their devoted services in obeying the orders they received, and in doing their duty in a tight place." In this engagement Staff Sergeant J. Vernon Pratt, the son of Joseph Pratt (see above), was severely injured: he later died of his wounds. Wyndham Smith's father erected the Memorial in Upton Parish Church.