

George William Smith (The Sherwood Foresters)

1890—1914: age at death 24



George was born in 1890 to George and Elizabeth Smith of Averham. He was the first born, and had two sisters, one of whom died in her early years. He joined St Michael's Choir in 1899 and was confirmed in Southwell Minster in 1906.

George joined The Sherwood Foresters as a private when he was 18 and was, therefore, at the outbreak of war, a member of the Regular Army not a volunteer.



He was first quartered in Ireland after which he served in Bombay, India. In 1911 he was a patient at the military hospital in Devonport, Plymouth. After making a full recovery he returned to his unit (the First Battalion) in India. When war was declared, the battalion set sail for England and landed in Plymouth on 2nd October. He was welcomed home in Averham for a short period of leave. On 5th November the unit was sent to France as a much-needed re-enforcement to The British Expeditionary Force. After barely a week on the front-line George was killed on November 22nd 1914 while serving at a machine gun position.

A very well attended memorial service was held at St. Michael's on Monday 21st December 1914. He is remembered with Honour on the Le Touret Memorial in France.