

**Sapper James Smith** 318017 Royal Engineers died on 18/01/1918 aged 29 and is buried in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery.

He was the son of Robert and Henrietta Smith, of Retford; husband of Alice Whittaker (formerly Smith), of 33, Jubilee Terrace, Ordsall, Retford.

I have failed to locate any report of his death in the Retford Times. Some War Office Service Records survived the enemy bombing of the second war and although partially charred provide some information. Unfortunately those of James Smith have not been located.

The only information about the family comes from the census returns

At the 1911 census of 31 Queens Street, Retford there were present

Robert Smith Head aged 45 Occupation Railway Engine Driver

Henrietta Smith Wife aged 43

James Smith Son Aged 23 Occupation Railway Engine Fireman

Dorothy Smith Daughter Aged 15 Occupation Nurse Maid

Annie Smith Daughter Aged 14 Occupation Mothers Help at Home

Robert Smith Aged 11 Occupation School all born in Retford, Notts.

10 years earlier in 1901 the family was also at 31 Queens Street but then only Robert Smith was in paid employment as an engine driver. A third son Richard born in early 1901 was also present. It appears he died in infancy.