

Obituary.

It was with very deep regret that we received the news of the death of Company Sergeant-Major J. G. Smith, D.C.M., M.M., who died at the Citadel Military Hospital, Cairo, on Sunday, October 25th, 1936.

He was known to all ranks as "Sixty," and his death was a great blow to us all. He was a prominent and popular member of the Sergeants' Mess, where his cheerful disposition endeared him to everyone.

He had a very fine War Record, as "The History of the 2nd Battalion H.L.I. during the Great War" relates.



C.S.M. J. G. SMITH, D.C.M., M.M.

He was admitted to hospital after the Embarkation order had been received and was not allowed to travel with us. When we visited him on our last evening in Cairo, he was cheerful as ever, although disappointed at being left behind. Little did we realise that we were saying good-bye to him for the last time.

He was buried by our sister Regiment, the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, with full military honours, in the British cemetery in Old Cairo, and we are indebted to the Seaforth Highlanders for sending us the photographs of the funeral.

Company Sergeant-Major Smith is sadly missed by us all, and we shall always remember him.

We offer our very deep sympathy to his widow, Mrs. Smith, and his three children—two girls and a boy—the latter of whom is serving in the 1st Battalion as a Boy Piper.

A Short Record of Service of the Late

C.S.M. J. G. Smith, D.C.M., M.M.

Enlisted in the 2nd Battalion The Highland Light Infantry on 5th June, 1912, and served with that Battalion until September, 1919. Went to France at the beginning of the Great War on 13th August, 1914, went through every action, and marched to the Rhine. He was one of the few, if not the only old contemptible who escaped a wound.

He was awarded the D.C.M. for his valuable work during the Richbourg offensive in May, 1915, and shortly afterwards was appointed Sergeant. During various later actions he gained the Military Medal and Bar and was also mentioned in despatches.

In September, 1919, he went out to try his luck in civil life (and transferred to the Army Reserve) where he obtained a good position with Singers. He was recalled to the Colours in May, 1921, during the coal strike; and the call of service proving too strong for him, he remained in the Regiment, first as an instructor at the Depot, and later joining the 1st Battalion early in 1923.

During 1925, he went out to Trinidad as instructor to the Local Forces, where he remained till 1929. He then rejoined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot, just prior to their proceeding to Malta, and was promoted Company Sergeant-Major.

He remained with the Battalion till the day of his death.

As one who knew him well, and who served with him during the greater part of his service, I can say with truth that I never met a braver man. I believe that, when he was admitted to hospital in Cairo, it was the first time in his service that he reported sick.

In addition to the D.C.M. and M.M. and Bar, which have already been mentioned, he was in possession of the following medals:—1914 Star, British War Medal,

Victory Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Stations at which he served are as follows :—

June, 1912, to September, 1913—Mullingar, Ireland. 2nd Battalion.

September, 1913, to August, 1914—Aldershot. 2nd Battalion.

August, 1914, to September, 1919—Western Front of the Great War. 2nd Battalion.

May, 1921, to May, 1923—Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow. Depot.

May, 1923, to April, 1925—Edinburgh, Ballykinlar and Holywood. 1st Battalion.

April, 1925, to April, 1929—Local Forces, Trinidad.

April, 1929, to October, 1936—Aldershot, Malta, Dover, Fort George and Egypt. 1st Battalion.

S. Mc.G.

**The following Tribute comes from
the 2nd Battalion.**

With the deepest regret we learn of the sudden passing of our old friend C.S.M. J. G. Smith, D.C.M., M.M. "Sixty" as he was more commonly known was more than a Company Sergeant-Major; he was an institution. One of the few remaining links with the old type of soldier immortalized

by Kipling, his loss will be keenly felt in Regular and Territorial Battalions alike. His military record speaks for itself and we can but add to its lustre by our many pleasant recollections of a soldier to whom duty superseded all other considerations. Gifted with an infallible sense of humour, his unswerving loyalty and devotion to duty were outstanding characteristics in a personality that was at once inspiring and lovable.

Those of us who had the good fortune to serve with him recall with the deepest admiration his unselfish interest in the welfare of his Company and his ever-ready assistance to the "Jock" in trouble. Officers and men alike will long remember his tireless energy and stimulating will on the line of march. His characteristic shout, "No panic, 'C,'" was familiar to all. There is a pathetic significance in his passing. He leaves with the age that knew him. The days of mechanised infantry and luxury transport were not for him, and perhaps he would have had it thus. He died as he lived—at the call of duty.

To his bereaved family and relations we offer our heartfelt regrets and deepest sympathy.

" 'Tis hard to part when friends are dear—

Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear ;

Then steal away, give little warning,

Choose thine own time ;

Say not good night—but in some brighter clime

Bid me good-morning."

