

LIEUTENANT THOMAS FRANK SMITH

Service Number: 210423

Enlisted: 51st Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery

Born: 21st September 1905

Died: 12th May 1943, Aged 37

Memorials: Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia

Plot 4, Row C, Grave 5

St Catherine's Church Memorial

Burbage War Memorial

Hinckley Grammar School Memorial



Thomas Frank Smith was born on 21st September 1905, the eldest son of Police Officer Frederie George and May Smith of the Police Station, Hinckley.

By the 1939 Census, Thomas was living at 72 Sketchley Road, Burbage with his wife Daisy May and his son. Thomas was employed as the Manager of a Wine & Spirits Merchant and also served as an Air Raid Warden for Hinckley Urban District Council.

Thomas was a Lieutenant with the 51st Medium Regiment of the Royal Artillery. In the autumn of 1942, 51st Medium Regiment embarked at Liverpool and arrived in Egypt in October to join Middle East Forces (MEF) whose role was to defend British interests in the Middle East. In January 1943, it re-equipped with the 4.5-inch gun and moved up to join the Eighth Army. As part of 5th Army Group Royal Artillery (AGRA) it took part in the battles of the Mareth Line, Wadi Akarit and Enfidaville in March and April 1943.



4.5-inch gun

Enfidaville was the site of the last battle in the North African Campaign of World War II, and was the site of an Allied Airfield. In April 1943 during Operation Strike, the American Corps II cornered the Axis powers force against the Tunisian Coast.

The Eighth Army attacked Enfidaville on 19th April captured the village, but met strong resistance. Attacks further north saw the fall of Tunis on 7th May to the British 1st Army and Bizerta on the 8th May to the Americans.

Resuming the assault on Enfidaville on 11-13 May, the city saw the defeat of Axis forces of Italian General Messe, but with significant casualties. 1,551 Allied casualties are buried in the Enfadaville War Cemetery. Thomas was killed on the 12th May 1943 during this battle and is buried along with his comrades in Enfadaville War Cemetery.





Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia



Hinckley Grammar School Memorial

**LIEUT. TOM F. SMITH
KILLED IN TUNISIA**

Lieut. T. F. Smith

Lieut. Tom F. Smith, eldest son of the late Supt. F. G. Smith, police chief of the Bosworth Division, and Mrs. Smith, was killed while serving with the R.A. in the last of the fighting in Tunisia. A letter from the deceased's Colonel conveyed the sad news to the widow, who resides in Sketchley Road, Burbage.

Lieut. Smith had been in the Royal Artillery for three years. He leaves a widow and a little boy.

Before joining up he was in the employ of Messrs. J. C. Bonsir and Co., Castle Street.