

# Remembrance Sunday

The Centenary of Armistice Day ~ The Great War 1918~2018

## The Great War: One Man's Story

By Michael Smith  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

My uncle, Harry Smith, was born in September 1895 near Brentwood in Essex. Upon leaving school he entered Barclay's Bank as a clerk, but within a short time was enlisted into the Army and sent off to the battlefields of World War I.

Very soon, he found himself in the front-line trenches, and, 'going over the top', was badly machine-gunned and left for dead.

But some hours later someone noticed one of his fingers twitching...

It took Uncle Harry two years of constant treatment to recover enough to start normal life again and he never fully regained the strength he had had as a young man before the war, but in time he was able to continue his banking career. Even after many years the pit-marks down his body where the bullets had entered could still clearly be seen.

He had had a very close shave with death on the battlefield. Like so many other young men in WWI he had come face to face with eternity and it was a miracle that he survived.

He saw every new day from then on as a bonus and a blessing, but most wonderful of all, through his terrible experience - and even despite in his latter years reliving much of the horror he had suffered on the battlefield - he found a deep Christian faith which continued until the Lord finally called him home in 1985 at the age of 90.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39)

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Note from Elizabeth McDonald: Harry Smith was my Great-Uncle  
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