

Samuel Grant Mellis-Smith

1886 – 1917

*2nd Lieutenant, 1st King George's Own Gurkha
Rifles, Indian Army*

Samuel Grant Mellis-Smith, 2nd Lieutenant 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army, second son of the Reverend George Smith, a missionary of Swatow, China, and his wife Mary Campbell Mellis, daughter of the Reverend David B Mellis.



He was born in Swatow, China, on 5th December, 1886. Educated at Fettes College, and the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.A. in 1909. Worked in Madras where he acted as Assistant Tutor and Guardian under the Court of Wards. Appointed Professor of Economics at Canning College, Lucknow, in 1912.

He volunteered his services on the outbreak of war, and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant, Indian Army Reserve of Officers. He joined the 4th Gurkha Rifles 4th December 1914, and served in India for a time, then served with the Mediterranean Expeditionary force at Gallipoli from the end of August 1915 until the evacuation. After a short rest in India he proceeded to Mesopotamia.

He was killed in action at Dhara Bend, near Kut, 11th February 1917, aged 30. His Commanding Officer wrote "I would like you to know what a very high opinion we seniors had of him. He was a splendid fellow, always keen and always setting a good example to the men, who were extremely fond of him."

He is Remembered with Honour at Amara War Cemetery, Southern Iraq, Fettes College, University of Edinburgh, and Colinton War Memorial.