

DEATH OF MR. R. W.  
SMITH.

A Brilliant Maidenhead  
Scholar.

The profoundly sad news reached Mrs. Smith, of 2, Ivy Terrace, Moneytow Green, Holyport, near Maidenhead, on Sunday last that her youngest son, Mr. Reginald W. Smith, had died that day from malaric fever, at Wad-Medani, Blue Nile Province, Soudan. Mr. Smith, who was only 27, had qualified by scholarship to go abroad to develop what might have been a brilliant career. His untimely demise has saddened the whole village, where he had been known and held in affectionate regard from childhood, and the deepest sympathy of many friends in Maidenhead and district is extended to the bereaved mother and family. Of fine stature and amiable disposition the late Mr. Smith won many firm friends. He began his education at the Holyport Elementary School. After winning a scholarship, he went to the Maidenhead County Boys' School until he was nineteen, when, by scholarship success, he was able to pass on to Cambridge University. In 1927 he obtained a college appointment at Khartoum, and subsequently he joined the Political Department. He came home every year, and when he did so last year he played for Berks County Cricket Club. He attained notable successes as a cricketer and soccer player. The body was interred at Wad-Medani on Monday. A brother of the late Mr. Smith is P.C. Smith, stationed at Finchampstead.

The appended tribute from Mr. A. E. Brooks, head master of the Maidenhead County Boys' School, throws light on Mr. Smith's extraordinary capabilities: "Mr. R. W. Smith was a chorister in Bray Church choir and a county scholar at the County Boys' School, where he soon showed wonderful powers at physical training, athletics and mathematics. He was best known perhaps as a fine cricketer. As captain of St. John's College, Cambridge, he made an average of 238 runs his last term, and was one of the greatest performers under the 'Juban rule' playing in Maidenhead Cricket Cup from the start till last season. At Association football he was awarded his Blue at Cambridge, and was a well-known 'Corinthian.' While at school he gained a higher certificate in advanced mathematics, and was awarded a national agricultural scholarship of £300 a year to Cambridge. On leaving Cambridge he gained a £550 a year appointment at the Gordon College, Khartoum. His general efficiency and quickness at Arabic won him in 18 months the coveted transfer to the Political Department, and it is at his first district appointment that disease has overtaken him. His life was short, but his school, county and country have been honoured by his character and brilliance."