ERNEST SMITH

Convicted 1921 – 2 years hard labour

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ernie-and-geof-love-between-men/?fbclid=IwAR1-PykFlAllRtw5ltnJfJE2H4TLH9VOrL9Zbr5-fM3fAWp92e5yTpCA6wE>

TNA

**From:** Tom Hulme <T.Hulme@qub.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 November 2019 12:52  
**To:** Jeffrey Dudgeon <jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: TNA

Hi Jeff,

Alas not my work but that is indeed the Smyth I’m interested in – thanks for sending! I saw a reference to him in H.G. Cocks book, *Classified* – which has a section on the Link magazine. I’ve yet to get to the National Archives, so delighted to see that there will be 100s of letters waiting for me when I do! Incidentally, I’ve found examples of gay men using the Belfast Telegraph to meet each other (1920s to 1950s) – I guess other avenues were needed once the Link was shut down.

Tom

**From:** Jeffrey Dudgeon <jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com>   
**Sent:** 21 November 2019 12:44  
**To:** Tom Hulme <T.Hulme@qub.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** TNA

Tom

Is this your work or has someone got there before you?

I checked Ernest Smyth (William Ernest Hunter) out on the 1911 census at his 35 Balfour Avenue address. Presbyterians with father a woollen salesman, aged 12, three younger siblings, probably b. 1899.

I wonder what happened to him assuming he survived his two years hard labour.

Beyond cruel.

There seem to be quite a few meaty MEPO files.

Jeff

William Ernest Hunter Smyth

Aged 12

35 Balfour Avenue

William Ernest Hunter Smyth

Presbyterian

Father woollen salesman