

LONGBOTTOM

Aubrey Cornelius

Service No: 1957



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Aubrey Cornelius Longbottom

Service Number: 1957

Date of Enlistment: 20/3/2016

Age at Enlistment: 34 years 11 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Manager

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet and 7 ½ inches

Weight: 175 lbs.

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: George Longbottom

Mother: Eliza Snow

Siblings: George Ross (born 1879), Frank Linnet (born 1883)



FAMILY HISTORY

George Longbottom sailed to the Swan River Colony in 1843 on the *Success*. He was twenty-five years of age and single. In 1845, George was working in the Upper Swan area but, by 1848, he was farming in the York area.

In 1849, George married Anne Maria Dunkley in York. She had also travelled to the Colony on the *Success* as a servant to Peter Broun. The couple had seven surviving children and for a while, they prospered.

The York Census of 1859 notes that George employed four men and, by the 1860s, the family were farming nineteen miles from York. At some point, difficulties overcame the family and it was said that George "lived like a hermit in his old age."

At the time of his death, in 1877 at the age of seventy, George was living alone about a mile from York, when he was found by a neighbour in an emaciated state. He died soon after, leaving his wife and family to cope alone.

His wife, Anne, had to apply for Poor Relief in 1884.

George Longbottom (born at York in 1857) was the fifth child of George and Anne. According to his obituary, he was born near the boundary of the Northam and York Road Boards where his father was farming. George was employed by J.W. Parker for many years, and he was notable for his successes with the single furrow plough in competitions. George married Eliza Snow in Beverley in 1878, and they had three sons: George Ross (born 1879), Aubrey Cornelius (born 1881) and Frank Linnet (born 1883). All three sons predeceased their father.

LIFE STORY

Aubrey Longbottom was born in York to George and Eliza Longbottom. As a young man, he worked in the office of the Eastern Districts Chronicle in York. By the time he enlisted, in March 1916, Aubrey had been working for Mr. O.L. Bernard on “Booraman Farm” at Grass Valley, between York and Northam, for eight years. He was paid nine shillings per day.

Aubrey had also become engaged to Miss Bertha Carter of Quellington. On the eve of departure (Friday, May 12th) the Methodist ladies of Quellington organised a farewell concert and dance for Aubrey and another soldier, Charles Murphy, at the Quellington Agricultural Hall.

Aubrey joined the 51st Battalion at Blackboy Hill Camp and departed Fremantle on the *Sang Bee* on the 20th July, landing in England on the 9th September 1916.

On the 30th September, he was transferred to the 44th Battalion B Company. The Battalion entered France on the 27th November 1916 and, barely one month later, they entered the Front Line near Armentieres which was used as a “Nursery Sector” soldiers new to the Front.

Throughout the winter of 1916 to 1917, the Battalion alternated between manning the Front Line and conducting training or manual labour behind the lines.

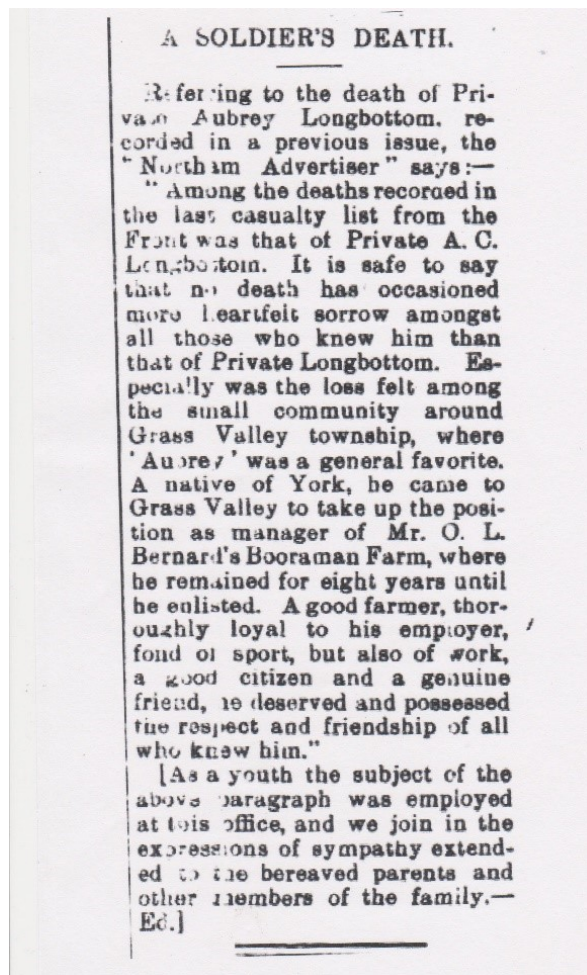
On the 12th January 1917, Aubrey was killed in action at Amiens by a German 77mm high explosive shell which was part of a barrage fired into the 44th Battalion lines. He was the sole fatal casualty.

Aubrey is buried in the Cite Bornean Military Cemetery, Armentieres France (Grave IV.C.47).

His name is recorded on the Honour Roll at the York Town Hall, the York R.S.L. Rose Garden and the York War Memorial. Aubrey's name is also listed on the State War Memorial under the 44th Battalion.

As a result of his service, Aubrey was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. These medals were issued to his father through the post.

The family subsequently received a booklet "Where Australians Rest," a memorial scroll and plaque (the so-called "Death Penny") and, in 1930, a copy of the cemetery register. George and Eliza also received a War Soldier's pension up until their deaths.



Acknowledgements

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