

Cockermouth Cemetery, Cumbria

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2019 CORPORAL

W. A. LONG

60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 24

William Arthur LONG

William Arthur Long was born in 1894 in the parish of Brigham, Keswick, Cumbria, England to parents William & Mary Long (nee Crosthwaite).

The 1901 England Census recorded William A. Long as a 7 year old living with his family at Belle Vue, Bridekirk, Papcastle, Cumberland. His parents were listed as William Long (Gardener, aged 44, born Whitehaven, Cumberland) & Mary Long (aged 44, born Threlkeld, Cumberland). William was the youngest of 2 children listed on this census – Annie M. (aged 13, born Keswick, Cumberland). Also listed was William Long (father), parents – Edward Long (Retired Gardener, aged 72) & Mary Long (aged 71).

William Arthur Long attended Cockermouth Fairfield Boys Council School.

[The 1911 England Census recorded William Arthur Long's father – William Long (Gentleman's Gardener, aged 55) living with his new wife of 3 years – Leah Long (aged 32) & their 2 children – Thomas Edward Long (aged 2 ½, born Cokermouth) & Marion Long (aged 2 months, born Cockermouth). The family of 4 were living in Fitz Mill, Cockermouth, an 8 roomed dwelling.]

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour - William Arthur Long came to Australia when he was 19.

William Arthur Long was a 21 year old, single, Farm Labourer (& Draper) from 271 Darling Street, Balmain, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, Sydney on 10th January, 1916 with the 15th Infantry Brigade, 59th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2019 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – William Long of Main Street, Cockermouth, Cumberland, England. William Arthur Long stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service because of bad teeth.

Private William Arthur Long embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 4th May, 1916 & disembarked at Suez on 10th June, 1916.

Private William Arthur Long was taken on strength at Tel-el-Kebir on 9th July, 1916 with 5th Division Details

Private William Arthur Long embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on H. T. *Franconia* on 2nd August, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th August, 1916.

Private William Arthur Long was marched in from Overseas in England on 21st August, 1916 to 15th Training battalion, Camp 26, Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private William Arthur Long proceeded overseas, via Folkestone, to France per S.S. *Golden Eagle* as reinforcements.

Private William Arthur Long was marched in from England to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 12th November, 1916. He had been transferred to 57th Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements on 10th November, 1916.

Private William Arthur Long proceeded to join 60th Battalion at Etaples on 22nd November, 1916 & was taken on strength with 60th Battalion in the field on 25th November, 1916.

Pte Long was marched out to 3 Army Sniping School on 9th July, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 22nd July, 1917.

Pte Long was on leave to England on 2nd October, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion from leave on 15th October, 1917.

Private William Arthur Long was to be Scout Corporal from 2nd August, 1918.

Corporal William Arthur Long was transferred to 59th Battalion on 25th September, 1918.

Corporal William Arthur Long was on leave to UK from 11th October, 1918.

Corporal William Arthur Long died on 19th October, 1918 at 54 Bromley St, Workington, Cumbria from Bronchial Bronchitis.

A death for William A. Long, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Cockermouth, Cumberland. The informant was Alexander McCutcheon, brother-in-law of 54 Bromley St, Workington.

Corporal William Arthur Long was buried on 22nd October, 1918 in Cockermouth Cemetery, Cumbria – Plot number E. NC. 791 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Cpl. Long - *Coffin was Larch, polished. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from relations. The Rev. W. Grieve officiated at the graveside and the "Last Post" was sounded. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. In attendance at the funeral were – Father and Mrs Long; two sisters; two aunts; Mr & Mrs Lupton.*

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour Corporal William Arthur Long – “his Sergeant (Armstrong) said he had recommended him to the Colonel for Bravery.”

Corporal William Arthur Long was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Cpl. Long's father – Mr W. Long, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent to England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal William Arthur Long – service number 2019, aged 24, of 60th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Mary Long, of 19 Main Street, Cockermouth. Born at Keswick, Cumberland.

Corporal W. A. Long is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 168.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(31 pages of Corporal William Arthur Long's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

The 447th CASUALTY LIST

DIED, OTHER CAUSES
NEW SOUTH WALES

W. A. Long (England), case of death not stated.

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 17 December, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government. *(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Corporal William Arthur Long does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Cockermouth Cemetery, Cumbria

Cockermouth Cemetery, Cumbria contains 32 War Graves, 22 of them from World War 1 & 10 from World War 2. There is only 1 grave for Australian Imperial Force.



Cockermouth Cemetery, Cumbria *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Corporal W. A. Long's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cockermouth Cemetery, Cumbria, England.



(Photo courtesy of Debbie Cameron)