

LANGDON, George (3274 AIF)



Name	LANGDON, George Private
Service Number	3274 AIF
Date of Birth	28th October 1878
Died	27th November 1917
Place of Birth	Victor Harbor SA
Resident	Victor Harbor SA
Cemetery	La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery

Image 1©www.archives.sa.gov.au 2009
circa 1916 digital image was purchased from
the South Australian Archives.

George Langdon, the fifth of seven children of James and Annie Langdon, was born at Port Victor on 28 October 1878. His parents had emigrated from the UK, marrying at Goolwa in 1869 then later living at Encounter Bay and Victor Harbor.

George enlisted in the AIF on 27 November 1915. He was working as a baker while living at Mile End, Adelaide. Aged 37, he was older than most men volunteering to join the Army. Allocated to the 7th Reinforcement group of the 32nd Battalion, he completed his initial training but was delayed by illness before sailing for overseas aboard HMAT Malakuta from Adelaide on 27 June 1916.

The 32nd Battalion was raised at Mitcham on 9 August 1915 with two Companies from South Australia and two from Western Australia. Sailing for overseas on 18 November 1915, it joined the newly forming 5th AIF Division in Egypt before moving with the Division to France in June 1916. With only three days of frontline experience, the Battalion was part of the Australian attack at Fromelles on 19 July 1916 where it suffered 718 casualties, nearly 75% of its fighting strength, in its first major battle. Although it later returned to the frontline, it did not play a major role in any offensives for the remainder of the year. It was one of four Battalions of the 8th Brigade, 5th Division.

George arrived at Devonport, UK, on 22 August 1916 then to the 8th Training Battalion at Larkhill for further training and conditioning for the frontline from battle experienced instructors. He arrived in France on 11 November 1916, joining his Battalion on 12 December 1916 at Mametz. His first time in the trenches near Montauban in mid-January 1917 was cut short when he was evacuated to hospital with mumps, not returning to his unit until 2 February in time for follow up operations as the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg line.

During his time with the Battalion it was in the front line or immediate support for 5-7 days each month with the remaining days spent in unit and specialist training or providing working parties in

rear areas. One period of five weeks was spent making roads. Conditioning route marches of 20-25 kms were also undertaken. In June, his Battalion demonstrated its efficiency with D Company winning their Brigade field training competition. During the Battle for Polygon Wood (Ypres sector) it relieved one of the attacking units in the front line during 27-30 September, it suffered 88 casualties. The Australians had advanced 1,250 yards and captured their objectives.

His Battalion supported frontline units in the Messines sector from 22-28 November 1917. Billed at Wulverghem, the battalion provided working parties carrying stores, and improving the front line system. As the 27 November drew closer, the cold dreary winter had set in and made trench life unbearable. Trenches collapsed under the weight of the water logged mud. The weather conditions made working in the trenches dangerous. On the front line of the 29th Battalion, George Langdon was trapped, the walls of the trenches on the frontline had collapsed. He was killed. He had become one of many casualties of the work parties.

Further adding to his family's grief, his few remaining personal possessions were lost on their way back to Australia when the ship the HMAT Barunga, carrying them was torpedoed and sunk in July 1918.

His family later received George's British War Medal and Victory Medal, and his father was granted a pension of 15 shillings a fortnight in February 1918 for the loss of his son.

After the war George was re-interred at La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery, near Wulverghem, Belgium, being one of 86 Australians among the 345 men buried there.

References:

Australian War Memorial., 2025., *George Langdon.* (n.d.). awm.gov.au. [accessed 01/09/2025]
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Studio portrait of 3274., 2025., *(later 3274A) Private (Pte) George Langdon, 32nd Battalion. A baker of . . .* (n.d.-b). [accessed 01/09/2025]
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1252575?image=1>

Studio portrait of 3274., 2025., *3274 - later 3274A Private (Pte) George Langdon, 32nd Battalion. A baker of . . .* (n.d.). [accessed 01/09/2025]
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Compiled by the Victor Harbor RSL History Research Team, March 2009. Updated by T. Young 01/09/2025

Appendix



Image 2©Ian Milnes 2009
Pte Langdon's grave at the war cemetery La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery in Belgium



Image 3©Ian Milnes 2009
The war cemetery La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P09029.008

Image 4©awm.gov.au 2025
The war cemetery La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery.

Army Form B. 103.				Regimental Number	3274A
Casualty Form - Active Service.					
Regiment or Corps		7th Bn Inf, 32nd BATTALION, A.I.F.			
Rank. <u>Private</u> Surname. <u>LANDON</u>		Christian Name. <u>GEORGE</u>			
Religion.		Age on Enlistment		years. <u>27</u> months <u>11</u>	
Enlisted (a) <u>27/11/15</u> Terms of Service (a). Date of promotion to present rank.				Service reckons from (a). Date of appointment to lance rank.	
Extended		Re-engaged		Qualification (b). or Corps Trade and rate.	
Occupation. _____ Signature of Officer _____					
Report					
Reason of promotion, reductions, transfers, vacancies, return to Army, leaving service, any essential Army Form filling in, or other documents, may be attached to this Report The authority to be quoted in each case					
Date	From whom received	Embarked	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Form of Army Form of which this is a copy, or other official Army document
24/8/16	O.C. Troops	MATAKUTA	Disembarked	Devonport	22/8/16
11/11/16	8th Bn	Marched in	Larkhill	24/8/16	
11/11/16	8th Bn	Proceeding overseas France Folkestone	11/11/16 ER 8459		
	Carlford	per ss. "Golden Eagle"			
12/11/16	5 ADRD B213	Marched in ex England	Etaples	12/11/16 AQ 10747	
25/11/16	do	Marched out to Unit	do	22/11/16 AQ 11580	
12/12/16	32nd Bn B23	Taken on strength 32nd Bn	Field	25/11/16 AQ 11951	
09/1/17	do	Evacuated to Hospital	Φ	12/1/17 ER 9/3 DOS/65	
20/1/17	5 AFAMB WCS	Admitted - Mumps	Field	do	AK 894/3
19/1/17	39th C.C.Stn	do	do	do	AK 764/63
For the use of a medical officer. Not intended for use by Army Form B. 103. Report of medical officer of each party on admission to the service or hospital. Report of medical officer of each party on discharge from the service.					

National Archives of Australia

NAA: B2455, LANGDON GEORGE

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I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.

See Bros Enclosed.

National Archives of Australia

NAA: B2455 | LANGDON, GEORGE

Description of George Langdon on Enlistment

FIELD SERVICE. 30441 Army Form B. 2090A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT | 52nd BATTALION, A.I.F. | Squadron, Troop,
 OR CORPS | 3274A | Battery or Company | ---
 Regimental No. | 3274A | Rank | Private
 Surname | LANGDON | Christian Names | GEORGE
 Died | 27th November 1917 | Place | In the Field, B.E.F.
 (Cause of Death) | Killed in Action.
 Nature and Date of Report | ARMY FORM B.213 dated 29/11/17.
 By whom made | CO 52nd Battalion, A.I.F.
 * Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.
 Burial | Place | Particulars not yet available | Date | ---
 By whom reported | For Burial | 29/11/17 | 3274A
 State whether he leaves | (a) In Pay Book (Army Book 64) | (b) In Small Book (if at Base) | ---
 a Will or not | Will not received
 (c) as a separate document | ---

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G. Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Paymaster Officer, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

ANZAC SECTION, 3rd ECHELON, G.H.Q.
 Station and | B. E. F. | Signature of Officer in charge of Section | W. H. M. Captain
 Date | 12/12/17. | Adjutant-General's Office at the Base | 0, 1/c Records.
(142) WEST/1420-59.000 1216 JFW (E326) Form 2090A/2

I consider him fit for active service.

Date | NOV 27th 1915

W. H. M. Captain MAJOR.

Place | ADELAIDE.

W. H. M. Captain A.M.C.

Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and

appoint him to B. E. F.

W. H. M. Captain LT. COL.
CAMP COMMANDANT
2ND DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F.

Date | 1/12/15.

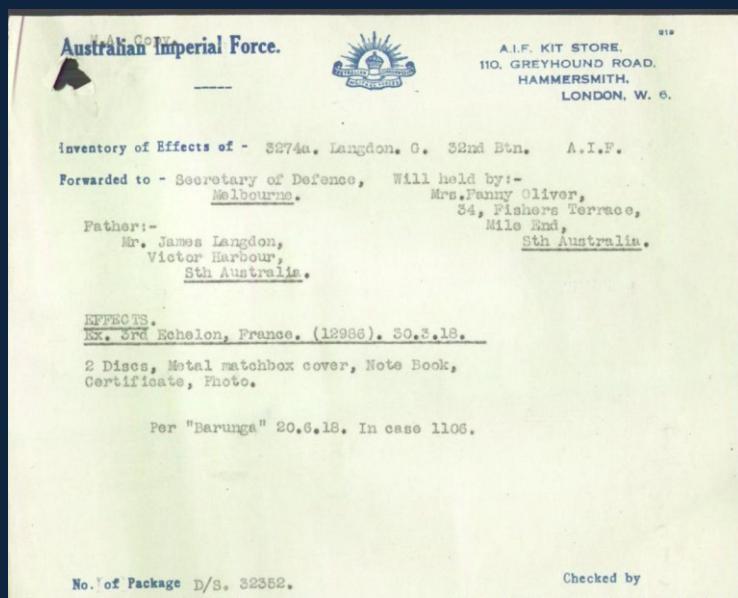
Commanding

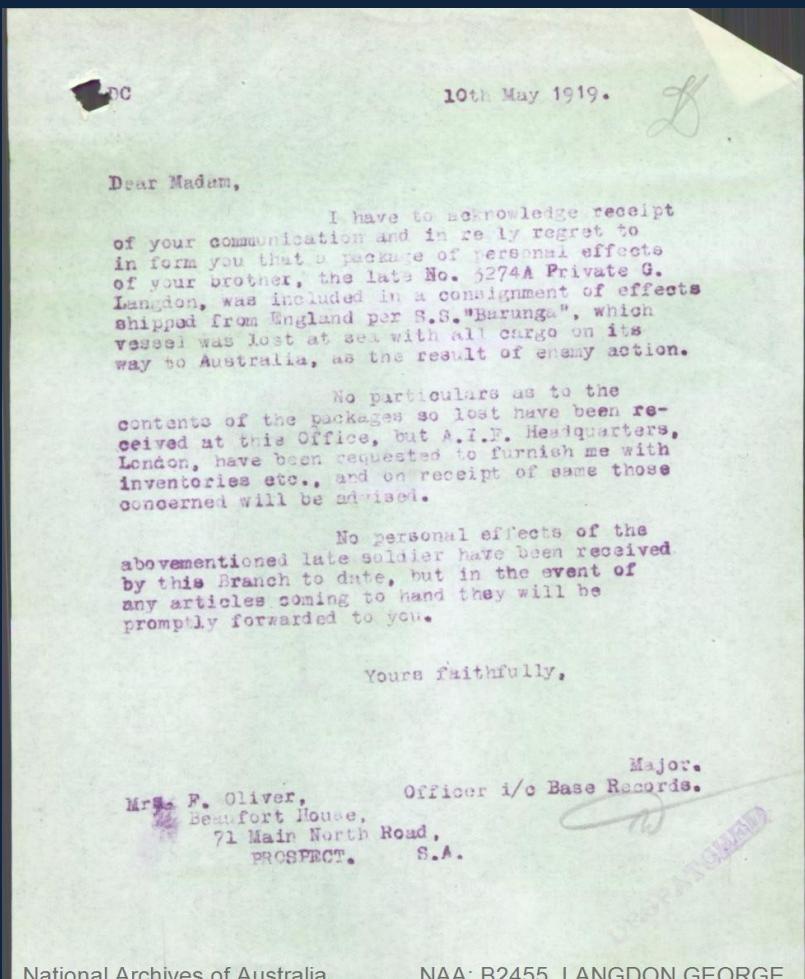
Place | Adeelaide

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Image 9 ©naa.gov.au 2025

Notification of personal effects to be placed on board the HMS Barunga.





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Image 10 ©nara.gov.au 2025
Notification to George's sister Mrs Oliver, that the HMAT Barunga carrying back her brothers personal effects had been sunk.



Image 11 & 12 ©nara.gov.au 2025
Location of Roll of Honour Australian War Memorial and dates of visual display.

Roll of Honour name projection

George Langdon's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory on:

Wednesday, 25 March 2026 at 10.05 am

Wednesday, 8 July 2026 at 4.18 am

Monday, 5 October 2026 at 10.27 pm

Thursday, 21 January 2027 at 5.07 am

For more information view the [Roll of Honour name projections page](#).

Please note: These dates and times are estimates. The actual time of projection could also change as a result of weather and other factors, so it is advisable to check closer to the date. In the rare event of a temporary loss of electrical power, the names scheduled for display in that period will not appear until the next time listed.