

# LANGDON, George (3274 AIF)



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

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

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. Billeted 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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:

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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.



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



NAA: B2455. LANGDON GEORGE

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Description of George Langdon on Enlistment

## FIELD SERVICE.

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 (OR CORPS) 32nd BATTALION, A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, } ---  
 Battery or Company }  
 Regimental No. 3274A Rank Private

Surname LANGDON Christian Names GEORGE

Date 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 32nd 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.

Place Particulars not yet available Date ---

By whom reported For Burial and 300 BLOS

State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book VI) Will not received (b) in Small Book (if at Base) ---

a Will or not (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 Disbursing 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 BOMBARDMENT, G.H.Q. Station and Date B. E. F. Signature of Officer in charge of Section Captain  
12/12/17. Adjutant-General's Office at the Base O, 1/c Records.

(452) WDS/3220-50,000 1216 JFW (E322) Forms (E320A)2

I consider him fit for active service.

Date NOV 27 1915

Place ADELAIDE.

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 "A" Coy, 2ND DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F.

Date 1. 12. 15.

Place Adelaide

Commanding LT. COL. CAMP COMMANDANT 2ND DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, LANGDON GEORGE

Image 8 ©naa.gov.au 2025

Notification of George being killed in action

Image 9 ©naa.gov.au 2025

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

## Australian Imperial Force.



A.I.F. KIT STORE,  
110, GREYHOUND ROAD,  
HAMMERSMITH,  
LONDON, W. 6.

Inventory of Effects of - 3274a, Langdon, G. 32nd Bn. A.I.F.

Forwarded to - Secretary of Defence, Will held by:-

Melbourne. Mrs. Fanny Oliver,  
34, Fishers Terrace,  
Mile End, Sth Australia.  
Mr. James Langdon,  
Victor Harbour,  
Sth Australia.

EFFECTS.  
Ex. 3rd Echelon, France. (12986). 30.3.18.

2 Discs, Metal matchbox cover, Note Book,  
Certificate, Photo.

Per "Barunga" 20.6.18. In case 1106.



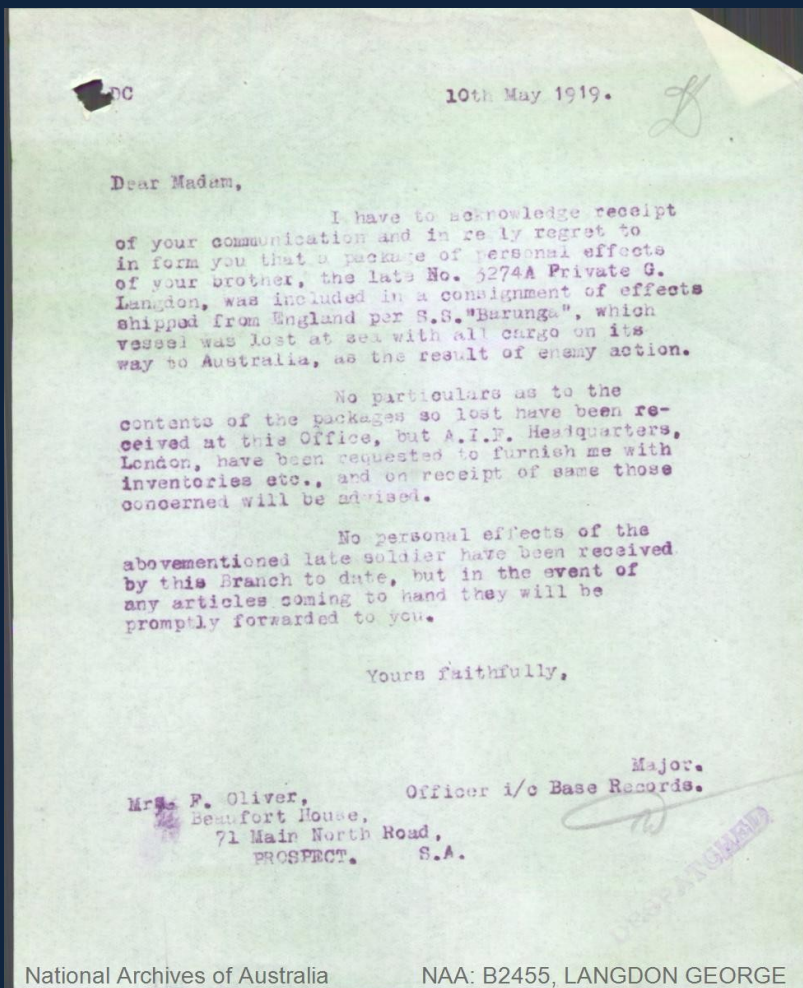


Image 10 ©naa.gov.au 2025  
Notification to George's sister Mrs Oliver, that the  
HMAT Barunga carrying back her brothers personal  
effects had been sunk.

## Location on the Roll of Honour

George Langdon's name is located at panel 120 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).

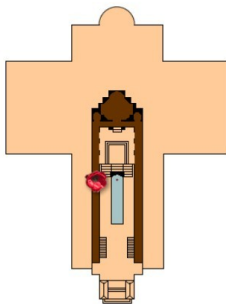


Image 11 & 12 ©naa.gov.au 2025  
Location of Roll of Honour Australian War  
Memorial and dates of visual display.

## 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 1.05 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.