

Surname	Longden
Forename	Arthur
Initials	A O
Age	32
Honours/Awards	
Date died	14/09/1914
Rank	Company Sergeant Major
Regiment	Northumberland Fusiliers
Unit/Squadron	1 st Bn.
Service Number	5625
Cemetery/Memorial	Vally British Cemetery
Grave Reference	II.H.12.
Further Information	Son of Mr and Mrs John L. Longden, 19 Byron Road, Seacombe, Wallasey. Fought through the South African Campaign. Killed at the Battle of Aisne on his birthday.
<p>News Report</p> <p><u>Killed On His Birthday</u></p> <p>The news has just been received in Wallasey of the death - killed in action - of Company Sergeant-Major Arthur Longden, of the 1st Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.</p> <p>Earlier in the week letters and cards sent to him in France had been returned to his parents at 19, Byron Road, Seacombe, with the endorsement "Killed." No official notification had, however, been received. Hoping against hope, his father wrote to the regimental headquarters at York, from which he had confirmation of his fears, being informed that the Company Sergeant-Major fell in France on the 14th September. This would be in the early stages of the battle of the Aisne. An assurance of the sympathy of the King and Queen has been received from Lord Kitchener.</p> <p>The bereaved father, Mr. John I. Longden, is well known in the district, and is one of the most respected servants of the Corporation Electricity Department. Many hearts will sympathise with his wife and himself in the loss of a son who was in every sense a credit to them; he died for his country. They will place among their most cherished possessions a letter they have received expressing the sincere condolence of the Engineer (Mr. J.A. Crowther) and the other officials of the Electricity Department.</p> <p>The writers refer to the great respect in which Mr. Longden is held by all sections in the department, and they add "Words fail to adequately convey what we would like to express to you in your grief at the loss of such a loved one, one who brilliant career it has been a father's and a mother's just pride to watch. That life so dear has been ended, fighting for his King and country, and we venture to think that in this last act you may both find a ray of comfort."</p> <p>Company Sergeant Major Longden was killed, sadly enough, on his 32nd birthday. He joined the Army sixteen years ago. He fought through the South African war, was afterwards stationed at Mauritius and, Calcutta, and served during the Afghan frontier raid. He held three medals.</p>	

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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