

Private Hutton Longstaff
Regimental number: 1297
16th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

born: 1880 – died: 15 August 1917

Private Hutton Longstaff was born in 1880 near Lanchester, Durham,¹ the son of Richard and Margaret Maria Longstaff. Both his parents were born, just a year apart, in West Auckland, Durham—Richard in 1849 and Margaret Maria (née Little) in 1850.² They married in 1871 in Durham³ and had at least nine children: William (born in about 1873), Sarah Elizabeth (born in about 1874), Margaret Jane (born in about 1875), John (born in about 1877), Richard Will (born in about 1879), Hutton, Margaret Maria (born in about 1882), Benjamin (born in about 1884) and Charlotte (born in about 1888).⁴

Hutton's father Richard was a coal miner. In 1871, his father was boarding in the Little's home at Collierley Dykes in Collierley, Durham. He was living with his future mother-in-law, his future wife and her siblings.⁵ One of Margaret Maria's brother was named Hutton, so perhaps Hutton was later named after this uncle. Richard and Margaret Maria married a few months later.

Ten years later, they were living at Old Rows in Collierley.⁶ By then, his mother-in-law, Sarah Elizabeth Little, was living with them and would continue to do so,⁷ probably until her death in 1899.⁸ By 1891, the family had moved to 20 Allendale Cottage in Medomsley.⁹

Hutton's father died in 1895,¹⁰ and in 1901 his widowed mother was still living at 20 Allendale Cottage with five of her children. By then, Hutton was working as a hewer in a coal mine.¹¹

The following year, Hutton married Isabella Armstrong in Lanchester. Isabella was born in about 1885 in Greencroft, Durham.¹² They had at least two children: Charles Moore (born in 1903)¹³ and Margaret Jane (born in 1906).¹⁴ In 1911, the family was living at 33 Allendale Cottages—very close to his mother's home in 1901.¹⁵ Hutton was working as a Deputy Overman.

He enlisted as a private in the Northumberland Fusiliers in Newcastle-on-Tyne¹⁶ and joined the Western Front in France on 22 November 1915. He was serving with the 16th Battalion when he was wounded less than two years later. In August 1917, his battalion was stationed near Dunkirk, France, where it had been subject to constant heavy shelling. On 8 August, under an effective barrage, the troops successfully advanced into enemy trenches. But the operation cost the life of one officer, and 27 soldiers from the Other Ranks were killed, wounded or missing.¹⁷

Hutton was possibly one of the wounded. He was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 8 August with gunshot wounds to his abdomen, left thigh and right leg.¹⁸ He lived for a week, finally succumbing to his wounds on 15 August. He was buried the following day in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: B. 1).¹⁹

Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, in the community of De Panne, just across the border into Belgium. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.²⁰

This next-of-kin was not known at the time to the chaplain of the 1st CCCS, but the monies owing to Hutton from the army upon his death were later sent to his wife.²¹

Hutton was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).²²

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¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2016), entry for Hutton Longstaff, Registration district: Lanchester, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 296

² "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Hutton Longstaff, Registration district: Lanchester, ED, institution, or vessel: 14, Piece: 4943, Folio: 107, Page: 4

³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Richard William Longstaff, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 472

⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2016), entry for Hutsw Langstaff [sic], Registration district: Lanchester, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 4091, Folio: 110, Page: 30

⁵ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Richard Longstaff, Registration district: Durham, Sub-registration district: Tanfield, ED, institution, or vessel: 7, Household schedule number: 82, Piece: 4956, Folio: 101, Page: 18

⁶ "1881 England Census," entry for Hutton Longstaff

⁷ "1881 England Census," entry for Hutton Longstaff; "1891 England Census," entry for Hutsw Langstaff [sic]

⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 May 2016), entry for Sarah Elizabeth Little, Registration district: Lanchester, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 222

⁹ "1891 England Census," entry for Hutsw Langstaff [sic]

¹⁰ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Richard William Longstaff, Registration district: Newcastle upon Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 58

¹¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Hutton Longstaff, Registration district: Lanchester, Sub-registration district: Consett, ED, institution, or vessel: 2, Piece: 4667, Folio: 48, Page Number: 16, Page number: 16, Household schedule number: 81

¹² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Hutton Longstaff, Registration district: Lanchester, Registration district number: 550, Sub-registration district: Consett, ED, institution, or vessel: 2, Piece: 29879

¹³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 May 2016), entry for Charles Moore Longstaff, Registration district: Lanchester, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 390

¹⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2016), entry for Margaret Jane Longstaff, Registration district: Lanchester, Inferred County: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 352

¹⁵ "1911 England Census," entry for Hutton Longstaff

¹⁶ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Hutton Longstaff

¹⁷ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 May 2016), Regiment or Unit: Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub Unit: 16th Battalion, Division: 32nd Division, Diary dates: 1915 Nov - 1918 Feb, Piece description: Piece 2398/1: 16 Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1915 Nov - 1918 Feb), Piece number: 2398

¹⁸ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 – 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 340

¹⁹ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Longstaff, H., Service No: 16/1297

²⁰ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 30 April 2016)

²¹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Hutton Longstaff

²² "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2016), entry for Hutton Longstaff