

**Driver George Albert Langridge©**  
**Regimental Number: 75985**  
**130/40<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery**

**born: 1894 - died: 29 May 1918**

George Albert Langridge was the son of George and Emily Langridge of Gosport, Hampshire.<sup>1</sup> His father was born in 1854 in Devizes, Wiltshire<sup>2</sup> and his mother, the former Emily Osgood, was born in Portchester, Hampshire in 1862.<sup>3</sup> His parents married in 1880 near Alverstoke, Hampshire.<sup>4</sup> Their first child, a son, John Alfred, was born in 1882.<sup>5</sup> A daughter, Ellen Mary, was born in 1885, but died the following year.<sup>6</sup> A second daughter, Emily, followed in 1890.<sup>7</sup> George Albert was born four years later.<sup>8</sup> Their third son and last child, Harry, was born in 1896.<sup>9</sup> George's father was a driver of a steam launch but, by 1911, was a pensioner. His mother was then working as a laundress and George himself, like his brother Harry, was a golf caddie.<sup>10</sup>

George enlisted sometime before December 1915<sup>11</sup> as a driver in the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery and, at the time of his death, was serving in the 130/40<sup>th</sup> Brigade. The Royal Field Artillery was one element of three in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. It was the "most numerous arm of the artillery, the horse-drawn RFA was responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers deployed close to the front line and was reasonably mobile. It was organised into brigades."<sup>12</sup> The military historian, John Terraine, wrote "The war of 1914-18 was an artillery war: artillery was the battle-winner, artillery was what caused the greatest loss of life, the most dreadful wounds, and the deepest fear."<sup>13</sup>

The 40<sup>th</sup> Brigade was formed from the 6<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> Batteries, and attached to 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. In August 1914, it mobilized and was sent to the Continent with the British Expeditionary Force, where it saw service with 3<sup>rd</sup> Division throughout the war. The 130<sup>th</sup> (Howitzer) Battery joined the brigade in May 1916.<sup>14</sup>

George was injured on 29 May 1918 and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his legs, neck, back, left arm and side.<sup>15</sup> He died and was buried the same day in the Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row D, Grave 12) with the chaplain, J. K. Tibbits presiding. George was identified as a member of the Church of England.

On 29 May, 95 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS, bringing the total number of patients to 422.<sup>16</sup> In the whole month of May, there were 115 deaths at this CCCS—more than in any of the other three and a half months that No. 1 CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCS came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.<sup>17</sup>

His mother, who was living at 339 Tartan Road, Gosport, was notified of his death.<sup>18</sup> She also received the monies owing to him by the army upon his death.<sup>19</sup>

George 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).<sup>20</sup> His mother had made a successful application for him to receive the 1914-15 Star. She was then living as 232 Forton Road, Gosport.

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- <sup>1</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 February 2015), entry for George Langridge, Registration district: Alverstoke, Registration District Number: 91, Sub-registration district: Alverstoke, ED, institution, or vessel: 14, Household schedule number: 70, Piece: 5636
- <sup>2</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 February 2015), entry for George Langridge, Registration district: Tisbury, Inferred County: Wiltshire, Volume: 5a, Page: 209
- <sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 February 2015), entry for Emily Osgood, Registration district: Fareham, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2b, Page: 471
- <sup>4</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 February 2015), entry for George Langridge, Registration district: Alverstoke, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2b, Page: 883
- <sup>5</sup> "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 16 November 2016) entry for Langridge, John Alfred, Volume 02B, Page 548
- <sup>6</sup> "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 16 November 2016) entry for Langridge, Ellen Mary, Volume 02B, Page 559; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 16 November 2016), entry for Ellen Mary Langridge, Registration district: Alverstoke, Inferred county: Hampshire, Volume: 2b, Page: 354
- <sup>7</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 February 2015), entry for Emily Langridge, Registration district: Alverstoke, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2b, Page: 561
- <sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 February 2015), entry for George Albert Langridge, Registration district: Alverstoke, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2b, Page: 563
- <sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 February 2015), entry for Harry Langridge, Registration district: Alverstoke, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2b, Page: 544
- <sup>10</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 February 2015), entry for George Langridge
- <sup>11</sup> He must have enlisted before that date because he was eligible for the 1914-15 Star for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915.
- <sup>12</sup> "The Long, Long Trail: The British artillery of 1914-1918," <http://www.1914-1918.net/cra.htm>
- <sup>13</sup> "The Long, Long Trail: The British artillery of 1914-1918." <http://www.1914-1918.net/cra.htm>: accessed 7 December 2014)
- <sup>14</sup> "40th Brigade Royal Field Artillery," *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40th\\_Brigade\\_Royal\\_Field\\_Artillery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40th_Brigade_Royal_Field_Artillery): accessed 2 February 2015)
- <sup>15</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 528
- <sup>16</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FOUND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FOUND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 15 December 2015)
- <sup>17</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- <sup>18</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 528

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<sup>19</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 19 January 2015), entry for George Landridge

<sup>20</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 26 November 2015), entry for G. Langridge