

**Private Albert Longhurst**  
**Regimental Number: 435098**  
**10th Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF**

**born: 8 May 1882 - died: 3 March 1916**

Albert was one of 14 children born to James and Jane (née Saunders) Longhurst of 23, Ravens Knowle, Wouldham, Kent.<sup>1,2</sup> They raised nine boys and five girls. Albert was born on 8 May 1883 and was their seventh child. Albert's father worked in the local chalk quarry as a quarryman. By 1891, Albert and his brothers were also working there as cement labourers.<sup>3</sup>

Perhaps Albert had wanderlust because, early in the spring of 1907, he travelled to St. Thomas, Ontario, with his uncle, Henry Saunders, on the SS *Dominion*.<sup>4</sup> Albert was joined a month later by his brother Richard<sup>5</sup> and the two eventually went west. Two other brothers, Ted and Isaac, later joined Albert and Richard, and eventually all four settled around Calgary, Alberta.<sup>6</sup>

Later, Ted and Albert journeyed home for a visit to England, as they were recorded as 'returning Canadians' on the *Empress of Ireland*, in March 1912.<sup>7</sup> It is not clear what motivated their trip home, but they soon came back to their lives in western Canada.<sup>8</sup>

When war broke out in 1914, Albert, Richard and Isaac were still all working and living in Calgary. Albert had a job as a labourer, while Richard was employed as an usher in the city's Grand Theatre. Brother Isaac worked as a teamster.<sup>9</sup> By the end of 1915, the three brothers had enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in Calgary. Isaac,<sup>10</sup> the youngest of the three, enlisted first, in March; then Albert<sup>11</sup> and finally Richard signed up in November.<sup>12</sup>

Albert joined the 50th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Calgary Regiment of the CEF on 10 May 1915, just two days after his 33rd birthday. The 50th Battalion was raised as a second draft, as relief for the 23rd Reserve Battalion. Albert was raised in the Church of England and was 5 feet, 9 inches tall. He had brown eyes with dark hair and complexion and was single. His occupation on his Attestations paper was given as labourer and his next of kin, his mother Jane.<sup>13</sup>

Albert sailed to England in September 1915 and was posted to West Sandling. On 25 October 1915, he was promoted to acting lance corporal.<sup>14</sup> Around the Christmas period that year, Albert must have been absent without leave, as effective 31 December 1915, he forfeited four days pay and was reduced to the rank of private.<sup>15</sup> Early in January 1916, Albert was transferred to the 9th Reserve Battalion and later that month was reassigned to the 10th Battalion and shipped out to France. He joined his unit in the field on 3 February and, barely, one month later, on 2 March, 1916, died of a gunshot wound to the head at 6:30 a.m.<sup>16</sup>

The war diary for the 10th Battalion, CEF, of 1 March 1916 indicates that the day was bright and the night clear. The trenches were quiet all day except for bombardment and enemy fire on the northwest Petit Douve Ferme. The battalion engaged in a smoke bomb demonstration on the enemy trenches that morning and the wind was from the S.S.E. There were no casualties as a result of this demonstration, but the diary goes on to note that Private A. Longhurst was wounded.<sup>17</sup> Albert was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where the record states that he died on 2 March 1916.<sup>18</sup> He was 33 years of age and had served in the C.E.F. for less than ten months.<sup>19</sup>



Lynch Gate, All Saints Church, Wouldham, Rochester, Kent  
Source: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2339211>

He is buried at the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Pas-de-Calais, France, Plot: II. B. 251, northwest of Armentières.<sup>20,21</sup>

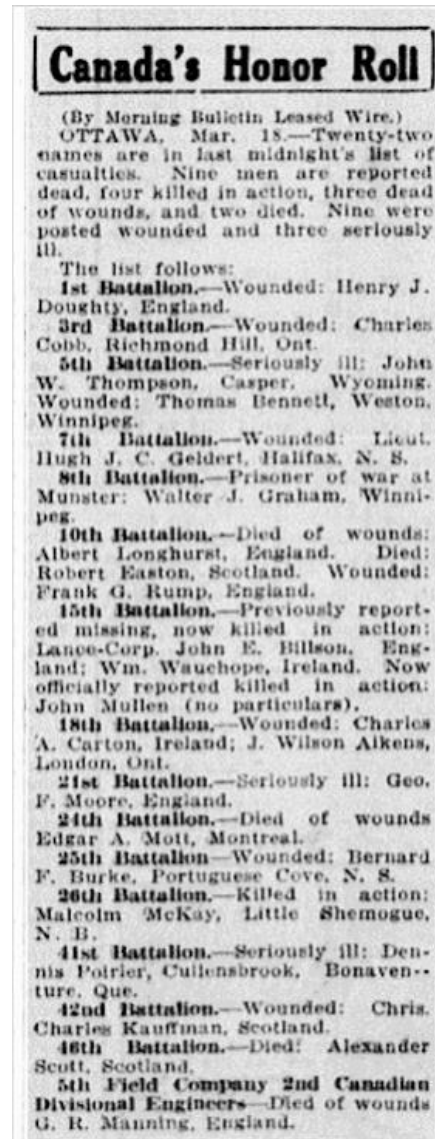
His two brothers, Richard and Isaac, survived the rest of the war and returned to live out their lives in Canada. Isaac settled down again in Calgary,<sup>22</sup> but Richard moved to New Westminster, British Columbia.<sup>23</sup>

Albert's father James passed away in 1917<sup>24</sup> and his mother Jane in 1933, at the age of 81.<sup>25</sup>

His name is one of those found on memorial plaques located in the Lynch Gate of All Saints Parish Church in Wouldham, Rochester, Kent, which is constructed of local Kent Ragstone rocks. The Lynch Gate was "ERECTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR KING AND COUNTRY DURING THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918".<sup>26</sup> Albert is also commemorated on page 120 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance in the Peace Tower of Parliament Hill in Ottawa, which is displayed every March 21st.<sup>27</sup> Albert is also mentioned on the Canada At War website.

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After his death, his mother Jane received a Memorial Cross. Albert was also awarded the Canadian Overseas Service Scroll and memorial plaque. His mother was still living at Ravens Knowle, Wouldham, Kent, in 1920 when she received this recognition of her son's service.



Edmonton Bulletin, 18 March 1916

<sup>1</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); accessed 25 April 2014), entry for Albert Longhurst, Registration district: Malling, Sub-registration district: Aylesford, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 669, Folio: 132, Page: 25

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<sup>2</sup> “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 25 April 2014), entry for Albert Longhurst, Registration district: Malling, Sub-registration district: Aylesford, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 14, Household schedule number: 226, Piece: 743, Folio: 23, Page: 38

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> “Canadian Passenger Lists - 1865–1935,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 April 2014), entry for Albert Longhurst

<sup>5</sup> “Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 April 2014), entry for R. Longhurst

<sup>6</sup> “1911 Census of Canada,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 4 May 2014), entry for Albert F. Lackard,(sic) Province: Alberta, District: Calgary, District number: 1, Sub-district: Calgary, Sub-district number: 34

<sup>7</sup> “Passenger Lists leaving UK 1890—1960,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com): accessed 25 April 2014), entry for Albert Longhurst and Edward Longhurst

<sup>8</sup> “1911 Census of Canada,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 4 May 2014), entry for Albert F. Lackard,(sic) Province: Alberta, District: Calgary, District number: 1, Sub-district: Calgary, Sub-district number: 34

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> “Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF,” *Library and Archives Canada* ([www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx): accessed 27 April 2014) entry for Isaac Longhurst, Reference: RG 150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5731-32, Item Number: 53694, Digitized service file

<sup>11</sup> “Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF,” *Library and Archives Canada* ([www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx): accessed 27 April 2014) entry for Albert Longhurst, Reference: RG 150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5731-18, Item Number: 536920, Digitized service file

<sup>12</sup> “Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF,” *Library and Archives Canada* ([www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx): accessed 27 April 2014) entry for Richard Longhurst, Reference: RG 150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5731-378, Item Number: 536939, Digitized service file

<sup>13</sup> “Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF,” *Library and Archives Canada* ([www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx): accessed 27 April 2014) entry for Albert Longhurst

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> “War Diaries of the First World War,” *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/020152\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/020152_e.html): accessed 25 April 2014), entries for the 10th Battalion, Canadian Infantry for March 1916

<sup>18</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=FINN&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=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 24 April 2014) entry for Albert Longhurst

<sup>19</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 28 November 2016), entry for Albert Longhurst, Registration district: Malling, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page 597

<sup>20</sup> “Commonwealth War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1818,” ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 24 April 2014) entry for Albert Longhurst C.E.F., Service No: 435098

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- <sup>21</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=FINN&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=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G); accessed 24 April 2014)
- <sup>22</sup> "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 April 2014), entry for Isaac Longhurst, Province or territory: Alberta, District: Calgary East, District number: 3, Sub-District: City of Calgary (Part), Sub-district number: 21, City, Town or Village: Calgary
- <sup>23</sup> "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 April 2014), entry for Richard Longhurst, Province or territory: British Columbia, District: New Westminster, District number: 2, Sub-District: Burnaby Sub-district number: 48, City, Town or Village: Burnaby Municipality
- <sup>24</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 June 2016), entry for James Longhurst, Registration district: Medway, Inferred county: Kent, Volume: 2b, Page: 720
- <sup>25</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 June 2016), entry for Jane Longhurst, Registration district: Malling, Inferred county: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 909
- <sup>26</sup> "Wouldham Kent Fallen pdf," ([www.kentfallen.com/PDF%20REPORTS/WOULDHAM.pdf](http://www.kentfallen.com/PDF%20REPORTS/WOULDHAM.pdf): accessed 24 April 2014)
- <sup>27</sup> Veterans Affairs Canada Website, Book of Remembrance, (<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=120&book=1&sort=pageAsc#datesdisplayed>: accessed 24 April 2014) entry for Albert Longhurst, page 120