

Fallen in battle at the tender age of 24

Resident remembered

■ Peter McLady

LIONEL Longhurst was a London-born Applethorpe resident who enlisted in Warwick in March 1916 and died 18 months later on the Western Front. Within weeks of arriving, Lionel fought in the Battle of Passchendaele. After being seriously injured in the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge, he died on October 8.

Longhurst, born in Brixton Hill, South London, was the only son of Lionel J. and Annie Longhurst, who later owned Mount Riga Orchard in Applethorpe.

The Longhurst family emigrated to Australia just before the beginning of World War I and settled at Applethorpe. Lionel was 23 years of age and working as

an orchardist and fencing contractor when he enlisted in the A.I.F. on March 31 1916. He was first assigned to the 49th Battalion and later joined the 17th Reinforcements of the 25th Battalion.

Lionel departed Brisbane for active service on October 27 aboard HMAT Marathon, arriving in Plymouth, England, on January 9 1917.

After arriving in England, Lionel underwent training at the Rollestone Camp on the Salisbury Plain. Lionel was promoted to Temporary Corporal on March 6 and attended, and qualified, at the Commission School at Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, between March and May 1917. Lionel left England on June 14 to join the fighting on the Western

Front. He joined the 25th Battalion in the field on July 2, where he reverted to the rank of Private.

The Battle of Passchendaele, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres, began on July 31 1917. The first involvement of Australian infantry was in the Battle of Menin Road, on September 20, when the Australian 1st and 2nd Divisions led the attack. Forming part of the 7th Brigade, the 25th Battalion was tasked with leading the advance and securing the first line of enemy defences.

The 25th Battalion moved into the frontline on September 17 and took up positions on Bellewaarde and Westhoek Ridges. The attack went ahead despite heavy overnight rain that

made the ground very muddy and boggy (Doneley 1997, 97).

The barrage opened at 5.40am, the densest that had yet covered Australian troops. The leading waves closed up to within 50 yards of it, and followed it on to the objective. The mist following the rain and the dust rising from the barrage gave good cover for the advancing troops. Only one pillbox offered serious resistance, and it was quickly rushed and overwhelmed.

Although the Battalion secured its objective smoothly, its success came at a high cost: 33 men were killed outright, 10 died of their wounds, 128 men were wounded and four men were missing (Doneley 1997, 99).

Lionel was one of those wounded at the Battle of Menin Road. He suffered a shrapnel wound to the face and was admitted to the 7th Field Ambulance. He quickly recovered and rejoined his unit on September 24.

In early October, the A.I.F.'s next major offensive in the Battle of Passchendaele was an attack on the Broodseinde Ridge.

The plan called for three Australian Divisions and one New Zealand division to fight side by side for the first time. The four Anzac Divisions formed the centre of 12 Allied divisions that were to attack the main German defensive lines on the Broodseinde Ridge.

The Battle of Broodseinde Ridge was planned to begin on the morning of October 4.

Eventually, the German attack broke down and the Anzacs captured many prisoners of war. The Anzac Divisions secured the Broodseinde Ridge by 10am. However the Battalion suffered significant losses with 40 men killed in action and 195 wounded (Doneley 1997, 103).

Lionel was wounded in the fighting on October 4. He was moved to the 10th Stationary Hospital at St. Omer, France. He was reported to be in a critical condition, having suffered a gunshot wound to the head. Private Lionel Longhurst died of his wounds on October 8. The next day, Reverend C.R.R. Stack buried Lionel in the Longuenesse (St.Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France.



LOST TO WAR: Lionel Longhurst was seriously wounded in the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge in 1917 and died four days after on October 8 at the age of 24. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

STARS

Your weekly horoscopes, starting Saturday


with Patsy Bennett

Author of Astrology: Secrets of the Moon

@ patsybennettastrology@gmail.com for readings astrocast.com.au




Aries



A fresh incentive may catch your eye in a work context or involving a favourite project, interest or study course. If you work in a therapeutic or sporty field, Wednesday's New Moon may feel particularly reinvigorating in a project. Keep an eye on your own energy levels to avoid fatigue, as you are likely to be busy. A lovely get-together with like-minded people will be fulfilling.

Taurus




A creative project or artistic idea could become more feasible this week, as Wednesday's New Moon will show just where you could put your ideas to good use in practical ways. However, if you've been unrealistic in some of your planning, you may discover flaws this week. A domestic matter will become clearer as you work on variables that affect a long-term plan.

Gemini




Wednesday's New Moon will kick-start a new project for you. For some, this will pertain to work; for others, home, status or a trip. This New Moon will enable you to move ahead with a clearer idea of your position as a teacher, leader or simply as a nurturer of those at home and those you love, finding out where you could do better and where you already excel.

Cancer



Wednesday's New Moon will help put in place a solid structure for a project and finances. If you tend to look at your projects idealistically, you'll see the basics and the realities of your circumstances more clearly, enabling you to fill a gap if this should arise, especially financially. You will step up a ladder, either at work or in a project, and gain a boost in self-esteem as a result.

Leo




Get set to turn a corner financially. If you have a great idea you'd like to pursue, research financial circumstances around your plans and areas of interest. You may find that you are ahead - or the reverse. The good news is that a lovely surprise will boost your fortunes, be this in the shape of support, finances or love. It's the week to go for your goals, with full confidence.

Virgo




Now that your sign's ruler, Mercury, is once more in Virgo, you'll feel all the more in your element and clearer about how you'd like to see your life progress. This is the ideal week for research, as you should find your efforts to move ahead are well-rewarded. A reunion or work developments will put you in a strong position. Just ensure you enjoy a break when possible.

Libra




Health and wellbeing are key areas that will catch your attention, and a get-together or news from a friend or organisation could be pivotal in your understanding of health and fitness - either yours or someone else's. A lovely reunion should raise your mood, even if logistics for the meeting are complex. Someone you love will surprise you - and a mystery may be revealed.

Scorpio




Prepare for an intriguing and a romantic week - in various ways. You may simply find that uncertainty lingers this week; or that the behaviour of someone you love seems mysterious or garners attention. Perhaps you will wish to keep some of your activities secret. A delicate matter is best kept on the table, or you risk missing the very bright side of romance: love.

Sagittarius




You'll be in the spotlight this week, and it's likely to be at work, career-wise or in your favourite activities. For some Sagittarians though, it's all about your status - as those you love begin to see you in a new or a different light. A fun and engaging activity this weekend will put many of your values and projects in perspective. A surprise or a little intrigue midweek will inspire you.

Capricorn



As there is so much focus on your activities and interests, events this week could put you in a whirl. Keep your feet on the ground, and you should find this week therapeutic. Wednesday's New Moon will usher in a fresh phase that could see your status and direction change a little as fresh considerations lead you to consider the relative value of home versus career.

Aquarius



Restlessness could distract you from some wonderful developments this week, so ensure you remain focussed. Key meetings and get-togethers with kindred spirits will lead to a lovely sense of belonging. If you spend your energy worrying about the future, you risk missing the wonder of the present. For some mid-February Aquarians, new developments at work could be ideal.

Pisces



Wednesday's New Moon will be in your partnership zone, suggesting a new, more settled phase is about to begin in a key relationship, business or personal. However, this may involve a little soul-searching first - or an eventful week. A new job offer, a change of pace or a promotion could present fresh horizons to be conquered - which you will, in your inimitable way.