

TWO LOST SONS

By Mary Naylor

Whenever my mother saw this picture of her aunt Min she would always say
“Poor Aunt Min she lost both her sons in the war only a week apart”

My great aunt Min
1875 - 1946



When I became interested in family history I decided to see what I could find out about Aunt Min's two boys. I discovered their deaths on Ancestry and disproved the “week apart” but then I discovered that there were traces of those two boys all over my mother's house. Yet everything had so nearly been thrown away.

All the paper cuttings fell out of an old scrapbook, the letters and wills were in an old cash box that was about to be taken to the charity shop, the postcards were in a bag in the loft and the picture was still on the wall where it had been for most of my childhood.

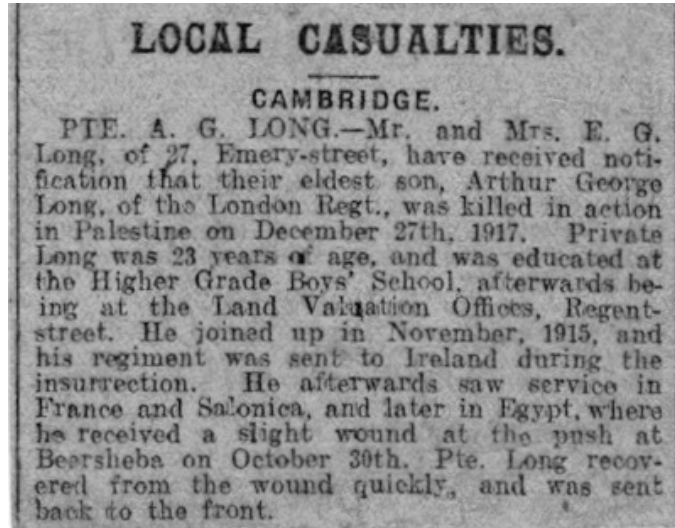
I did not have to do much research but I have used the internet to find out about the London Battalions and download the images of their graves. There are some books I should read too.

My mother was only a little girl when her cousins died so she did not really remember them but for me they have become part of my family.



Arthur George Long 1895 - 1917 elder son of Edwin and Marian Long of Cambridge

Newspaper report January 1918



This postcard was found in with others in his cousin's loft in 2009. We can only assume that the picture is of Arthur as we know he served in Egypt. Having a picture taken in front of the pyramid of Khufu was something many soldiers did when on leave in Cairo. There was nothing written on the back so it was probably sent in an envelope with a letter.



In his will, drafted in 1916, Arthur left everything to his father.

209
41

I, Arthur George Long Clerk, of 27 Emery Street Cambridge but now serving in His Majesty's Forces do hereby bequeath all my property whatsoever and whosoever to my father Edwin George Long of 27 Emery Street, Cambridge

I declare this to be my last will
As witness my hand this twelfth day of June One thousand nine hundred and sixteen

Arthur George Long

Harold C Davis
183, Deacons Rd.
Forest Hill, SE.
Insurance Clerk

Edwin Longes.
General Smith
68, Humberstone Rd
Cambridge

Witnesses to Testators signature

The letter sent to his parents in January 1918.

ARMY FORM B. 104-82b.

ARMY REGISTRY OFFICE
LONDON

No. 15.99
7.1.18
(If replying, please quote above No.)

RECORD OFFICE
4, LONDON WALL BLDGS. E.C.

7th January 1918

Sir

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of:—

(No.) 532421 (Rank) Private
(Name) Arthur George Long
(Regiment) 27th Bn. London Regt.
P.W.O. Civil Service Rifles

which occurred In the field Egypt
on the 27th December 1917

The report is to the effect that he was killed in action

By His Majesty's command I am to forward the enclosed message of sympathy from Their Gracious Majesties the King and Queen. I am at the same time to express the regret of the Army Council at the soldier's death in his Country's service.

I am,
Sir

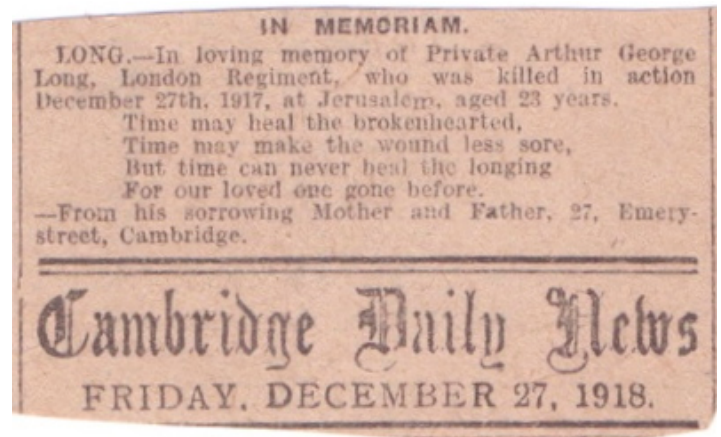
Your obedient Servant,
G. F. Bartlett Major
Officer in charge of Records.

E. G. Long Esq
27 Emery St
Cambridge

1808. Wt. 15148/M 1865. 40w. 2/17. R. & L., Ltd. P.T.O.



Grave of Arthur Long in the war cemetery Jerusalem.



His parents put this in the paper a year after his death.

War memorial for the Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles at Somerset House

{On a plaque below the finial - front:}

MCMXIX {and back:} MCMXIV

{i.e. 1919, 1914}

{On the front face:}

In memory of the 1240 members who fell while serving with the regiment in the Great War

Their names are recorded on a scroll placed within this column.

Also in memory of members of the Civil Service Cadet Battalion.

{On the back face:}

This column was erected by the 15th County of London Battalion, The London Regiment, Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles

{Around the edge of the plinth, front:}

Festubert 1915

Loos, Somme 1916 1918

Flanders Courcelette

{On the right face:}

Transloy, Messines 1917 1918

Ypres 1917 1918

Cambrai 1917

St. Quentin, Albert 1918

Ancre 1918 Bapaume 1918

Selle {On the back face:} Doiran 1917 Lys, Kemmel, Gaza, Nebi, Samwil, Jerusalem.





Cecil Charles Long 1898 - 1918 younger son of Edwin and Marion Long

Newspaper report 1918

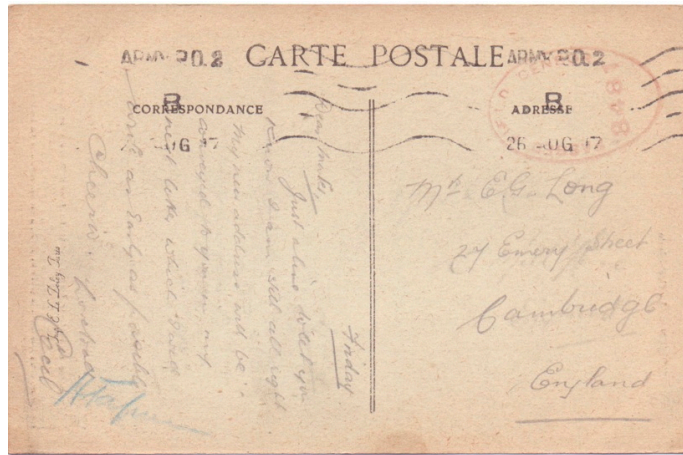
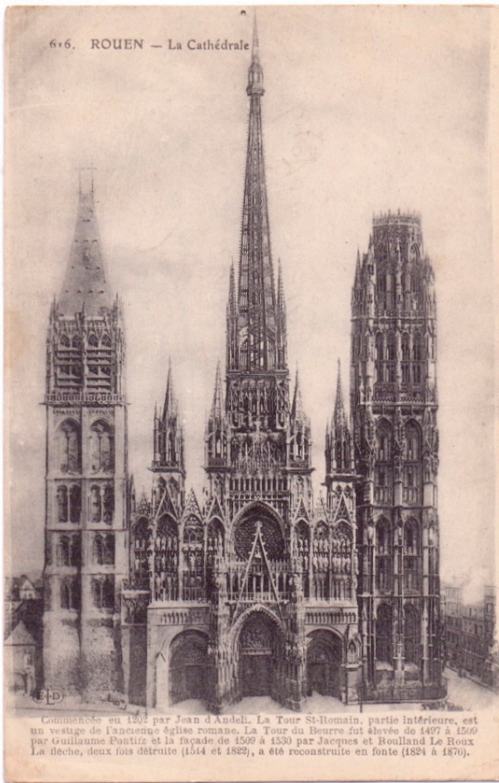
Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Long, 27, Emery Street, Cambridge, have received news that their second surviving son, Rifleman Cecil C. Long, aged 20, has died of wounds in France, being shot in the back and spine on September 1st. He lingered in hospital at Wimereaux until October 9th. He was educated at the Cambridge Higher Grade School, and was later employed in the office of the Surveyor of Taxes.



Cecil was a talented young man. He loved to act and to paint. This small oil painting hung on my mother's wall. It was painted in 1913 when he was 15 years old. We only discovered the signature on the back when we cleared the family home in 2009.

Cecil as Mr Pickwick in a Cambridge production of Pickwick v Bardell c1913





This postcard, sent to his mother, was found in an envelope with one from his brother Arthur. It was sent from France in August 1917.

It reads

Friday

Dear Mates,

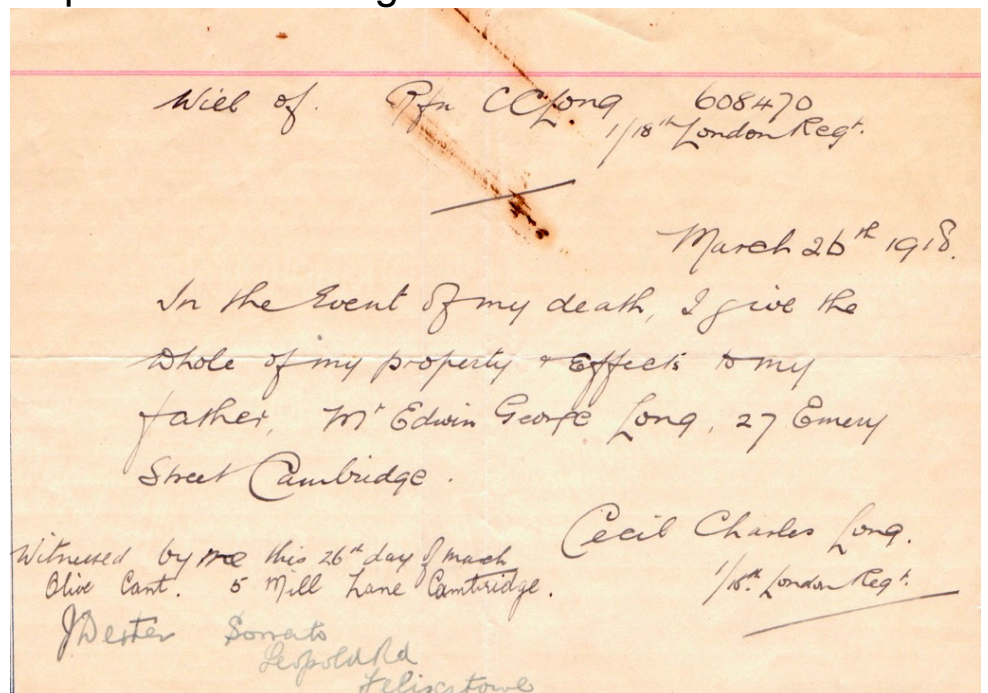
Just a line to let you know I am still all right. My new address will be conveyed to you in my next letter which I will write as early as possible.

Cheerio

Love to all

Cecil

In March 1918 he wrote a will. Did this mean he had not been to the front yet? Had he only just completed his training?



It must have been a terrible day when when the family received this letter from the "Officer in charge of Records."

For some reason his first names have been reversed.

No. 15/6220
(If replying, please quote above No.)

ARMY FORM B. 104-82b.

Infantry Record Office,
4, LONDON WALL BLDGS., E.C.

9-10-1918

Sir,

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of:-

(No.) 608470 (Rank) Rifleman

(Name) Charles Cecil Long

(Regiment) 18th BATTN., LONDON REGT.

which occurred at 114th Stationary Hospital Wimereux on the 9th October 1918

The report is to the effect that he Died of wounds received in Action

By His Majesty's command I am to forward the enclosed message of sympathy from Their Gracious Majesties the King and Queen. I am at the same time to express the regret of the Army Council at the soldier's death in his Country's service.

I am,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
G. F. Bartlett Major
Officer in charge of Records.

18908. Wt. 15148/M 1365. 40m. 2/17. R. & L., Ltd. P.T.O.



Maybe one day I will go and see his grave at Terlincthun British Cemetery Wimille, France I don't know if his parents ever got there.

Sources - Original letters, postcards and documents found in a metal cash box in a cousin's loft.
Grave photos - Commonwealth War Graves Commission