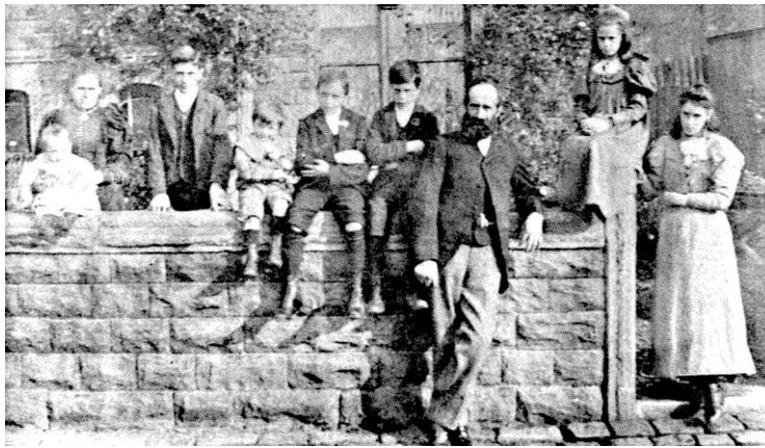


James Arthur Longworth

(c1895 – 23rd July 1917)

(shown as Longwith on original memorial and now incorrectly as James Albert on the present memorial)

The first mention of James was on the 1901 census, aged 6, living with his family at 20 Croft Road, in St Peter's parish, Halliwell. Croft Road is what is now known as Smithills Croft Road. His father Henry is a stone mason in a bleachworks, his mother was Margaret Ann (nee Aspin) and he had four brothers and three sisters. His eldest brother Thomas was a fitter in an iron works, his eldest sister Jane was a maker up in a bleachworks. Other siblings were working as an apprentice pattern maker, cotton weaver and apprentice blacksmith



This picture shows the Longworth family outside their home at 20 Smithills Croft Road, Smithills probably in 1899. James is likely to be the second child from the left sitting on the wall. Others in the photo are his sisters and brothers together with his mother and father. Brother Thomas is not pictured.

His father, a stone mason, is believed to have built the house they lived in as there is a planning application in the archives of the Bolton Library Local Studies.



'Spring Glen 1889' - 18 Smithills Croft Road, Smithills

By 1911 the family (of eight) were living at 18 Smithills Croft Road. James' mother does not now appear on the Census. Henry has remarried (the Census says they

had been married less than a year). The new wife is Elizabeth ten years younger than his first wife. James, a single man, is working as an apprentice joiner in a bleachworks. Thomas and Jane do not appear on the census. One sibling continues to work as a pattern maker, one as a “doorman or nailer—on for shoeing smith”, one as an apprentice mechanic in a bleachworks, one is a scholar and, living with them is Elizabeth’s sister Jane Aspin.

The Attestation for James is dated 26th August 1915, when he was 20 years of age. He enlisted in Bolton with the 419th (West Lancashire) Field Company of the Royal Engineers, which with his trade background as a joiner seems appropriate. 419th in 1916 became part of the 55th Division of the Royal Engineers.



On his Commemoration by the War Graves Commission he was described as the son of Henry and E Longworth, of 58 Elgin Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancashire. He was a sapper when he died in action on 23rd July 1917, aged 22 years. He is

remembered at the Hop Store Cemetery (named after an old hop store, the ruins of which are still visible) which is near to Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, in Belgium.

The Bolton Journal of 10 August 1917 includes a memorial from his 'Mother and Gertrude' which read "Longworth – Killed in action on July 23rd. Sapper James A Longworth, Royal Engineers, 18 Smithills Croft rd, aged 22. Thy will be done". The mother is likely to be his step mother whilst 'Gertrude' was his sister. (mother of Fred Heys who has provided much valued help with this research).

The Bolton Journal of 17th August 1917 reports that:

"prior to enlisting James worked at Messrs R and H. Ainsworth's bleachworks, Halliwell. It reports that Sapper James A Longworth, whose home address is 18 Croft Road, Bolton has been killed in action.



He was connected with Albert Place Football Club and Smithills Cricket Club." He is reported as also being on the Roll of Honour at Albert Place, Smithills Chapel and St Paul's School, Halliwell.

In Memory of
Sapper

James Arthur Longworth

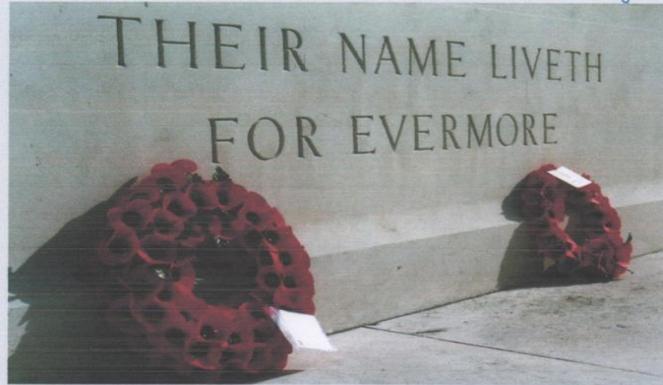
430274, 419th (West Lancs.) Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 23 July 1917 Age 22

Son of Henry and E. Longworth, of 58, Elgin Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancashire.

Remembered with Honour

Hop Store Cemetery

*Lepo, West-Vlaanderen,
Belgium*



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission