

Lance Corporal Amos Sydney Lenton

Regimental number: 16181

7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

born: 1896 - died: 30 April 1916

Lance Corporal Amos Sydney Lenton was born in 1896 and baptised in Gretton, Northamptonshire on 9 August 1896.¹ He was the son of Ephraim and Elizabeth Lenton. Ephraim was born in about 1865 near Uppingham, Rutland² and his wife, the former Elizabeth Warner, was born in 1866, near Gretton, Northamptonshire.³ Ephraim and Elizabeth were married in the district of Uppingham, Rutland in 1886.⁴ They had seven children, all of whom survived to 1911: Mary (born in about 1889), Phoebe (born in about 1891), Hilda (born in about 1894), Sydney, Leonard (born in about 1899), Joseph (born in about 1901) and William (born in about 1904).⁵

In 1891, Ephraim and Elizabeth were living with her parents, Thomas and Emma Warner, at Sanctuary End in Gretton.⁶ Their first two children were living with them. By 1901, they were living on their own, still in Gretton, where Ephraim was an ironstone labourer.⁷ In 1911, the whole family was still living in Gretton and Sydney, age 15, was a farm labourer.⁸

Sydney enlisted in the Northamptonshire Regiment in Kettering, Northamptonshire. The 7th Battalion of the Regiment landed in France in early September 1915⁹ and Sydney joined the Battalion on 29 December 1915.¹⁰ Sadly he died just four months later.

In April 1916, his Battalion was stationed near Wulverghem in Belgium.¹¹ In the last days of the month there was artillery fire of their position causing casualties. Perhaps Sydney was wounded in one of these attacks because he died of wounds at the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 30 April.¹² Sydney lost two comrades from his battalion the same day: Private Alfred William Ludlow and Lance Corporal Harold Pickford.

Sydney was a Baptist. He was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 120).¹³ Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border and just about six miles from Wulverghem. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including the 1st Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.¹⁴

A letter was sent to his mother, who was living at 122 Stamford Road in Kettering, to notify her of his death.¹⁵ She also received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.¹⁶

Sydney 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).¹⁷ He is also honoured on the Gretton War Memorial.¹⁸

It does not appear that his younger brothers served in the Great War.¹⁹ His father, Ephraim, died in Kettering the year after Sydney's death²⁰ and it is possible that his mother died just four years later.²¹

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- ¹ "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813-1912," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 August 2015), entry for Amos Sydney Lenton, Register Type: Parish Registers
- ² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 August 2015), entry for Ephraim Lenton, Registration district: Uppingham, Inferred County: Rutland, Volume: 7a, Page: 242
- ³ "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813-1912," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 August 2015), entry for Elizabeth Warner, Register Type: Parish Registers
- ⁴ "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 31 August 2015), entry for Ephraim Lenton, District: Uppingham, County: Rutland, Volume: 7A, Page: 549
- ⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2015), entry for Sydney Lenton, Registration district: Uppingham, Registration District Number: 410, Sub-registration district: Uppingham, ED, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 19401
- ⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2015), entry for Ephraim Lentin, Registration district: Uppingham, ED, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 2549 Folio: 71, Page Number: 6
- ⁷ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2015), entry for Sydney Lenton, Registration district: Uppingham, Sub-registration district: Uppingham, ED, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 3016, Folio: 78, Page Number: 15, Household schedule number: 110
- ⁸ "1911 England Census," entry for Sydney Lenton
- ⁹ "The Northamptonshire Regiment," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/northants.htm>; accessed 26 August 2015)
- ¹⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 August 2015), entry for Sydney Lenton
- ¹¹ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2015), Regiment or Unit: Northamptonshire Regiment, Sub Unit: 7th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary Entry Start Date: 1915, Diary Dates: 1915 Aug - 1919 Jun, Piece Description: Piece 2218/2: 7 Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (1915 Aug - 1919 Jun), Piece Number: 2218
- ¹² The 1st CCCS chaplains' journal indicates that he died on 29 April, however, all other military records indicate that he died on 30 April. "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 IIIC10, volume 4556, Record number 73
- ¹³ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org; accessed 17 August 2015), entry for Lenton, S., Service No: 16181
- ¹⁴ "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>; accessed 5 August 2015)
- ¹⁵ "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 IIIC10, volume 4556, Record number 73
- ¹⁶ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 August 2015), entry for Sydney Lenton
- ¹⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for Sydney Lenton
- ¹⁸ "Gretton War Memorial," Roll of Honour: Northamptonshire (<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Northamptonshire/Gretton.html>; accessed 31 August 2015)
- ¹⁹ Their names are not listed on the Gretton War Memorial, which does list those who served and returned, as well as those who died. "Gretton War Memorial"
- ²⁰ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 August 2015), entry for Ephraim Lenton, Registration district: Kettering, Inferred County: Northamptonshire, Volume: 3b, Page: 187
- ²¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 August 2015), entry for Elizabeth Lenton, Registration district: Kettering, Inferred County: -, Volume: 3b, Page: 186