

ARMSTRONG, Athole Langford



Lieutenant Athole L. Armstrong
Union Force, Natal, South Africa
AI-46365 HAC Journal (Vol.12, No.4) April 1915 p.33

Athole Langford Armstrong was born about 1886 to parents George Shearer Armstrong and Emily Armstrong. Athole had at least one brother, D'Urban Victor Armstrong, born in 1897. The family lived in Inanda, Natal, South Africa and George was a member of the Natal Legislative Assembly.

Athole entered HAC, aged 16, in 1902. He took a series of Practical Courses on the Farm, Carpenter, Blacksmith, and Experimental Plots. Athole won the Special Book Prize in 1902 for Best Work Blacksmith, and left HAC in 1903.

The January 1904 Journal reported that Athole had sailed for England in December for a three month stay and was then going home to Inanda, Phoenix Station, in Natal. Later the Journal says Athole purchased a College-bred boar and planted four acres of *paspalum dilitatum* grass from the College.

The May 1915 Journal reported Athole, know as "Strong" at the College, was a Lieutenant with the Union Forces, South Africa.

Athole enlisted in the 8th South African Horse and was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain. Athole's next of kin is listed as his wife, Edith Emily Armstrong. Edith "...of Empangeni, Zululand, South Africa, [wrote] to the Principal conveying the sad news of the death of her husband, Captain A.L. Armstrong, of the Union Forces. Having sustained an injury to his knee during the hostilities in German East Africa, he proceeded to England to undergo an operation. A clot of blood, formed owing to an attack of Malaria in East Africa, rushed to the heart when the anaesthetic was given, causing his death..." (HAC Journal August 1919 p.105).

Athole died on 25 November 1918 in London, aged 33 and is buried at Little Barford (St.Denys) Churchyard, Bedfordshire, England.

D'Urban Victor Armstrong, qualified as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps on 12 February 1916. Promoted to Captain in the 151st Squadron, Royal Air Force, and recipient of a Distinguished Flying Cross, he was "Killed while stunting" on 13 November 1918, aged 21 years old, and is buried at Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France (<http://www.southafricawargraves.org/search/details.php?id=664>).