

**Frank Golland**  
**Private**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Btn Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)**  
**Service no. 5893**



Date of birth	Died of wounds	Age
1896	28 July 1916	20yrs <sup>1</sup>

**Background: Frank Golland**

Frank Golland was one of 7 children born to William Bellamy Golland, an iron founder from Newark (1869 - 1938) and Ann Blundy Golland (née West) b. Collingham (1866-1928). The family moved to Collingham from Newark around 1892. They lived on Low Street in a 5-roomed cottage since demolished (see photo p3). This was two doors up from the Bagleys. Charles Bagley and Frank would have been school chums (see C. Bagley KIA 1918).

The 1911 census revealed William and Ann had been married for 22 years and had 6 of their 7 children still living:

William Bellamy Golland	42yrs	Iron Moulder <sup>2</sup>	b Newark	c1869
Ann Blundy Golland	46yrs		b. Collingham	c 1866

<b>Frank Golland</b>	<b>15yrs</b>	<b>Farm Labourer</b>	<b>b. Collingham</b>	<b>1896</b>
Ernest Golland.	11 yrs	School & Newsboy	b. Collingham	(1900-1930)
Albert Golland	9 yrs		b. Collingham	c1902 [died 1956 N. Collingham] <sup>3</sup>
Lucy Ellen Golland	5yrs		b. Collingham	c1906

They also had a long-term lodger, Ann's brother, Fred West, living with them. Not shown on the 1911 census:

Charles Golland	b. N Collingham	1893 – d. 1964 <sup>4</sup>	(oldest brother)
Ethel Annie Golland	b. Newark	1889 <sup>5</sup> m. George Templeman	d. 1968 (oldest child)

In 1915, Frank was working in Bradford as a fellmonger's labourer (a fellmonger being someone who works with hides in the tanning industry). His address was 5, Vine Street, a small terrace house in Great Horton, Bradford.

<sup>1</sup> Frank is given as '20' on records. His birth was registered Jan-March 1896 baptised Dec 1897 N Collingham  
<sup>2</sup> East Trent Genealogy website  
<sup>3</sup> ibid  
<sup>4</sup> ibid  
<sup>5</sup> Ethel married George Templeman of N Collingham in 1911 (Source: ETG)

## Military History: Pte. Frank Golland

Frank Golland's attestation paper shows he enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellingtons (West Riding) Regiment in January 1916, just before conscription came in to force, and was then in training until June. Details show that he was 5'6'' and had a chest measurement of 36''. On June 20<sup>th</sup> he was sent as part of the British Expeditionary Forces (service number 5893) to the Front – and straight into the infamous Battle of the Somme.

### The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

The regiment has a long history dating back to 1702. Its 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion remained in India throughout the war but its 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and service battalions all served on the Western Front. The 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion was raised in Halifax in 1914. It landed in France in May 1915 and was part of the 147<sup>th</sup> Brigade/49<sup>th</sup> (West Yorkshire) Division.

**The Battle of the Somme (1 July to 18 November 1916)** was the second of two Allied offensives in that year. Initially intended to be a mainly French attack (with British diversionary attacks elsewhere), the continuing German attacks on Verdun were, as designed, draining French resources. The British-led assault on well-prepared German defensive lines on the Somme commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July with 750,000 men (80% British) and is chiefly renown for the 57,450 British casualties on the first day, one third of whom died. Many were killed as soon as they stepped out of their trenches before commencing the slow advance over no-man's land, laden down with supplies. It took until 11<sup>th</sup> July for the first line of German trenches to be secured.

Sir Douglas Haig (commander of the British Expeditionary Forces) was heavily criticised. Some argue that his inflexible approach repeated previously flawed tactics, led to the loss of so many men and entire battalions being wiped out. Others argue that he had no choice, in order to relieve the French at Verdun. Whoever was at fault, it was largely the northern 'pals' battalions that bore the brunt of these flawed tactics.

Pte Golland was wounded on either 3<sup>rd</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> July (see below) and died on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

### From the Newark Advertiser:

*'William and Ann Golland of Fleet Street<sup>6</sup>, North Collingham, learned that their second son Frank, only 20, was killed barely a month after arriving in France. One letter told them he was wounded on 3 July and died on 28 July; another missive reported he was wounded on 25 July. It gave an inkling of the chaos prevalent in the battleground known as the Somme. The only thing they were sure of was that he did not go to France until 20 June. Private 5893 Golland was finally officially listed as having died on 28 July.'*<sup>7</sup>

If Frank Golland had been wounded on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, this would have been during the Battle of Albert (1<sup>st</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> July). If later, he would have been engaged in the Battle of Bazentin Ridge (July 14-17) and then the Battle of Pozières Ridge (July 23<sup>rd</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup>) when the fatal wound was (possibly) sustained.

<sup>6</sup> Fleet Street =Low Street

<sup>7</sup> Research from Newark Advertiser c/o Trevor Frecknall p 68

**Pte. F. Golland is remembered in the British Cemetery at Puchevillers, a village about 19km from Amiens**

**CWGC: Plot No: II B 31**



*Left: Pte Frank Golland's grave in France. His headstone reads 'In memory of our dear boy Frank'*

*Courtesy of the Duke of Wellington's Regimental Museum archives, Halifax.*

**Frank Golland is also remembered on:  
North Collingham - All Saints Church -  
Cross War Memorial as Frank GOLLAND  
Pte. Duke of Wellingtons Regt.**

**North Collingham - All Saints Church –**

**Frank Golland's name also appears on the  
Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Roll of  
Honour website here:**

**<http://www.dwr.org.uk/ww1-casualty-list/>**

**Right:** *The Gollands lived in a since-demolished property behind 'Fleet Cottage' 32 Low Street - the grassed-over foundations of which can still be seen in the garden. Photo: April 2018*



*With thanks to Jeremy Lodge for his initial research on Frank Golland in 2014 which included the following sources:*

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/511302/GOLLAND,%20FRANK>

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/People/Details/2294>

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/battles/somme.htm> Accessed 25/08/2014

Young, P. Calvert, M (1977) *A Dictionary of Battles (1816-1976)* New English library

#### Additional Research 2017/2018

#### Sources:

Trevor Frecknall: 'Collingham and District in the Great War' pub. 2015 (limited print run)

East Trent Genealogy database: [www.easttrentgenealogy.co.uk/](http://www.easttrentgenealogy.co.uk/)

Census Returns 1871-1911

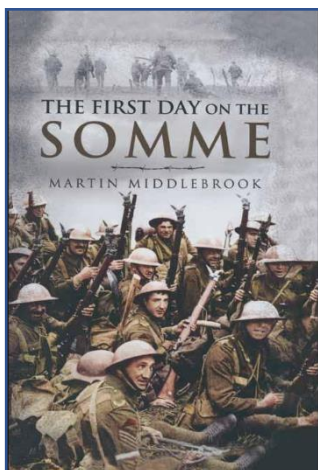
Frank Golland's Attestation Papers available to view on Ancestry.co.uk

Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regimental Association website: [www.dwr.org.uk](http://www.dwr.org.uk)

With many thanks to Richard Harvey of the DOW for permission to use the Duke of Wellington logo.

#### Further Reading:

The First Day of the Somme by Martin Middlebrook (1971)



This is the definitive account of the first day of the Battle of the Somme on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916. Middlebrook's masterly prose takes the reader through the doomed offensive by following a handful of soldiers whose lives he painstakingly researched. Battalions mentioned in detail include those of the Lincolnshire Regiment and the West Yorkshire battalions.

#### Visit: Duke of Wellington's Regimental Museum in Halifax, Yorkshire

Bankfield Museum, Boothtown Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 6HG.

Telephone: 01422 352334

Open: Tuesday to Saturday and Bank Holiday Mondays 10AM – 4PM.

Closed: Mondays, 25th December – 1st of January.

Admission and Parking is Free



HP 10/4/2018

