

HOLLAND FAMILY



Family History

The Holland brothers were the grandchildren of John Holland, a convict who arrived at Fremantle on the *Minden* on the 14th October 1851, and Elizabeth Dack, a young woman from a Poor House who migrated as a servant in 1849. They married on the 10th November 1853 in the Wesleyan Chapel, Perth, and had seven children: Elizabeth Jane, William Holland (1855-1856), Charles (1856 – 1922), William/Fredrick (1858 -?), Emma (1859 -1860), John William (1860-1886), Mary Anne (1863- 1953) and Walter (1865-1903).

Charles, the second son, was born in Perth but died in York on the 2nd June 1922. Charles was a coachman, well sinker and borer who drank heavily. According to family legend, he worked hard and played hard.

Charles lived in “mutual affection” with Jane Lomas, an Aboriginal woman. Jane Lomas was reportedly the daughter of George Lomas, a Ticket of Leave convict. She had a sister, or half-sister, known as Dangin Millie who is buried on “Korrawilla” farm at Greenhills but, unfortunately, little more is known about her.

The couple had eleven children, including five sons who were baptised in Beverley Church. There was William, John Maitland, Charles and Frederick. Jane is thought to have died during the birth of another son, Geoffrey, in 1906, but records list Jane Holland as dying in Beverley in 1908, two years’ later.

The children of Charles Holland worked as a family unit clearing land around Quairading. *'The Golden Grain and the Silver fleece: A History of Quairading 1859-1930'* makes reference to the Hollands as great workers who were in high demand around the district.



HOLLAND

William

Service No: 7755



Basic Information

Name: William Holland

Service Number: 7755

Date of Enlistment: 18/6/1917

Age at Enlistment: 32 years

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 Ft 8 inches

Weight: 143 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Fair

Father: Charles Holland

Mother: Jane Lomas

Siblings: Walter, Maud, Frederick, Alexander, John Maitland, Ruby, Beatrice, Jane, Geoffrey, Charles.

Life Story

William signed on with the 16th Battalion in June 1917, signing his own name on the paperwork, unlike his brother, Frederick. He embarked from Sydney on the *A7 Medic* on the 1st August 1917, bound for Codford Training Camp in England.

On the 16th January 1918, William proceeded overseas to Havre. He fought for six months on the Western Front and was mortally wounded at the Battle of Amiens on the 8th August 1918, whilst attacking a German position near the Somme River.

There is an account of his death in the Red Cross records on the Australian War Memorial website. It says...

"We were in a sunken road outside Morlancourt. William went over the bank, came back and said he had been hit. I cut off his tunic and could see he was hit in the chest and lungs. He gave me his pay book and said I think I'm done for. The medics came and took him away and we never saw him again"

5000 Australians were killed or wounded on that day.

William is buried at Vignacourt Cemetery in France.



William and John Holland

Courtesy of the Holland family



HOLLAND

John Maitland

Service No: 2927A



Basic Information

Name: John Holland

Service Number: 2927

Date of Enlistment: 7/8/1916

Age at Enlistment: 19 years 1 month

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 Ft 9 ½ inches

Weight: 142 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Charles Holland

Mother: Jane Lomas

Siblings: Walter, William, Maud, Frederick, Alexander, Ruby, Beatrice, Jane, Geoffrey, Charles.



John Holland

Courtesy of the Holland Family

Life Story

John was not yet twenty when he enlisted in the 51st Battalion in August 1916.

He left Fremantle aboard the HMT *A8 Argyllshire* in November and arrived in Devonport, England, on the 10th January 1917.

On the 20th March, John proceeded overseas to France to join the 51st Battalion. With the Battalion, he took part in the attack on Messines Ridge between the 7th and 12th June and, in July, the Battalion relieved the 14th Battalion on the Front Line.

From August 11th, the Battalion was engaged in fatigue work around Kemmel and Wulverghem, in Belgium. This involved activities such as digging support trenches and laying cables and wiring. Although they were not “going over the top,” the men were working in an area near the Front Line which sometimes came under attack.

On the 23rd September, John was working with his unit to prepare a casualty clearing station along the Menin Road, near Passchendaele, when they were shelled. He was severely wounded and died of his wounds a few hours later. John had been at the Front for only five months.

His memorial scroll was received by his sister, as his father had passed away.



HOLLAND

Frederick

Service No: 3940



Basic Information

Name: Frederick Holland

Service Number: 3940

Date of Enlistment: 2/8/1917

Age at Enlistment: 24 years 1 month

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 Ft 4 inches

Weight: 120 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Charles Holland

Mother: Jane Lomas

Siblings: Walter, William, Maud, Alexander, John Maitland, Ruby, Beatrice, Jane, Geoffrey, Charles.

Life Story

Frederick Holland was born at Greenhills around 1891. He enlisted on the 2nd August 1917, at the age of twenty-four years, stating his occupation as farmhand and listing his father as Next of Kin. Frederick could not read or write and had to sign his enlistment papers with a cross.

Frederick embarked from Fremantle on the 9th November 1917, bound for the Middle East. He had initially signed on as a Trooper with the 10th Light Horse Regiment but then transferred as part of the Reinforcements to the Imperial Camel Corps (I.C.C) which had been formed in January 1916 to deal with pro-Turkish Senussi tribesmen in Egypt's Western Desert.

In late 1916, the I.C.C. was transferred to the Sinai Desert to take part in operations against the Turkish army. Here the battalions of the I.C.C. fought alongside Australian Light Horse units at Romani, Maghaba and Rafa.

The men of the I.C.C. had a rough reputation as, when the Corps was originally formed, Australian battalion commanders had seized upon it as an opportunity to offload some of their more difficult characters. In 1917, a British supply dump at Rafa was warned to double their guards because the I.C.C. was going to be camped nearby!

The men of the ICC were, however, resourceful and effective. While defending a hill called Musallabeh in April 1918, some Australians of the I.C.C. ran out of hand grenades. They resorted to heaving boulders down upon the attacking Turks and eventually fought them off.

Frederick received a gunshot wound to his right leg at Rafa in 1918 and had to be stretchered out by camel. The journey took two days, and he spent twelve weeks in the 14th General Hospital at Port Said.

After being discharged from hospital, Frederick transferred to the 2nd Light Horse Regiment.

During his time with the Light Horse, Frederick took part in battles at Mughher Ridge, Jerusalem, Jaffa and Amman. However, he contracted malaria and, after being discharged from hospital, was sent to a convalescent depot at Boulac.

Frederick Holland returned to Australia aboard the *PT Sydney* in March 1919 after being granted “early repatriation.”

After the War, he continued to clear and fence land around the Kwolyin area, where he was remembered for coming into town and spending all his money at the local hotel before heading back out to his job.

In 1950, Frederick applied for a disability pension from the Department of Repatriation to compensate for the effects of gunshot wounds he sustained during his time in the army.

Frederick died at Pantapin in 1950 while out fencing. His sister-in-law, Isabel Holland, went looking for him after he failed to return from a job. She found him dead inside his tent. He had apparently died of pneumonia. Frederick was believed to be fifty-seven years of age.

HOLLAND

Charles

Family stories state that Charles joined the Army in Sydney and went to Gallipoli, where he was reportedly wounded and never seen again. This is mentioned in a letter from Charles Holland Senior in 1920.

There is no record of Charles Junior joining the Army, but a lot of people joined under false names, sometimes to avoid trouble with the police, and this could possibly be Charles' story. He was presumed to have died at Gallipoli.

Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Clarke, Cathy

Descendants of the Holland family

Harvey, Heather

Gerloff, Helen

Silhouette by Michelle Bateman

References

National Archives of Australia. 2018. *Discovering Anzacs*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au> [Accessed 3 January 2018].

Department of Justice. 2018. *Searching Western Australian Online Indexes*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx>. [Accessed 3 January 2018].

National Library of Australia. 2018. *Trove*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>. [Accessed 3 January 2018].

National Library of Australia. 2018. *Trove*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/148577975?browse=ndp%3Abrowse%2Ftitle%2FE%2Ftitle%2F734%2F1915%2F10%2F15%2Fpage%2F18162272%2Farticle%2F148577975> [Accessed 8 March 2018].

Published 2019 by the Western Australian Museum. 49 Kew Street, Welshpool, Western Australia 6106 museum.wa.gov.au

W.A. Museum. 1919. *No Less Worthy*. [ONLINE]. Available at: https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/docs/default-source/aboriginal-history/no-less-worthy.pdf?sfvrsn=c319d84c_2