

Frank Pollard (1893 – 1932)

Frank Pollard was one of ten children born to Theodore and Priscilla Pollard. He was not quite four years old when his mother died.

He attended Kildwick School and then worked as a warp twister and was said to be very keen on sport.

Called up almost immediately after he volunteered, Frank was sent to France. He appears to have been quite a rebel as it is recorded that he was arrested by the Military Police and was absent without leave three times.

Severe wounds to his right leg, which had to be amputated, ended his military service. Returning to the local area, Frank lived with his sister Martha Ann and her husband. He died in 1932.



Pre-war life

Frank Pollard was born in Farnhill on 15th March 1893, the fifth son of a large local family. It appears that he was named after an older brother who had died in 1891.

His father was Theodore Pollard, born Farnhill in 1854; his mother, Priscilla, born in Glusburn, also in 1854, was the illegitimate daughter of Margaret Brown – who married James Walmsley in 1856.

After Frank was born a further son completed the family, with Theodore and Priscilla having a total of 10 children altogether:

- William; b. 17/7/1882
- Frank; b. 29/6/1883, d. 26/3/1891
- John; b. 18/5/1885
- Martha Ann; b. 20/6/1887
- James Scarborough Theodore Pollard; b. 28/6/1889
- Sarah Margaret; b. 1/1/1891, d. 1892
- *Frank*; b. 15/3/1893
- Harry; b. 28/11/1894
- two others, names unknown, who died prior to 1911

Priscilla Pollard died, in Farnhill, on 24th February 1897 and was buried in Kildwick churchyard three days later. She was aged 42 or 43; Frank was not quite four years old.

The 1901 census gave the family's address as 42 Main Street. Frank was attending Kildwick school.



Main Street, High Farnhill, showing number 42
(Photograph courtesy of Farnhill and Kildwick Local History Group)

The family later moved to the Arbour, sometime between 1906 and 1911.

The 1911 census recorded Frank, aged 18 and living with his father and some of his siblings at Arbour Top. He was recorded as being employed as a "Warp Twister" in a cotton mill.

Frank appears to have been keen on sport. He was a member of the Kildwick Albion Cricket Club team that won the local league Second Division cup in 1913, and was elected to the club's management committee at its Annual Meeting in January 1915.



The Kildwick Albion Cricket Club Second Division cup-winning team, 1913.

No key to this photograph is known to exist and so it is not possible to say which of the players is Frank Pollard
From the Farnhill & Kildwick Local History Group archive

He was also elected to the committee of Kildwick Old Boys' Football Club in July 1914.

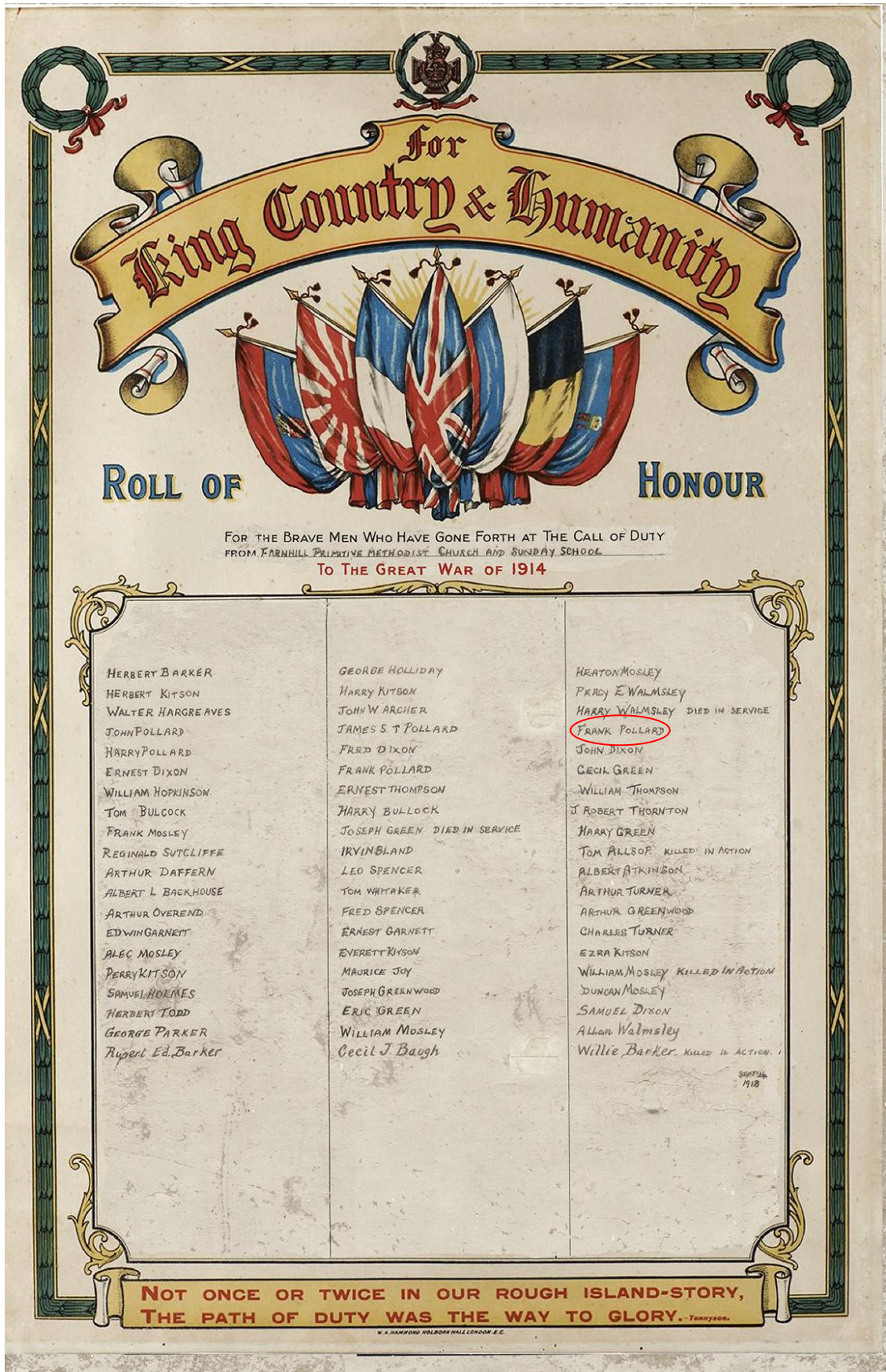
WW1 service

Frank Pollard attested his willingness to serve on 7th February 1916. This date is between the vote confirming the introduction of mandatory conscription by Parliament, at the end of January 1916, and the start of conscription in the Spring.

He was called-up almost immediately, and on 2nd April 1916 began his training with the York and Lancaster Regiment – the regiment in which his older brother John was already serving.

Frank began his service in France on 21st June 1916, immediately prior to the start of the Somme offensive on 1st July.

Frank's name was recorded on Farnhill Methodist Chapel's Roll of Honour, which also includes the names of his brothers – John, Harry and James. This was unveiled on 9th July 1916, by which time he was already serving in France.



The digitally-restored Farnhill Methodist Roll of Honour (1916)

On 20th September 1916 Frank sustained a gunshot wound to the right thigh and was brought home to England for hospital treatment. He did not return to France until February 1918.

Frank does not appear to have been a good patient. His military record lists three occasions when he was absent without leave:

- For 24 hours on 4th September 1917
- For eight days in October 1917 – until he was arrested by the Military Police
- For four days in February 1918 – immediately prior to being sent back to France

Place	Date of offence	Rank	Company	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment awarded	Date of award or of order dispensing with trial
Cleisburne	4/9/17	Pte		Absence without leave from 9.30 am till 9.30 pm 5/9/17 (24 hrs)	Cpl Jordan Documentary Lt. Pringle Pte. Griffin	7 days C/B.	8/9/17
Ripon	3-10-17	Pte		absent without leave from 10.30 am till 11.15 am 10/10/17 12.30 pm 11/10/17 1.15 pm 12/10/17 2 days	Cpl. Curdell Cpl. Curdell Cpl. Curdell Cpl. Curdell	14 days C/B.	13/10/17
Rugby	8-2-18	Pte		overstaying special leave from 10.30 am till 11.15 am 12/2/18 1.15 pm 13/2/18 4 days	Cpl. Curdell Cpl. Curdell Cpl. Curdell	14 days C/B.	13/2/18

An extract from Frank Pollard's Conduct Sheet
Used under licence from the National Archive

During his time back in England, Frank paid a visit to his old school. This was recorded in the school log by the headmaster Thomas Appleby.

Sep. 13. Pte F. Pollard, an old scholar on leave from France, called at school to-day.

Entry in Kildwick School Log – 13th September 1917
Reproduced by kind permission of Kildwick School

On 19th February 1918, Frank return to his unit in France where, on 26th July 1918, he was wounded again. The circumstances of this were recorded in the 2/4th battalion York and Lancaster Regiment war diary:

July 26th 9pm – Battalion moved from COURTAGNON WOOD and formed up for the attack along the line between ESPILLY and the BOIS d'AULNAY relieving the 6th Bn. Seaforth Highlanders. On the way up a severe blast of shelling at POURCY caused several casualties in the HQ Company.

Frank must have been among the casualties mentioned, as his military record recorded that he sustained gunshot wounds in both legs. These injuries were serious and he was hospitalised. This news was reported in the local press (Craven Herald, 23/8/1918):

FARNHILL

News of the Wounded – Mrs. S. Tillotson, of Arbour House, Farnhill, has received notice that her brother, Private Frank Pollard, of the York and Lancaster Regiment, is badly wounded in both legs. He was brought to the War Hospital in Glasgow where his right leg was amputated below the knee. His left leg is progressing favourably. Private Pollard was wounded in the thigh of the right leg about eighteen months ago, the wound not yet being properly healed.

On 12th September 1919 Frank Pollard was given indefinite leave from his regiment.

Only for use with Men returning from an Expeditionary Force from Garrison Abroad. Army Form W. 3016. (in Booklet 200)

No. 14134, Date 12 Sep 1919

* (1) To the Officer i/c Records } his 2 York

* (2) The Officer Commanding } C

* (3) The Paymaster }

* Strike out that which is inapplicable

Regimental No. 242070

Rank and Name Pollard F.

Regiment or Corps 2/4 York & Lancs YORK

has been granted a furlough from 12/9/1919 to indefinitely

His address while on leave will be Arbour Cottage, A.C.I. Kildwich, 1009/18, Heighley, Yorks, Auth. Kildwich

Nearest Railway Station Kildwich

I consider he is fit for EXTENDED FURLOUGH

* I. DUTY

* II. COMMAND DEPOT

* III. EMPLOYMENT Graham

Officer in charge CAPT R.A.M.C. J. Graham Hospital. 2nd. N.G. HOSPITAL, LEEDS. Station.

* Strike out that which is inapplicable

Four copies to be made, and one copy sent to each Officer mentioned above, and one copy filed in the office.

In the case of men of the Royal Air Force, Royal Engineers and Army Ordnance Corps, two copies of Army Form W.3016 will be sent to the Officer in charge Records concerned and one to the Paymaster, instead of one copy to the Officer i/c Records, the Paymaster and O.C. shown in the Schedule.

(6131) Wt 3904/P1606 12,000 books 8/18 W.J.P. (E 3571)

Frank Pollard's extended leave form
Used under licence from the National Archive

Whilst recovering, in October, he paid another visit to the school – this time to give a talk to the pupils.

Oct 22 School reopened this morning to present ^{104.}
Pte Frank Pollard (MGC) an old scholar came to school this morning. He gave the children a short talk about a machine gun.

Entry in Kildwick School Log – 22nd October 1918
 Reproduced by kind permission of Kildwick School

Note: There is no evidence that Frank Pollard was ever a member of the Machine Gun Corps (MGC). He may however have been attached to a machine gun unit within his own battalion.

The amputation marked the end of Frank Pollard’s military career.

On 13th November 1919 he appeared before a military medical board. He was formally discharged from the army on the 18th and awarded a pension of £2 per week for 13 weeks; thereafter £1 per week, for life. This was to compensate for what was judged to be a 50% disablement.

Form No. S.B. 36

M.G.C. 10331

Surname (in block letters) *POLLARD* Christian Name *Frank* Regional No. *4/MP/5487*

Unit and Regiment or Corps *Yorkshire Hussars* Regt. No. *242070* Rank *Pte*

Date of Discharge *18.11.19* Year of Birth _____ Marital Status S. = Single W. = Widower M. = Married

Address *Arbourn Cottage, Farnhill, Leeds* Date of commencement of Pension *19.11.19*

Disabilities: *Sh. Rt. leg. Amp.* State whether attributable to or aggravated by Service or non-attributable:—

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Particulars of Awards for previous Service if any: **DORMANT**

AWARDS OF PENSION, GRATUITY OR WEEKLY ALLOWANCE.										
Date of Award or other Action	Degree of Disablement	Nature of Award			Weekly Rate			Period of Award		REMARKS. Note.—This column is to be used for explanatory remarks where necessary, e.g., that an award is made or revised under Article 9, or as the result of an appeal to the Tribunal, or for increase of Pension.
		Art. under which granted (and Warrant if necessary)	Whether Pension, Gratuity, or Weekly Allowance	Whether Permanent, Conditional, or Fiscal	Man	Child	% of Children under 16	From	To	
<i>6.12.19</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>1.6.19</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>20/-</i>	<i>17/-</i>	<i>1919</i>	<i>1919</i>	<i>of Grant</i>	

Extracts from Frank Pollard’s WW1 pension ledger (SB 36)
 Used under licence from the National Archive

On 31st January 1920, Frank received a Silver War Badge (number 04320) and, late in 1921, the Victory medal and British War medal due to him for his war service.

47 65

Name	Corps	Reg. No.	Rank	Date of Discharge	Cause of Discharge
POLLARD Frank	York & Lancs 4 th Bn	242070	Pte	18 11 19 39 Enlistment 4.2.16	3926 V.M. 18. 029/19. W.

Date of application (a) Badge (b) Medal

No. of File	(a) Badge	(b) Medal
	4257	"
	20	20

Address of applicant: —

Action taken *Des 9/5/52/2*

W9369—RP3794 100,000 2/19 HWV(P1096) K636
3229—HP6390 50,000 9/19

Frank Pollard's Silver War Badge card
Used under licence from the National Archive

Note: Silver War Badges (SWB), sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", were first issued in September 1916. They were awarded to men who were unable to continue in the services due to illness or wounds sustained. They were intended to be worn on civilian clothing and so counteract the practice of "white-feathering" men who had wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance.

YORK & LANCASTER

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal grant

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. Nos. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	
Regtl. No.	Rank			
242070	Pte.	POLLARD, Frank.	242070. Pte.	Discharged Physically Unfit. 18-11-19.
			1/5 York & Lanc:R.	
			2/5 : : : :	
			2/4 : : : :	

Extract from the York & Lancaster Regt. WW1 Medal Roll
Used under licence from the National Archive

Post-war life

Frank returned to his old family home in the Arbour, which was occupied by his sister, Martha Ann, and her husband Sam Tillotson.

He seems to have resumed his interest in sport. In May 1919, after the amputation but before his discharge from the army, he was elected to the committee of Kildwick Old Boys' Football Club (Craven Herald, 9/5/1919), and in January 1920 the Keighley News (30/1/1920) reported that he was to be both a committee member and the captain of Kildwick Albion Cricket Club in the coming season.

Note: It is possible, likely even, that this was a different man with the same name. In 1922 a Frank Pollard was a front-line bowler with Kildwick Albion Cricket Club and a member of the team that won the Wilberforce Cup. Difficult to imagine for someone without a full compliment of legs.

The 1921 census records him as being unemployed.

In 1926 Frank, along with his sister and brother-in-law, moved to Fernleigh, Kildwick Road, Crosshills, which is where, on 1st October 1932, he died. He was aged 39.

He was buried in a grave close to the other members of his family in Kildwick St. Andrew's graveyard.



The inscribed kerbstone of Frank Pollard's grave

Postscript

Martha Ann and Sam Tillotson continued to live in Fernleigh for a number of years, before moving to St. Andrew's Terrace.

A number of Frank's siblings are known to have had children and it is thought likely that there may be some descendants still living in the local area.

Frank Pollard – a life in summary

Born: 15/3/1893, High Farnhill
Baptised: 24/9/1893, Kildwick
Died: 1/10/1932 **Aged:** 39
Home address: Fernleigh, Kildwick Road, Crosshills

Parents

Father: Theodore; b. 16/6/1854, Farnhill; d. 15/10/1913, Farnhill
Mother: Priscilla (nee Brown, later Walmsley); b. 1854, Glusburn;
d. 24/2/1897, Farnhill; buried 27/2/1897, Kildwick
Married: 1882, Skipton (Registration district)

Siblings

William b. 17/7/1882, Farnhill; m. Ellen Cockcroft, 14/5/1910, Steeton; d. 7/9/1944, Farnhill
Frank, b. 29/6/1883, Farnhill; d. 26/3/1891, Farnhill
John; b. 18/5/1885, Farnhill; m. Ada Blanche Thomas, 9/1/1906, Skipton Registry Office;
d. 4/11/1919, Pas-de-Calais
Martha Ann; b. 20/6/1887, Farnhill; m. Sam Tillotson, 27/12/1915, Kildwick;
d. 1967, Staincliffe (Registration district)
James Scarborough Theodore; b. 28/6/1889, Farnhill; d. 7/10/1919, Farnhill
Sarah Margaret; b. 1/1/1891; d. 1892 – buried 12/1/1892
Harry; b. 28/11/1894, Farnhill;
m. Eleanor Walmsley, 19/5/1917, Methodist Chapel, Grange Road, Skipton
d. 30/10/1971, Bradley

plus two others who died prior to the 1911 census

Relationship to other volunteers

John Pollard – brother
James Scarborough Theodore Pollard – brother
Harry Pollard – brother (lived with his uncle and aunt)

WW1 service

Attested: 7/2/1916
Service period: 2/4/1916 – 18/11/1919 (discharged on medical grounds)
Regt.: York and Lancaster Regt. (Private; no. 242070)
Medals: Victory Medal, British War Medal, Silver War Badge
Home address: The Arbour, Farnhill

