

## Lance Corporal Frank Bennett<sup>©</sup>

Regimental number: 18422

1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment

**Born: abt. Oct 1890 – died: 15 March 1916**

Frank Bennett was the son of a retired soldier and was named after his father. He was born in the fourth quarter of 1890 to Frank Bennett and Louisa Blundell Bennett.<sup>1</sup> He was christened in Linchdale, Buckingham, England, on 5 October 1890.<sup>2</sup> He was one of ten children born to Frank and Louisa.<sup>3</sup> Of their ten children only one did not survive until 1911.<sup>4</sup> In the census taken that year, eight of the nine remaining children were listed as living with their parents at 7 Lady Brook Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.<sup>5</sup> Frank was one of those still at home with his parents, two brothers and five sisters, ranging in age from 22 to 1 year old.<sup>6</sup>

Frank and Louisa Bennett had married in St. Paul, Clapham, Lambeth, England, on 6 April 1885.<sup>7</sup> At the time of their marriage, Frank had been serving as a soldier in the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier guards from at least 1881.<sup>8</sup> The 1881 Census indicates that Frank was located at the North Camp, Farnborough, East Yorkshire.<sup>9</sup> Perhaps Frank was undergoing his initial training in the military at that camp. The couple lived in a number of different locations, as reflected in the places of birth of their children, as follows:

Archibald Douglas Bennett—b. 1889, Windsor<sup>10</sup>

Frank Bennett—b. 1890, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire<sup>11</sup>

Elsie Livinia Bennett—b. 1892, St. Georges, Hanover Square, London<sup>12</sup>

Lillian Winifred Bennett—b. 1895, St. Georges, Hanover Square, London<sup>13</sup>

Gladys Mildred Bennett—b. 1897, St. Georges, Hanover Square, London<sup>14</sup>

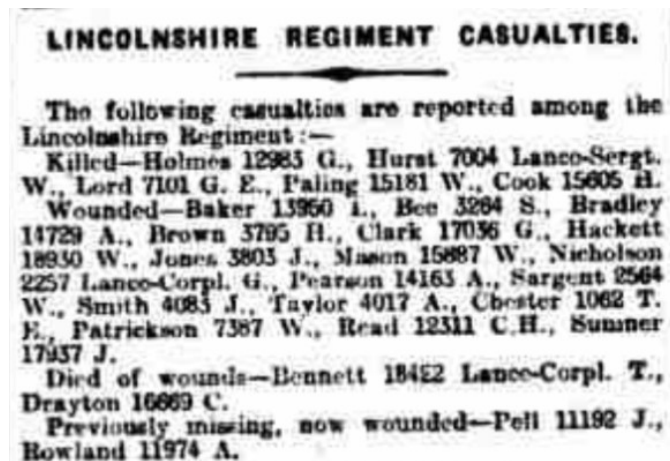
Hilda Irene B. Bennett—b. 1899, Gibraltar<sup>15</sup>

Marjorie Bennett—b. 1907, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire<sup>16</sup>

Leonard Victor Bennett—b. 1909, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire<sup>17</sup>

Early in his military career, Corporal Frank Bennett Sr. served in the Egypt War of 1882.<sup>18</sup> He remained in the army until sometime after 1901,<sup>19</sup> and by 1911 Frank Sr. was an army pensioner working as a surface colliery labourer in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.<sup>20</sup> It also appears that Frank Sr. re-enlisted to fight in WWI, as the Ancestry Fold 3 "UK, WWI Pension Ledgers and Index Cards" database for that period shows him being discharged on 14 July 1916.<sup>21</sup>

Frank Jr. enlisted as a private when war broke out in 1914.<sup>22</sup> In 1916 he was promoted to lance corporal.<sup>23</sup> He served in the 1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment<sup>24</sup> and died of a gunshot wound in the head on 15 March 1916.<sup>25</sup> He was unconscious when he was brought to the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing



Source: Newspaper clipping, *Grantham Journal*, British Newspaper Archive, Saturday, 8 April 1916, County: Lincolnshire, England.

Station and had no papers with him.<sup>26</sup> He died the same day he was admitted to the station and is buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord in Plot II, Row C, Grave 206.<sup>27</sup> He was 25 years old.<sup>28</sup>

In the documents relating to Frank Bennett's death in 1916 there are a number of inconsistencies concerning his given name. The chaplains' journal for No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station records him with the initial A. for his first name,<sup>29</sup> and in the Roll of Honour in three British newspapers in April 1916 he is listed as Lance Corporal T. Bennett, Regimental Number: 18422.<sup>30</sup> Perhaps this confusion arose because of his lack of papers when he died. The grave in the Beilleul Cemetery<sup>31</sup> clearly indicates his given name as being Frank, as do his army registers.<sup>32</sup>

Frank's older brother Archibald left England on 16 June 1913 bound for Brisbane, Australia.<sup>33</sup> He was there when hostilities broke out between Britain and Germany, a little over a year later, and enlisted with the 5th Battery, 2nd Brigade, Australian Field Artillery where he was a Bombardier.<sup>34</sup> The Australian Red Cross Society reported that Archibald was "killed on 31 July 1917 at Sanctuary Wood, near Ypres when he was caught by a shell fragment which hit him in the body, killing him instantly."<sup>35</sup> His fellow soldiers knew him as Andy.<sup>36</sup> He is buried in the Reninghelst New Military Cemetery.<sup>37</sup>

In less than 17 months, John and Louisa Bennett lost two of their three sons to the Great War.

Fortunately, their one remaining son, Leonard Victor Bennett, was too young to enlist and thus survived to marry Nellie Rudder in 1936.<sup>38</sup> He lived well into his late 50s and died in 1977.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "England & Wales Birth 1837–2006," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com): accessed 7 July, 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Date: 4th Quarter 1890, District: Leighton Buzzard, County: Bedfordshire, Volume: 38, Page: 349; "Certified copy of an entry of a birth," *General Register Office* ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Date: 1890, Volume: 38, Page 349

<sup>2</sup> "England, Select Births & Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 8 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Baptism Date: 5 October 1890, Baptism Place: Linchdale, Buckingham, England, FHL Film Number: 1967101

<sup>3</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Age: 20, District: Mansfield, County: Nottinghamshire, ED: 17

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett and Louisa Blunder, Marriage Date: 6 April 1885, Marriage Place: St. Paul, Clapham, Lambeth, England

<sup>8</sup> "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett and Louisa Blunder, Marriage Date: 6 April 1885, Marriage Place: St. Paul, Clapham, Lambeth, England; "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Age: 20, District: Hartley Wintney, Flamborough, ED: North Camp

<sup>9</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett

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- <sup>10</sup> "Certified copy of an entry of a birth," *General Register Office* ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Archibald Douglas Bennett, Windsor, Year: 1889, Volume: 02C Page 446
- <sup>11</sup> "Certified copy of an entry of a birth," *General Register Office* ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Leighton Buzzard, Year: 1890, Volume: 38, Page 349
- <sup>12</sup> "Certified copy of an entry of a birth," *General Register Office* ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Elsie Livinia Bennett, St George, Hanover Square, Year: 1892, Volume: 01A, Page 413
- <sup>13</sup> "Certified copy of an entry of a birth," *General Register Office* ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Lillian Winnifred Bennett, Year: 1895, Volume: 01A, Page 446
- <sup>14</sup> "Certified copy of an entry of a birth," *General Register Office* ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Gladys Mildred Bennett, St. George, Hanover Square, Year: 1897, Volume: 01A, Page 509
- <sup>15</sup> "GRO Army Birth Indices, 1881to 1965," *Findmypast* ([findmypast.com](http://findmypast.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Hilda Irene B. Bennett, Gibraltar, Armed Forces, Year: 1899, Page 29
- <sup>16</sup> "Certified copy of an entry of a birth," *General Register Office* ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Marjorie Evelyn Bennett, Mansfield, Year: 1907, Volume: 07B, Page 150
- <sup>17</sup> "Certified copy of an entry of a birth," *General Register Office* ([www.gro.gov.uk/gro](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Leonard Victor Bennett, Mansfield, Year: 1909, Volume: 07B, Page 165
- <sup>18</sup> "UK, Military Campaign Medal and Award Rolls, 1793–1949," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, Service Year: 1882, Place: Egypt
- <sup>19</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Age: 39, District: St. George, Hanover Square, County: London, ED: 25
- <sup>20</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Age: 50, District: Mansfield, County: Nottinghamshire, ED: 17
- <sup>21</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Regimental Number: 18422, Rank: Lance Corporal
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>25</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for A. Bennett
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> "Roll of Honour, Sheffield Daily Telegraph," *British Newspaper Archives* (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>: accessed 9 July 2019), entry for Lce. Cpl. T. Bennett, 18422, 3 April 1916, Page 4; "Lincolnshire Regiment Casualties, Lincolnshire Echo," *British Newspaper Archives* (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>: accessed 9 July 2019), entry for Lce. Cpl. T. Bennett, 18422, 3 April 1916, Page 2; "Lincolnshire Regiment Casualties, Grantham Journal," *British Newspaper Archives* (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>: accessed 9 July 2019), entry for Lce. Cpl. T. Bennett, 18422, 8 April 1916, Page 7
- <sup>31</sup> "UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914–1921 and 1939–1947," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Frank Bennett, Regimental Number: 18422, Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord
- <sup>32</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Regimental Number: 18422, Rank: Lance Corporal; "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Frank Bennett, Regimental Number: 18422, Rank: L. Corporal

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<sup>33</sup> "Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839–1923," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Archibald Bennett, age: 24, Ship: Otranto, Departure Port: Tilbury

<sup>34</sup> "UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914–1921 and 1939–1947," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Archibald Douglas Bennett, Regimental Number: 3523, Age: 29, Death Date: 31 July 1917, Cemetery: Reningheist new Military Cemetery

<sup>35</sup> "Australian Red Cross Report," *Australian War Memorial Collection* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1384177>: accessed 7 July 2019) Entry for 3623, Bombardier Bennett, Archibald Douglas, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> "UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914–1921 and 1939–1947" *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Archibald Douglas Bennett, Regimental Number: 3623, Reningheist New Military Cemetery

<sup>38</sup> "1939 England & Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Leonard V. Bennett, Residence: Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England; "England & Wales, Civil Registration, Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 7 July 2019), entry for Leonard V. Bennett, Registration District: Lancashire, Cheshire

<sup>39</sup> "England & Wales Deaths, 1837–2007," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 July 2019), entry for Leonard Victor Bennett, Death Year: 1977, District: Mansfield, County: Nottinghamshire