

**Private Ernest Goulding**  
**Regimental number: 13018**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment**

**born: 1897 - died: 29 April 1916**

Private Ernest Goulding was born in 1897 in Midsomer Norton, near Clutton in Somerset.<sup>1</sup> He was the second child of William Charles Samuel Goulding and his first wife, the former Sarah Jane Short.<sup>2</sup> William Charles (who was known as both William and Charles throughout his life) was born in 1874, also near Clutton<sup>3</sup> and his wife, Sarah Jane, was born there three years earlier.<sup>4</sup> William Charles and Jane married near Bath in 1893. Their first child – Edith May – was born in 1896<sup>5</sup> and then Ernest was born a year later. Sadly his mother died in 1898,<sup>6</sup> at the age of 27, leaving two very young children.

In 1901, when Ernest was six, he was living in Sherston, Wiltshire with Georgina Goulding,<sup>7</sup> Georgiana was the widow of his father's cousin, George Goulding. Georgiana and George had married in 1883,<sup>8</sup> but George died in 1888,<sup>9</sup> leaving Georgiana with one son, Sidney.<sup>10</sup> Ernest's older sister, Edith May, was living in Midsomer Norton with her father and her great-grandparents.<sup>11</sup> William was a railway booking clerk and his father was a tailor and beer retailer.

In 1903, Ernest's father remarried, marrying Maud Eliza Sheppard near Bath.<sup>12</sup> William Charles then had at least four children with his second wife: Henry Charles (born in 1903),<sup>13</sup> Ronald William (born in 1905),<sup>14</sup> Leslie Cyril (born in 1906 but died in 1907)<sup>15</sup> and a daughter (probably Gwendoline M.), who was born on the day the census was taken – 2 April 1911.<sup>16</sup>

Ernest's father, William, was still a railway clerk and, in 1911, the family was living at 52 Benedict Street in Glastonbury, Somerset.<sup>17</sup>

Ernest enlisted as a Private in the Dorsetshire Regiment in Charing Cross, Middlesex.<sup>18</sup> The Regiment landed in Boulogne, France on 14 July 1915.<sup>19</sup> Ernest joined the Regiment less than a month later, joining the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France on 20 August 1915.<sup>20</sup> He died about eight months later. In late April, the Battalion was stationed near Armentières, France.<sup>21</sup> This is probably where Ernest was wounded. He died at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, which was stationed in Bailleul, France, on 29 April of wounds and gas poisoning.<sup>22</sup>

Ernest was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 114).<sup>23</sup> Bailleul was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.<sup>24</sup>

A letter was sent to his father, who was then living at Park Villa, Station Road in Glastonbury, to notify him of his death and the monies owing to him by the army after the war were also sent to his father.

Ernest was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>25</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> Somerset, England, UK BMD (<http://www.ukbmdsearch.org.uk/index.php>; accessed 30 August 2015) entry for Ernest Goulding, Reference MSN/42/177
- <sup>2</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), entry for William Charles Goulding, Registration district: Bath, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 1009
- <sup>3</sup> Somerset, England, UK BMD (<http://www.ukbmdsearch.org.uk/index.php>; accessed 30 August 2015) entry for William Charles Samuel Goulding, Reference MSN/23/429
- <sup>4</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Sarah Jane Short, Registration district: Clutton, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 617
- <sup>5</sup> Somerset, England, UK BMD (<http://www.ukbmdsearch.org.uk/index.php>; accessed 30 August 2015) entry for Edith May Goulding Reference MSN/41/043
- <sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 21 January 2015), entry for Sarah Jane Goulding, Registration district: Clutton, Inferred County: -, Volume: 5c, Page: 334
- <sup>7</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Ernest Goulding, Registration district: Malmesbury, Sub-registration district: Malmesbury Western, ED, institution, or vessel: 7, Piece: 1915, Folio: 65, Page Number: 19, Household schedule number: 132
- <sup>8</sup> "England Marriages 1538-1973," *findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 28 September 2015), entry for Georgiana Neale, County: Wiltshire
- <sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 28 September 2015), entry for George Goulding, Registration district: Malmesbury, Inferred County: Wiltshire, Volume: 5a, Page: 39
- <sup>10</sup> "British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 30 August 2015), entry for Georgiana Goulding, Form Title: Descriptive Report on Enlistment
- <sup>11</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Edith May Goulding, Registration district: Clutton, Sub-registration district: Midsomer Norton, ED, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 2332, Folio: 15, Page Number: 21, Household schedule number: 131
- <sup>12</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), entry for William Charles Goulding, Registration district: Bath, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 1069
- <sup>13</sup> Somerset, England, UK BMD (<http://www.ukbmdsearch.org.uk/index.php>; accessed 30 August 2015) entry for Henry Charles Goulding Reference MSN/47/118
- <sup>14</sup> Somerset, England, UK BMD (<http://www.ukbmdsearch.org.uk/index.php>; accessed 30 August 2015) entry for Ronald William Goulding Reference MSN/48/218
- <sup>15</sup> Somerset, England, UK BMD (<http://www.ukbmdsearch.org.uk/index.php>; accessed 30 August 2015) entry for Leslie Cyril Goulding Reference MSN/49/202; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 30 August 2015), entry for Leslie Cyril Goulding, Registration district: Wells, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 291
- <sup>16</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 30 August 2015), entry for Gwendoline M. Goulding, Registration district: Wells, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 369
- <sup>17</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Ernest Goulding, Registration district: Wells, Registration District Number: 313, Sub-registration district: Glastonbury, ED, institution, or vessel: 3, Household schedule number: 101, Piece: 14536
- <sup>18</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Ernest Goulding
- <sup>19</sup> "The Dorsetshire Regiment," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/dorsets.htm>; accessed 20 August 2015)
- <sup>20</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Ernest Goulding
- <sup>21</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), Regiment or Unit: Dorsetshire Regiment, Sub Unit: 6th Battalion, Division: 17th Division, Diary Dates: 1915 July 1 - 1915 Dec 31, Piece Description: Piece 2000/1-6: 50 Infantry Brigade: 6 Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment (1915 Jul - 1917 Dec), Piece Number: 2000

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- <sup>22</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS record indicates he died on 29 April. However, the Commonwealth War Grave Commission site and the record of UK soldiers who died in World War I indicate 30 April. "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 78; "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 3 December 2015), entry for Goulding, E., Service No: 13018; "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Ernest Goulding
- <sup>23</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," entry for Goulding, E., Service No: 13018
- <sup>24</sup> "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>; accessed 5 August 2015)
- <sup>25</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for Ernest Goulding