

Surname	Bailey
Forename(s)	George Arthur
Initials	G A
Age	
Honours/Awards	
Date died	16/08/1916
Rank	Bombardier
Regiment	Royal Field Artillery
Unit/Squadron	"A" Bty. 278th Bde.
Service Number	2385
Cemetery/Memorial	Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz
Grave Reference	III. H. 6
Further Information	Only son of Mr. G.T. Bailey, of 26 Green Lane, Egremont. Educated at St. Mary's School, Liscard. Employed as a conductor for Wallasey Trams for more than 3 years then as an Electrician in the Liverpool Post Office Engineers Department. Killed in action by a bursting shell whilst asleep.



#### News Report

##### Killed In His Sleep

The death is reported of George Arthur Bailey, the only son of Mr. G. T. Bailey, of 26, Green Lane, Egremont, who was killed by a bursting shell whilst asleep, on August 16<sup>th</sup>. He joined the R.F.A., West Lancs, In November of last year and was recently promoted to the rank of bombardier. He was educated at St. Mary's Schools, Liscard, and was well-known among the tramway employees, as he was a conductor for over three years, afterwards becoming an electrician in the engineer's department of the Liverpool Post Office. When a boy he was in St. Mary's Church Choir, but subsequently sang in St. Columba's choir. He played football for the club attached to the latter church.

The parents have received the following sympathetic letter:-

“Dear Mr Bailey – Just a line to send you my deepest sympathy in the loss of your son, Bombardier G.A. Bailey, who was killed while serving with this battalion. It occurred about seven o’clock on the morning of August 17<sup>th</sup>; everything was quiet at the time, when a high explosive shell landed amongst us without waning and struck a small dug-out, where your son, with another signaller, was lying asleep. The roof was only thin, and the shell penetrated inside the dug-out. Death of course must have been instantaneous, as the poor fellows would be stunned by the shock before they could even wake up.

I saw the thing happen and at once took a few men to the spot to try and get them out, but the explosion had completely wrecked the place, and though the men worked as hard as they could, it was of no avail. They were buried where they fell by our chaplain, Captain Beresford, and a number of their comrades were present. We put up a cross to mark the spot, and the position of the grave has been accurately recorded and forwarded to the authorities. It was all we could do for them, and we were all going through a very anxious and arduous time.

Most of his belongings were buried in the dug-out and could not be recovered, but we got his tunic and took out of it all his papers, pocket-book and everything which you would wish to keep. These have been carefully collected and are being sent down to the base; they will in due course be forwarded to you.

It is impossible to offer you much consolation for such a terrible loss as you have suffered in the death of your boy, only that I’m sure he gave himself willingly as he was always ready to do before, and was doing his duty in the fullest sense, right up to the end. I’m speaking in all sincerity when I say that he was once of the most valuable men we had in the battery, both because of the skill at the work he had to do, and because of his keen, cheerful and upright character. He had just been promoted, put of recognition of the good work he had done. Danger had absolutely no terrors for him – he was the most fearless man I knew, and often he had taken big risks in carrying out his duty, for his job was always a dangerous one. And he did all this without a murmur, or even a suggestion that anyone else should go instead.

It must be a terrible grief for you to have lost such a splendid son. I believe he was engaged to be married; what a terrible loss for his fiancée. With deepest sympathy.

Yours sincerely,

Water W. Wadsworth. Lieut.”

### References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission

Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

[back](#)