

Surname	Earl
Forename(s)	Ernest George Hipwell
Initials	E G H
Age	20
Honours/Awards	
Date died	16/10/1916
Rank	Sapper
Regiment	Royal Engineers
Unit/Squadron	51st Lancs Anti-Aircraft Coy.
Service Number	1454
Cemetery/Memorial	Wallasey (Rake Lane) Cemetery
Grave Reference	11. C. of E. 118.
Further Information	Son of Margaret Jackson Earl, of 21, Sea View Avenue, Liscard, Wallasey, and the late William Earl.

Chronicle News

Liscard Soldier Killed

A sad rifle fatality occurred on the foreshore of the Mersey at Aigburth on Monday afternoon, the victim being Sapper Ernest Earl, R.E., who resided with his widowed mother, at, 21, Seaview Avenue, Liscard.

It appears that three sappers of the Royal Engineers, stationed in the vicinity, and all stated to belong to Wallasey, were discussing the merits of a miniature rifle one of them had with him in a field, and decided to test if it would carry to a gull perched on a buoy in the river. One of the soldiers, Sapper William Pennington, aged 20 years of Gladstone Road, Seacombe, was carrying the gun slung on his arm when it suddenly went off. The bullet struck Sapper Earl, who was walking close by, and he fell to the ground. Assistance was at once obtained, and Dr. Tinne, who lives in the immediate neighbourhood, hurried to the spot. He found the victim of the mishap in a serious condition, the bullet having penetrated the brain. The police motor ambulance was telephoned for, and the injured man was removed with all the speed to the Southern Hospital, but death occurred on the way.

The young fellows were close friends, and Pennington was terribly upset at the sad occurrence. Pennington was subsequently arrested on a charge of causing the death of his comrade

Police Court Sequel

There was a sequel to the tragedy at the Liverpool Police Court, on Tuesday, when Sapper William Pennington, of Gladstone Road, Seacombe, was brought before the Liverpool Deputy Stipendiary, on a charge being that of causing the death of his companion, Sapper Earl, of 21, Seaview Avenue, Liscard.

Detective Chief Inspector Holbrook stated that the matter would be the subject of a Coroners inquiry the following day, and in view of the circumstances under

which it happened he thought it was a case in which the worship might allow the man out. A miniature rifle that Pennington had, unfortunately, went off by some means and killed Earl.

Detective Sergeant Jones gave evidence of arrest, and then the young soldier, who seemed much determined, was remanded on his own bail for a day. Several military officers of his unit were in Court.

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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