

Surname	Nickle
Forename	George
Initials	G
Age	24
Honours/Awards	
Date died	03/09/1916
Rank	Corporal
Regiment	Royal Field Artillery
Unit/Squadron	8 th Anti-Aircraft Bty.
Service Number	108807
Cemetery/Memorial	Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz
Grave Reference	III. N. 4.
Further Information	Son of George and Mary Jane Nickle, of Liverpool



Chronicle News

Liscard Brothers

One Killed - The Other Missing

"He died a Christian soldier, fighting for right." Thus wrote an R.F.A. officer to Miss. Nora Nickle, sister of the late Corporal George Nickle (Royal Field Artillery), who was killed in action on September 3rd. Twenty-six years of age and the youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Nickle, of Liverpool, deceased, who previously resided at 42, Denton Drive, Liscard, was employed by Messrs. Dale and Eccles, a Liverpool firm of cotton merchants, and enlisted in October, 1915. He had been out at the front about five months. The regrettable intelligence was contained in the letter above referred to, which reads as follows:-

"It is with most sincere and profound regret that I write to you. In the midst of war, sorrow comes to the lot of all, and death spares not our nearest and dearest

so we must mourn the loss of Corporal G. Nickle (108807) of this anti-aircraft battery. He met his death about 8 a.m yesterday, the 3rd September. He was in action at the time, actually firing at a German aeroplane, when he was struck by a fragment of a 5.9 high explosive shell, which fell between the two guns and wounded several others of the section. He was struck in the chest and died within a few minutes. He was taken at once to a field dressing station, but I think he was dead before we could be moved, so he was spared the pain of a lingering death.

"He was buried about noon; a Roman Catholic priest performed the ceremony. I could not leave the guns myself to attend it, but could watch it from a distance of a quarter of a mile, and add a prayer, which I do not think he needed. I sent an N.C.O and four men, all that I could spare at the time, to his graveside."

"He was very much liked by everyone in the battery, both officers and men. He was always cheerful and good tempered, and was showing himself an excellent Corporal, in fact, the very night before his death I was speaking to Battery Sergeant-Major Stevenson and we both remarked how valuable an N.C.O he was proving himself. He would certainly not have remained a corporal long had he been spared to us. In danger he always showed himself calm and fearless, and we can ill afford his loss. It is to be regretted that one so well qualified as he did not hold a commission.

"During the five months that I have known him he always showed himself a true man, a thorough gentleman, and an excellent Catholic. To him religion was a real and most important part of life, and he never missed an opportunity of attending to it, and I have not the least doubt that he was well prepared for death. I feel confident that he is already enjoying his eternal reward. He died a Christian soldier fighting for right, and a better death he could not wish for. He gave his life to carry out his duty, and no man can do more.

"We are having a cross made for his grave. Censorship regulations prevent me from letting you know at present where he is buried, but I shall do so later when I can. I shall forward his personal possessions as soon as possible.

"If you wish for any further information I shall be most happy to do my best to oblige you. There is much to console one in the manner of his death. The work he was doing at the time was of the utmost importance and value."

A brother of the deceased, Lance-Corporal [John J. Nickle](#) (King's Liverpool Regiment) is unofficially reported missing. He was wounded on July 30th, and picked up by stretcher bearers, but he could not be traced as having reached the dressing station. Recommended for a commission, he was prior to enlistment employed as a purser by Messrs. Alfred Holt and Co. He had been out at the front twelve months.

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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