

Horace Edward Nash – Private - 19th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment



Horace was born in Liverpool on 11th June 1894. He was the son of William and Eliza Nash. His father was a watchmaker.

In 1911 he was living with his parents, his brothers George and Frederick and sister Florence and a servant called Helen Woods at 1 Mould Street, Liverpool. Horace was working as a plumber.

He married Joan Secunda Ord on 29th January 1917 at St Luke's Church, Liverpool.

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No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
151	Twenty-ninth January 1917	Horace Edward Nash	22	Bachelor	Soldier	444 Scotland Road	William James Nash	Watchmaker.
		Joan Secunda Ord	23	Spinster		45 Seel St.	Robert George Ord (deceased)	Clerk
Married in the <u>Church of St Luke</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Established Church</u> by <u>William J Nash</u> or after <u>James</u> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>Horace Edward Nash</u> in the Presence of us, <u>Joan Secunda Ord</u> , <u>William J Nash</u> , <u>Ada Mary Roche</u>								
by <u>John Russell Dastgoshire</u>								

On 11th September 1914 he had enlisted as a private in Liverpool in the 19th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment. He was soon dispatched to France to fight on the Western Front and would go through a series of near-death experiences, including having a bullet ricochet off his belt buckle, dodging a low-flying bomber and gunning down a group of enemy soldiers while out looking for booby traps.

Some of the terrifying details of Ted's brushes with death are told in a series of love letters to his darling, Joan, which were written in the trenches and included pressed flowers from the front.

A member 19th Battalion, the King's Regiment (Liverpool), Ted and his comrades had his first major brush with danger while he was writing a letter to Joan near a French church in March 1916. As he recounts in the despatch, a German plane flew low over his head and began dropping bombs. The

plane passed but then returned soon later, by which time Ted had just managed to reach the relative safety of the dugout. Four months later, Ted made it through the Battle of the Somme, during which a million men were wounded or killed. Then, in 1917, the young soldier was at Ypres in western Flanders when a bullet struck his belt buckle. Seemingly aware of his astonishing fortune, he took another bullet and carved a cross on it as a lucky charm. A brief pause in Ted's duties allowed him to take leave in Britain and marry Joan, but months later he was back on the front for the Battle of Passchendaele. That hellish encounter cost the lives of 325,000 Allied troops, but Ted survived.

Yet perhaps his most dangerous encounter came shortly before the Armistice, when he was out with his friends clearing booby traps when he came across a group of German soldiers. 'Horace rushed forward with his Lewis gun and wiped them out,' an officer recounted in a letter to Joan.

Ted received four medals for his bravery during the conflict.



Horace and Joan