

Bernard Charles Vick
1896-1917: age at death 21
Student at the Society of the Sacred Mission

Family History

Bernard was born in Chichester, Sussex. His father, Victor Valentine, was the Secretary for a Gas Company. His mother was Kate. Bernard was the fourth of nine children. When he was born they lived at 12 Basin Road, close to Chichester railway station. By 1911, they had moved to 2 Ettrick Road, Chichester, which is described as a ten-room house. Ettrick Road faces directly onto the railway line.

Bernard entered the Society of the Sacred Mission in September 1913, as a school-boy scholar but was a student there for only a year before enlisting.

Military Service

He enrolled as a private in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters in 1914, aged 18 and was promoted to lance corporal sometime later.

The cause of his death is unknown but according to the Obituary in the Society's quarterly Newsletter he was 'last seen throwing bombs'.

MEMORIAL TO FALLEN SOLDIER.—In memory of Lance-Corporal Bernard Vick, who was an altar server at the Church, two perpetual lights have been placed in St. George's Church, Chichester, one before the high altar, and one in the Chapel. They were lighted on Sunday, when references were made to the young fellow's death by the Rector, the Rev. Dr. Glover, who spoke in glowing terms of his high character and splendid example. The larger of the two lights is an especially handsome piece of workmanship, and the effect of the small perpetual flame greatly enhances the beauty of the well-cared-for sanctuary. The gallant young soldier, it may be recalled, was reported missing after a bombing attack, and an officer of his Regiment, the Sherwood Foresters, who was recently at Graylingwell, said he did not think it likely Lance-Corporal Vick escaped. Before enlisting he was a novice in the Society of the Sacred Mission at Kelham, Newark-on-Trent. He was the youngest son of Mr. V. V. Vick, the Secretary to the Chichester Gas Company, and brother to Mr. Victor Vick, of North Street.

His death was noted in *The Observer and West Sussex Recorder*, July 26 1917.

He is commemorated at the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais on one of the panels. Individuals are commemorated in this way when their loss has been officially declared by their relevant service but there is no known burial for the individual

Sources

FindMyPast <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Nottinghamshire Great War Roll of Honour: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <https://www.cwgc.org/>

Forces War Records website: <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

Society of the Sacred Mission Quarterly Newsletter, Borthwick Institute:
<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/>