

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2114 LANCE CPL.

K. NIELSEN

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

26TH APRIL, 1918 Age 31

Karl Marseus NIELSEN

Karl Marseus Nielsen was born at Dronninglund, Denmark around 1887 to father Karl Kristian Andras Nielsen.

Karl Nielsen received a Certificate from the Royal Norwegian Consulate Sydney, NSW dated 19th June, 1914 certifying that he had been discharged from the Norwegian Ship *_ordstern*. He was listed as a 27 year old, Able Seaman (AB), born Denmark & his character was listed as Very Good. The date of engagement was listed as 20th February, 1912.

Karl Nielsen was a 29 year old, single, Sailor from Moss Vale, NSW when he enlisted on 1st May, 1916 at Goulburn, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2114 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Karl Kristian Neilsen, of Kalling-Brogaard, Denmark.

Private Karl Nielsen was posted to F Company on 1st May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred on 6th May, 1916 to Rutherford Camp.

Private Karl Nielsen embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 24th August, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 35th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 11th October, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Karl Nielsen was written up for an Offence while in England – (date unknown) – A.W.L. (Absent without leave) for 1 day. He was awarded 3 days' Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 4 days' pay.

Private Karl Nielsen was taken on strength of "A" Company, 35th Battalion in England on 11th November, 1916.

Private Karl Nielsen proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 21st November, 1916.

Private Karl Nielsen was transferred to 9th Machine Gun Company on 18th January, 1917 from 35th Battalion.

Private Karl Nielsen was wounded in action on 7th June, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance on 7th June, 1917 with gunshot wounds to back then transferred the same day to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Nielsen was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 8th June, 1917. He was transferred to 6th Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 1st August, 1917 then transferred to 5th Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 25th September, 1917. Pte Nielsen was discharged to Base from 5th Convalescent Depot on 11th October, 1917.

War Diary 9th Machine Gun Company

7th June, 1917 – Messines

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Barrage Guns

See Guns "Stood too" at 2.30 Am Opened fire at "Zero" 3.10am continued to + 120 mins firing in all 2240,000 rounds. Answered S.O.S. at PM. Ceased fire 3.30 PM. Searched track during the night.

Killed in Action. Pte Tamsett, W – Pte Always, W. – Pte Bannister, R.T. – Pte Richards, H. E

*Wounded in Action. Pte Cowin, W. H. – Pte Folpp, N.V. – **Pte Neilson. K** – Pte Phillips, W.J.G. – Pte Burton, W.J. – Lance Corpl. Orr, J.C. – L. Cpl McMaster, A 2 Lieut. Harden, O. F. Wounded remained on duty.*

Private Karl Nielsen was marched in to M.G.B.D. (Machine Gun Base Depot) at Etaples on 12th October, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit from M.G.B.D. at Camiers on 7th November, 1917 & joined 3rd Machine Gun Battalion from being wounded on 8th November, 1917.

Private Karl Nielsen was promoted to Lance Corporal on 11th November, 1917.

Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen was on leave to England from 31st January, 1918 & returned from leave on 16th February, 1918.

Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen rejoined his Unit from a Course on 23rd March, 1918.

Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen was wounded in action – gassed on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance on 17th April, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th April, 1918. Lance Corporal Nielsen was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *West Australian* on 21st April, 1918.

9th Machine Gun Company – 3rd Machine Gun Battalion

Machine Gun Companies were units attached to the Brigade with the same numeric designation, in this instance, the 9th Brigade. Later in the war they were consolidated into Battalions of four Machine Gun Companies, attached to each Division. The 9th Machine Gun Company was later absorbed into the 3rd Machine Gun Battalion

The 9th Brigade was drawn largely from NSW and comprised the 33rd, 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions.

Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England on 22nd April, 1918 with Gas Poisoning (Shell).



Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen died at 6.30 pm on 26th April, 1918 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England Gas Poisoning with Shell Gas, received in action & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Karl Nielsen, aged 31, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Blofield, Norfolk, England.

Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen was buried at 2 pm on 1st May, 1918 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Plot number 54. 711 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Gun Carriage and bearers being supplied by the Royal Field Artillery and R.A.M.C. of Norfolk War Hospital,*

respectively. A service was conducted in the Cemetery Chapel and at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. J. T. Mumford, S.C.F. Norfolk War Hospital. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by Bugler Codman of the Norfolk Regiment. Two wreaths from the staff at Norfolk War Hospital were placed in the grave. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Nielsen's father – Mr K. C. Nielsen, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued from England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal K. Nielsen – service number 2114, aged 31, of 3rd Australian Machine Gun Corps. No family details are listed.

C. Nielsen is remembered on the Moss Vale Roll of Honour, located in Moss Vale Services Club, Yarrowa & Arygle Streets (Illawarra Highway), Moss Vale, NSW.



Moss Vale Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia John Huth)



Lance Corporal K. Nielsen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 176.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(48 pages of Lance Corporal Karl Nielsen's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

APRIL FIGHTING

HEAVY CASUALTY LIST

MANY MEN GASSED

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte K. NIELSEN, Denmark (gas, prev. rep. dead, cause not stated)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 20 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

NIELSEN – Died of wounds, England, L.-corpl. Karl Nielsen, 9th M. G. Co., April 26, 1918. "A splendid comrade sadly missed." Inserted by his comrade, F. Files (Ret.)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney, NSW – 20 June, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Lance Corporal K. Nielsen does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

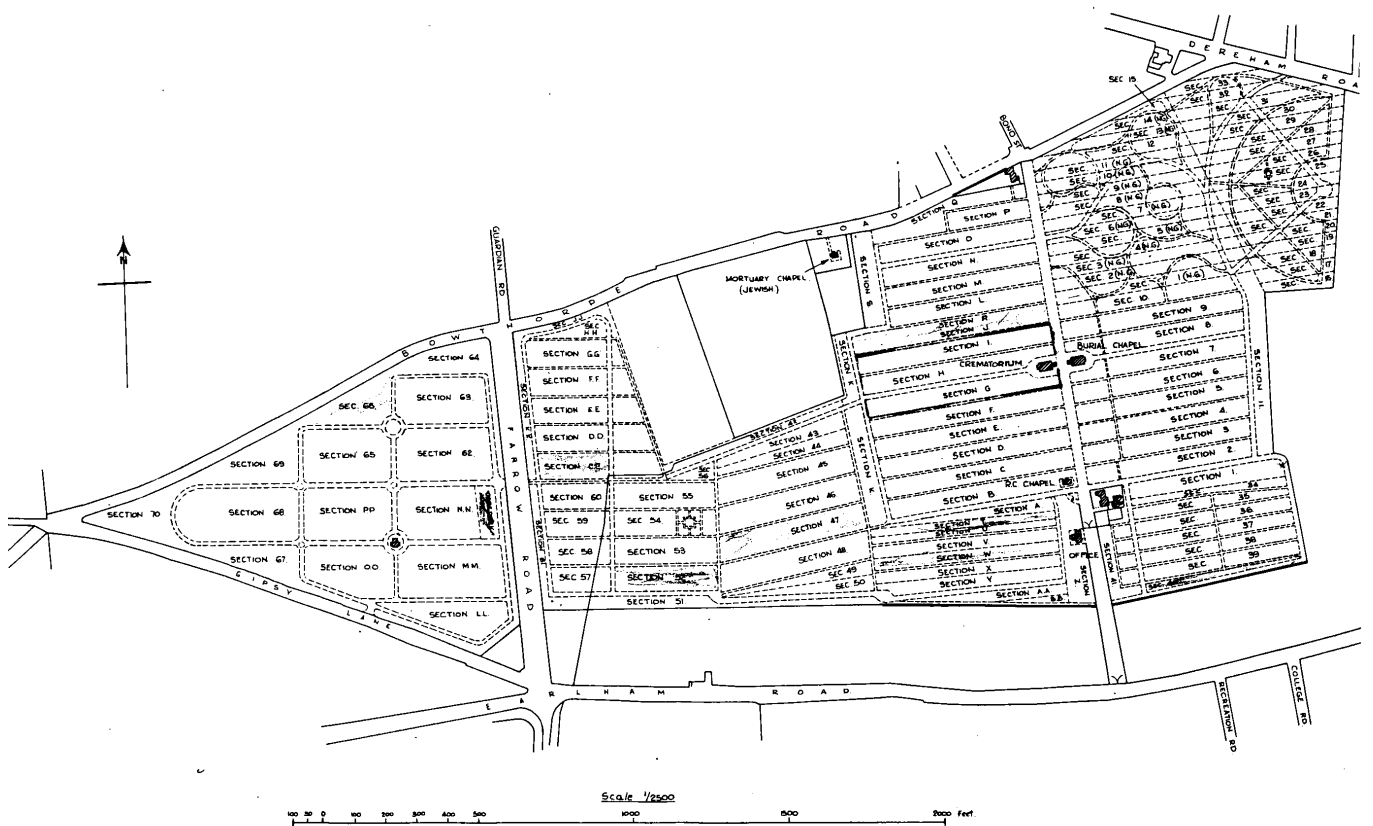
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Lance Corporal K. Nielsen's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

