

Andrew David Aitkin Short
1895 – 1918: age at death 23
Student at the Society of The Sacred Mission

Family History

Andrew David Aitkin Short was born in 1895 and was the 2nd son of James and Annie Short who were both from Scotland, probably Roxborough.

They lived at 10 New England Cottages, Harworth, Nr. Worksop (now just off the A1(M)) and all the children were born in the village. James Short is listed as a Gardener, one of several in the village, presumably working on a large estate in the area. The family later moved to Tickhill, Yorkshire. By 1918, James had died leaving Annie a widow and she returned to Roxborough

Children in the family

- James Short, born 3 Sept 1893, baptised at All Saints, Harworth and Bircotes
- Andrew Short, born 26 March 1895, baptised at All Saints, Harworth and Bircotes, 12 May 1895
- William, born 1898, baptised at All Saints, Harworth and Bircotes October 1898
- Annie Pretoria Nicol, born 6 June 1900, baptised at All Saints, Harworth and Bircotes, 1 July 1900

Andrew's older brother, James seems to have remained in Harworth, where he's recorded in Electoral Registers as living in 'The Gardens' which, judging from adjacent addresses in the Census records was near New England Cottages where he was born.

Andrew became a student at the Society of the Sacred Mission in May 1911, aged 16. In 1914 he passed the Cambridge Senior Local Examination. He enlisted in 1915.

Military History

Andrew served as Second Lieutenant in the 18th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers

He died on 26 March 1918, on his 23rd Birthday having gone forward of the lines to help one of his men who was wounded and was shot.

Announcement in the Hawick News and Border Chronicle, 17 May 1918

FOR KING AND COUNTRY.

WALKER.—Died from shell wounds on 25th April, S.S. George McCall Walker, A.S.C., aged 22 years, younger son of Mr and Mrs Walker, 18 Lothian Street.

TEARNEY.—Killed in action on 10th April, Gunner Martin Tearney, M.G.C., aged 23 years, grandson of Mrs Tearney, 1 Morrison Place. Deeply mourned.—R.I.P.

SHORT.—Killed in action on his 23rd birthday, Andrew (Andy) David Short, 2nd Lieut., Lancashire Fusiliers, second son of the late James Short, gardener, Tickhill, Yorkshire, and Mrs Short, Otterston, Aberdour (formerly of Hawick), and grandson of the late Mrs Short, 15 Duke Street.

WENT.—Killed in action on the 10th April. Private

He probably died in the first battle of the Bapaume which began on 24 March 1918, one of the Battles of the Somme.

He was highly regarded in the service and he showed great devotion and tenderness to his widowed mother.

He is Commemorated on Stone 33A. Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France.

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, or in circumstances where graves cannot be individually marked, or where the grave site has become inaccessible and unmaintainable.

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/find-war-dead/casualty/532048/>

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

GoogleMaps: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Bircotes,+Doncaster/@53.41496,-1.083737,16z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x4879084340adc5c9:0x20ad5b5d3bfb9e5!8m2!3d53.415462!4d-1.053387?hl=en>