

Arthur James Nash
1885-1918. age at death 23
Student of the Society of the Sacred Mission

Family History

Arthur James Nash was born 1885, at Westbury on Trym, Bristol

His father was James Frederick Nash, Professor of Music and Lay Clerk at Bristol Cathedral. His mother was Ellen Nash. They lived at 18 Hampton Park, Redland, Bristol which is about a mile to the west of Bristol Zoo.

Arthur was one of twin sons: Arthur James and Francis Edgar. They were baptised on 17 April 1885 at St Saviour's Church, Woolcot Park.

According to the 1901 Census, the family comprised 4 children, three of whom were working by that time:

- Frederick (age 17): Clerk in a School Building Office. In 1891, Frederick, then aged 7, lodged with his two aunts who were schoolmistresses at the National School in Bristol
- Arthur James (age 16): Clerk in Cocoa Factory (probably Fry's)
- Francis Edgar (age 16): Clerk in Corn Merchant's office
- Alice Dorothy (age 5)

By 1911, Arthur is listed on the Census returns as a Student of Divinity at Kelham Hall. However, his brother, Francis Edgar, was still working for the Corn Merchants and living with their parents. Francis enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps in 1915 where he was promoted to Corporal in 1915 and Sergeant in November 1916, then he became a RAF Sergeant Clerk in April 1918 and was finally discharged in 1920. His service record describes him as being 5 feet, 7 inches with a 31½ chest – perhaps, Arthur, his twin brother, had similar measurements.

Military Record

Arthur enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters in 1915 as a private and was promoted to sergeant before becoming a Cadet Officer. An announcement in the Derby Daily Telegraph records his promotion to second lieutenant on 27 June 1917.

He died on 13 Jun 1918, aged 33. The Society of the Sacred Mission's newsletter reports that he was acting as observation officer when he was sniped. His commanding officer wrote:

I cannot tell you how deeply we all feel his loss. He was one of the most conscientious officers I have ever had under my command. He was quite fearless, and an officer such as he is difficult to replace. His reconnaissance on this sad occasion was a brilliant piece of work, and gave me much valuable information.

His batman wrote:

Everybody loved him, and he can never be replaced.

He is Commemorated at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Stone 87

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:

Find my past: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Nottinghamshire County Council Great War Roll of Honour:

<https://secure.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/>

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

Sherwood Foresters Roll of Honour: http://www.the-sherwood-foresters.co.uk/n_names/nash_arthur_james.html

Society of the Sacred Mission Quarterley Newsletter, Borthwick Institute:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/>

GoogleMaps:

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Hampton+Park,+Bristol+BS6+6LQ/@51.4641234,-2.613259,645m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x48718de7fab8b615:0x3ca6f72f7a24e967!8m2!3d51.4657617!4d-2.6078811?hl=en>