

**Aubrey Charles Nixon Whiston**  
**1897 – 1918: age at death 21**  
**Student of Society of the Sacred Mission**

**Family History**

Aubrey Charles Nixon Whiston was born on 28 October 1897 and was baptised at Christ Church, Upper Tean, Checkley, Staffordshire on 8 December 1897. He was educated at Tean Boys' School, then on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1912, age 14, he entered Longton High School as a Day pupil. He left there in April 1914 and was enrolled as a 'school-boy' at Kelham Theological College.

His father was Nathan Whiston; he is recorded as an Iron Fitter in 1901 and a 'General Engineer' in 1911. His mother's name was Ellen. They lived at 5 Uttoxeter Road, Tean, Checkley (now the A522), in a small semi-detached house (possibly now demolished). Ellen's mother, who was a widow, lived with them

There were three children

Aubrey, born 1897

Nathan William, born 23 July 1899

Reta, born 1902 (possibly Helen Reta)

He joined the Society of the Sacred Mission in May 1914, aged 16 and passed the Cambridge Senior Locals Examination in July 1916.

**Military Record**

He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in September 1916, just before his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and served as a Gunner in 'C' Bty 245th Bde (Service number: 165877). Shortly after enlisting he was sent to France.

He died on 27 Apr 1918, having been shot the previous day while repairing wire. He was not quite 21.

He is buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Plot 13, Row G, Grave 6. Commonwealth Grave No 143475

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

Army Form W3372.

**GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.**

D.D.D.G.R. & E. SECOND ARMY.

SECTION *8/c* *56.6.* REPORT No. 29. SCHEDULE No. *56.6.*

Serial No. 6180.

COMMUNE: *AMERTINGHE.*

PLACE OF BURIAL: *VLAMERTINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY.*

Map Ref. Sheet 28.H.9.c.0.3.

Land belongs to

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or Despatched	Map Reference
<b>PLOT XIII. ROW "G".</b>						
A/245 Bty. R.F.A.	-	JACKSON	Maj. F.V.M.	14.4.18	E	1
1/246 W.R.Bty. R.F.A.	780980	MECKS	Cpl. J.A.	16.4.18	) "	2 )
A/246 R.F.A.	780786	HAYWOOD	Dvr. E.	" "	) "	2 )
12/East Surrey R.	22695	SHELDRIK	Pte. T.	25.4.18	G.R.U.	3
do.	26509	FLANNAGAN	" J.	" "	"	4
do.	26438	HARTLEY	" W.	" "	"	5
C/245 Bde. R.F.A.	165877	WHISTON	Gnr. C.W.	27.4.18	"	6
						7

### The Royal Field Artillery – A unit of the Royal Artillery

This was the largest of three units. Many brigades started the war with 15 pounder field guns, ironically a development of an original Krupps design from Germany. In 1916, batteries started being issued with the improved 18 pounder field gun. A field gun fired its shells on a low trajectory - generally the target was in sight. Shells were usually high explosive or shrapnel as required. By 1916, an artillery brigade consisted of four batteries each of six guns. The first three, A B and C, were field guns and the fourth D battery had 4.5" howitzers at their disposal. The howitzer lobbed its shell high into the air so that it dropped more directly down onto its target. This meant that the target could be behind obstacles, perhaps a wood or a hill.

#### Sources:

1901 & 1911 Census Data on 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/143475/>

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

Society of the Sacred Missions Quartlery Newsletter, Borthwick Institute:

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

GoogleMaps: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/5+Uttoxeter+Rd,+Tean,+Stoke-on-Trent/@52.9514777,->

[1.9850675,17z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x487a1499eab15c81:0xfe19be0356120e8b!8m2!3d52.9528188!4d-1.9853745?hl=en](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/5+Uttoxeter+Rd,+Tean,+Stoke-on-Trent/@52.9514777,-1.9850675,17z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x487a1499eab15c81:0xfe19be0356120e8b!8m2!3d52.9528188!4d-1.9853745?hl=en)