

JOHN (JACK) HUNTINGTON



John Huntington, who was born on 3rd July 1887, was the son of George and Mary Huntington (nee Harrop). George, who at that time was employed as a shoemaker and from Ackworth and Mary who was only 18 years old, married at the Parish Church in Badworth (Yorkshire) on 23rd March 1880. The family lived (per 1891 census) in Norton, near Doncaster. John had two sisters, Mabel and Lily and four brothers.

The eldest, Ernest was born in 1883 and before enlisting in the First World War, with the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (Service Number 203720) was employed as a butler. His army record can be found online and, after the war, he lived with his wife Agnes and their children in Appleton Roebuck, Bolton Percy near York, but it is believed later moved to Scotland.

Albert Charles, who was born in 1885, worked as a groom, and then moved to Scotland where he was employed as a chauffeur and lived with his wife and children. He worked for the Brook family who had a cotton reel mill near Holmfirth. In the early 1900's the Brook family bought an estate just outside Annan in south west Scotland called Kinmount. Corporal Albert Charles Huntington served with the Army Service Corps (Corporal No: M2/202608). His granddaughter who has been a great help with information about the Huntington family, lives in Scotland and has his medals.

John's younger brother, William sadly died in infancy and Percy born in 1903, remained in Yorkshire and married in 1921, but was too young to serve in the war.

John Huntington continued to live with his parents in Badworth, Yorkshire, where his father per the 1901 census now worked on the railways and then it appears moved to live in the East Riding of Yorkshire and took up a position as a chauffeur.

He married Amy Smith in 1907. Her father, born in Scarborough, was a coachman for a family in Sewerby or Cherry Burton, near Bridlington. It is believed that after their marriage John and Amy lived in that area, as the birth of their first daughter Margaret was registered in Driffield in 1909.

The 1911 census shows them living at West End, Kirkbymoorside and then it is believed at Yoadwath, Douthwaite Dale.

John was a chauffeur and information kindly provided by his great niece, shows that he travelled up to Scotland many times during the course of his work.

It is thought in 1915, when his second daughter Joan Cecilia was born, that he may have been working as a chauffeur for Captain (later Admiral) Fuller of Douthwaite Hall. (Yoadwath cottages being close by).

During the 1950/60 Jack, as he was known by the family, travelled to the Isle of Arran and Ullapool. He called at his brother, Charles' house on many occasions on the way to Lady Wigan's and Admiral and Lady Robson's.



Jack and Amy on one of their visits to Scotland.

It is believed the Lady Wigan referred to was the wife of *the Earl of Crawford and the Earl of Balcarres* who lived at Haigh Hall, Wigan. During the First and Second World Wars the hall was used to provide care for injured soldiers. David Lindsay, 11th Earl, sold the hall and grounds to Wigan Corporation in 1947 for £18,000 and moved to the family's original home at Balcarres House in Fife.



Balcarres House

It is believed that the Admiral Robson referred to, was Vice Admiral Sir (William) Geoffrey (Arthur) Robson KBE CB DSO* DSC (1902–1989) a Royal Navy officer who went on to be Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic Station.

He was Flag Officer for Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland (FOSNNI) (1953-56) a senior post in the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom. It was and still is based at HM Naval Base Clyde and the holder of the post is the Royal Navy's senior officer in Scotland.

To date no War Record has been found for John (Jack) Huntington.