

Friendship and Family



Men of Oundle Leaving for War. From Peterborough Museum (CG127)

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Friendship & Family during WW1



Portrait of Arthur Firth, From Burnley Express and Advertiser
3.11.1917

“My name is Arthur Firth I will be guiding you through the theme of Friendship & Family during WW1:

I was a cotton weaver before enlisting and my family were involved in this trade too, My cousins served in Mesopotamia and France and it is thought that I died fighting in Poelcapelle, Belgium. My parents received a letter explaining what had happened to me from one of my comrades, it must have broken their hearts.

The distance apart from loved ones, and the element of loss took its toll on family, friends and partners. It would also have been felt by the communities themselves, with groups of men joining up in PALS Battalions, many of whom never returned.”

Related Themes:

Friendship, Family, Comradery, Loss, PALS Battalions, Recruitment, Enlistment.

SOURCES:

Using the sources provided on the following pages you can conduct your own research on the theme of Friendship & Family during WW1.

For some questions you may want to look at the website: www.peterboroughww1.co.uk

"No hope at all."
Their hands were not fashioned
for the sword
But forward
she rode of death they turned
to save.
The weaker world - all
no staving, sails in
But man who knew how
to die -
make his only -
with a steady foot up.



Pals. -
Mikeson -
May 1917

Friendship & Family during WW1

SOURCES:

The sources on this page relate to Arthur Firth, they include:

1. A Photograph
2. His Entry in the visitors' book
3. A Census

QUESTIONS:

- How old was Arthur when the Census was taken?
- Where did a cotton weaver work and what did they do?
- Do you think it was common for children to be working at Arthur's age, if so, why?

WEBSITE TASK:

- Search for Arthur Firth on the website and read his biography.
- What happened on the 9th October 1917?
- Who wrote the letter to his parents?
- How do you think his parents would have felt receiving the news?

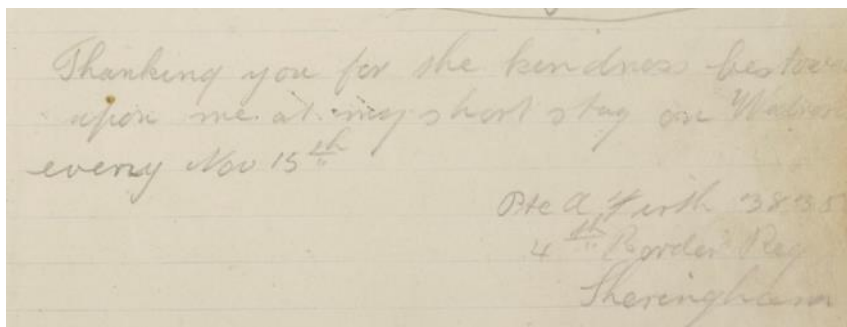


Portrait of Arthur Firth, From Burnley Express and Advertiser 3.11.1917

1911 Census, From Ancestry

Thanking you for the kindness bestowed upon me at my short stay on Wednesday every Nov 15th
Pte A Firth 3835
4th Border Reg
Sheringham

Transcription of the extract



WUTAC visitors' book, From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies (PAS/WUTAC/1/1/1, Page 12)

Friendship & Family during WW1

SOURCES:

The sources on this page relate to Stanley George Lawrence, they include:

1. A Photograph
2. An Article
3. A Photograph

QUESTIONS:

- What are the crowd doing in the photograph?
- Why did Stanley George Lawrence want to enlist?
- Why was Stanley unable to enlist?
- What other reasons might stop someone from enlisting?

WEBSITE TASK:

- What was 'the usual 1s' that Stanley was given?
- Search on the website to see if any of your family members enlisted and passed through the WUTAC tea room!

Revenging His Uncle.
Master Stanley George Lawrence, of 32, Cromwell Road, Peterborough, aged five years, made history on Wednesday. Since his uncle was killed in action on September 25th, his mother has had the greatest difficulty in keeping him from the recruiting office to enlist. On Wednesday, however, he had evidently made up his mind to go, and presented himself at the Market Place Recruiting Office after morning school. Here he was given the usual Army Form, with the following written on the back:—
This is to certify that Stanley George Lawrence, aged five, offered himself for enlistment at the Recruiting Office, Peterborough, because the Germans killed his uncle, but was unable to fulfil the necessary physical conditions. He was also given the usual 1s.
We hope to publish a photograph of Master Lawrence next week.



From Peterborough Advertiser, 10/6/1916

From Peterborough Advertiser, 17/6/1917



Peterborough Recruitment Office. From Peterborough Museum (Sa28)