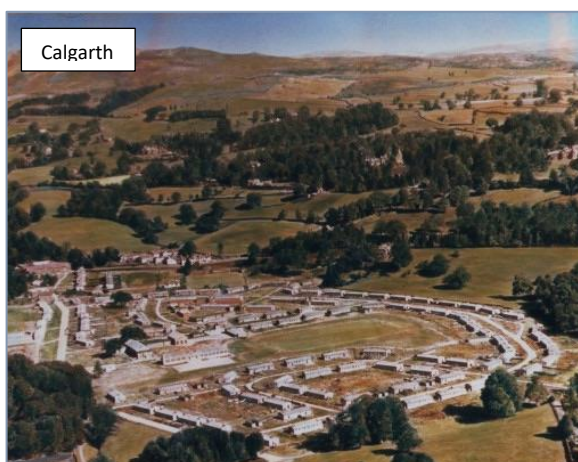


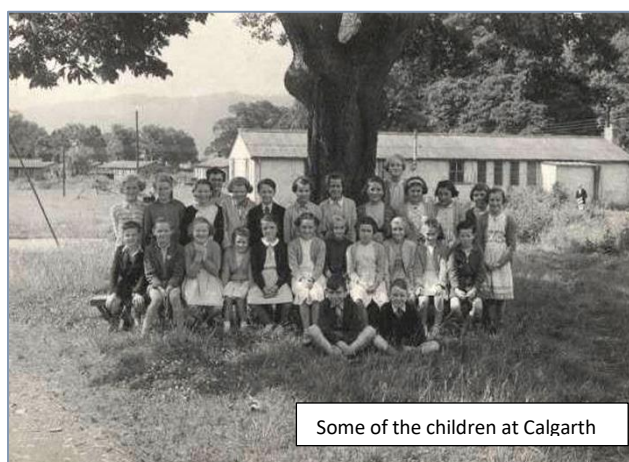


BUILDING SUNDERLANDS ON WINDERMERE 1941-1944

Francisco, youngest of Horace Short's three children, was resident director of a newly built Shorts factory at Troutbeck, on the shore of Windermere. (*Wings Over Windermere* by Allan King [highly recommended read](#)) The factory, away from the threat of bombing at Rochester, produced 35 Sunderland flying boats (112ft. wingspan) during World War 2, and as a Civilian Repair Organisation (C.R.O.) put many damaged ones back into active service. The wings were built and transported from Short's *Seaplane Works* in Rochester and had to undergo repairs, mainly to the wing tips, on arrival at the new factory. There was no M1/M6 in those days! The skilled Rochester workforce was 'enticed' to the then remote area of the country by the prospect of family accommodation that would have 'modern' heating and many other new facilities. These Short Brothers accomplished engineers trained local labour who soon drifted away from Cumbrian farms and in-service jobs in the Cumbrian 'big houses' for the higher pay offered at Shorts. This eventually caused real trouble, and at the end of the War, at the insistence of Friends of the Lake District, the local vicar and Beatrix Potter, demand for the demolition of the village of Calgarth was overwhelming.



Calgarth



Some of the children at Calgarth

However, thankfully, this did not happen before Calgarth's extensive facilities were utilised to accommodate 300 children, Holocaust survivors flown from Prague to Carlisle in Short **STIRLING** bombers on 14 August 1945. The 2 and 3-bedroom bungalows accommodated them well, as did the Village school, football pitch, health centre, canteen and other parts of this complete community facility.

THE LAKE DISTRICT HOLOCAUST PROJECT - www.ldhp.org.uk

Memories were revived by television programmes around the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day about these surviving children and their horrendous experiences in the Nazi death camps of Europe. After a few months at Calgarth the children were 'dispersed' to families around the country and integrated into British society. The Lake District Holocaust Project (LDHP), established several years ago by Trevor Avery, continues to tell the world of their unspeakable plight.



Children in Prague before departure to the U.K.



Some of the boys help the local volunteers



WINFRED JOYCE DRINKWATER (b. 1913 Waterfoot, Glasgow: d. 1996 in New Zealand)

Winifred Joyce Drinkwater married Francisco, the second son of Horace Short in July 1934, and was frequently observed at the Windermere factory in her white overalls, spanner in hand.

Winnie, as she became known, became one of Scotland's youngest private aircraft pilots. She developed her passion as an aviatrix and aeronautical engineer with The Midland and Scottish Air Ferries Company.

Shortly after her 'training' she flew, perhaps, the first commercial day-return flight service between Glasgow and London in 1934.

Among her many achievements she won the 'Mobil Oil Cup' in 1931 and a Guild of Air Pilots Instructors Certificate.



Winnie the Aviatrix.



Winnie ready for take-off



Winnie the mechanic



Winnie with her daughter (Olga) Anne

Text and photographs from *(Olga) Anne Brewer*, daughter of 'Winnie' and Francisco Short
(New Zealand, January 2020)