Famous Black Scots

Fact Cards



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Emeli Sandé Singer and Songwriter



Adele Emeli Sandé was born in
Sunderland in England before moving to
Alford, Aberdeenshire, where she was
raised. Her father is Zambian and her
mother is English. She wrote her
first song at age 11 and performed
at her school talent show. Emeli
Sandé has had two number one
singles in the UK and Ireland and
has had a best selling album.

Famous Black Scots Fact Cards

Eugene Bullard (9 October, 1895 – 12 October, 1961)

America's First Black Combat Pilot

The grandson of an enslaved man and one of 10 children, Eugene Bullard is one of the most unusual characters from Scotland's Black history. Despite living in Georgia, his father spoke French and because of the way he talked, Bullard started to believe France was the land of opportunity where he would be free of prejudice.

Bullard wanted to get to Paris and this journey first took him to Scotland. He stowed away on a German cargo ship and when he was discovered, the captain threatened to throw him overboard. He reached Aberdeen and found that he was accepted and didn't have to fear abuse. He did struggle to understand the accent though! He travelled from there to Liverpool and then London where he became a boxing champion. He became a pilot with the French flying corps after winning a bet with a friend that they wouldn't accept him! He served with the French Air Service and the US Air Force.

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Ikechi Anya Scottish Professional Footballer

He is a midfielder for English club Derby County and the Scotland national team. Anya has also played for Wycombe Wanderers and Northampton Town and Watford, as well as Spanish sides Celta de Vigo, Sevilla Atlético and Granada.

Anya's father is a Nigerian research scientist and his mother is Romanian.

They moved to Scotland before Anya was born in the city of Glasgow. His mother says that as a very young boy, Anya "was kicking a ball in front of the house from morning till night."

Anya always liked Scotland even after the family moved to Oxford when he was seven years old.