

## Harry Reginald SCOTT

Born Mamhead, October 1891                      Died, Germany, December 7, 1918, aged 27  
Private 35768                      Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment) 5th Bn.

There is a small headstone/memorial in Dawlish Cemetery with a worn inscription: "Harry Reginald Scott, Youngest son of H & S Scott, Died while a prisoner of war in LANDENS Hospital, Germany, December 7th, 1918, aged 27".

**Harry Reginald Scott** was the youngest son of Henry Scott (1852-1917) and Susan Gidley (1853-1935) and came from a Tedburn St Mary family. Henry's parents, Joseph Scott (1809-1884) and Eliza Westcott (1816-1889) had nine children of which Henry was the youngest. Joseph had been a Sexton and agricultural labourer and Henry took to garden work.

Henry Scott married Susan Gidley in Heavitree on 21 April 1874. They had ten children of which two died before 1911, and the two youngest sons died in WW1. They were:

Alice Maud	dau,	(1876- )	born in	Clyst St Mary
Harriett Susan	dau,	(1877-1958)		"
Charles	son,	(1880-1937)		"
Ada	dau,	(1882-1916)		"
Annie	dau,	(1884- )		"
Ethel Louise	dau,	(1885-1982)		"
Hilda Frances	dau,	(1888-1900)		"
Walter Henry	son,	(1900-1917) (q.v.)		Mamhead
<b>Harry Reginald</b>	<b>son,</b>	<b>(1891-1918)</b>		"

There may be one other, unrecorded in the ten year census cycle.

In 1911 the parents were aged 57 and 56 and living with Walter Henry Scott at Park Cottage, Strand Hill, but **Harry Reginald Scott** was lodging with the Burge family at Bishops Lydeard, near Taunton, where he was a gardener.

Henry Scott died on 4 April 1917 at the age of 65. Some of his brothers and sisters had shorter life spans of less than 40 years.

Military records show that **Harry Scott** enlisted at Cheltenham while living in Winchcombe, Glos. This also shows that he first enlisted with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry, service no 3974. We do not know when he transferred to the Yorkshire Regiment and War diaries do not mention other ranks by name.

It is not known at what date he was taken prisoner by the Germans. The UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects records his death from 'war Dropsy'. Before the recent war, medical literature contained frequent references to the type of edema now recognized as "war edema."

The prevalence of edema of this type, under varying conditions of insufficient and inadequate food, has been recorded. This edema resembles that of renal disease. In mild cases it may be confined to the lower limbs, but in the severe type the edema may extend to all parts of the body. Accompanying this edema there are emaciation, muscular weakness, depression, anemia, and very frequently gastro-intestinal disturbances.

It is likely that quantity and quality of food for prisoners matched that of the civil population which experienced severe shortages after the Battle of Jutland that had led to the High Seas fleet being trapped in Wilhelmshaven.

Germany and Austria-Hungary managed to develop substitutes for many materials which were essential for their war effort. They were less successful in feeding their citizens – despite the fact that they had not relied upon imported food before the war. Central Powers propaganda blamed food shortages on the British 'Hunger Blockade', but a combination of bad harvests and incompetent regulation of food distribution made the situation far worse.

Germany's civilians began to suffer malnourishment from the winter of 1916 onwards, while the food situation in Austria caused riots and, eventually, actual starvation in some areas. A wish to retaliate and to break Britain's command of the seas motivated Germany to launch its campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare in 1917. The result was to make the blockade even more complete, by provoking the United States to join the Allies.

From his headstone, the family understood that he was in Landens Hospital, Germany when he died on December 7, 1918. Research would be needed to be certain of the location of the hospital, but the UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects refers to his death taking place at HP Langensalga, Hessen. A search of lists of Prisoner-of-War camps shows one at Langensalza for 'Mannschlaftlager' (private soldiers and N.C.O.s) in the region of Cassel and the Province of Hesse. It was opened in 1914 and held 10,000 men and in the control of the XI Army Corps. There may have been a prisoner-of-war camp there with its own hospital, but such is speculation.

**Harry Reginald Scott** is not listed on the Devon Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: None, although his brother, Walter Henry Scott is on the main WW1 panel.

Devon Heritage site info: None, but his name appears on Easby, North Yorkshire, War Memorial.

**Commonwealth War Graves entry:** SCOTT, H R Private 35768 07/12/1918  
Age: 26 Yorkshire Regiment, 5th Bn. Grave Ref: VI. H. 5. [Niederzwehren Cemetery](#)  
Son of H. and Susan Scott, of 60, Brook St., Dawlish, Devon.

The cemetery was begun by the Germans in 1915 for the burial of prisoners of war who died at the local camp. During the war almost 3,000 Allied soldiers and civilians, including French, Russian and Commonwealth, were buried there. It lies to the south of Kassel/Cassel.

In 1922-23 it was decided that the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died all over Germany should be brought together into four permanent cemeteries. Niederzwehren was one of those chosen and in the following four years, more than

## Dawlish World War One Project

1,500 graves were brought into the cemetery from 190 burial grounds in Baden, Bavaria, Hanover, Hesse and Saxony.

There are now 1,796 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the Commonwealth plot at Niedierzwehren. This total includes special memorials to 13 casualties buried in other cemeteries in Germany whose graves could not be found.

UK Soldiers died in the Great War: **Harry Scott** born Manhead, Devon(*Mamhead*)  
Private 35768 Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment), 5th Battalion  
Enlisted Cheltenham died 7 Dec 1918, France & Flanders (*clearly incorrect, Germany*)  
Last known address: Winchcombe, Glos

Next of kin: Susan Scott, Mother, Park Cottage, High Street, Dawlish  
A payment of £29. 14s. 4d. Was made to his mother, a sole legatee. This included a War Gratuity of £12.

### References:

Free Birth marriage death records

List of Prisoner-of-War camps in Gemany – Wikipedia

What You Need To Know About *The British Naval Blockade Of The First World War* - IWM

### References via subscription websites:

UK Soldiers died in the Great War

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects  
census data

Birth, marriage & death data

Hookway family tree - Ancestry

Hellyer Family tree (with photo)