

Walter Henry SCOTT

Born in St Thomas District Q2, 1890
Lance Corporal, R/15920

Killed in action, Flanders, 28 May 1917, aged 27
King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRRC)

Walter Henry Scott appears at 11 months old on the 1891 census as the youngest child of Henry (Henry William Scott 1852 – 1917) and Susan (Susan Gidley 1849 – 1935) Scott at Rectory Cottage, Mamhead where **Walter** was born.

Henry had been born in Tedburn St Mary and became a gardener. He married Susan Gidley in St Thomas District, which includes Mamhead, in 1874 (GRO ref St Thomas, 1874, Q2, vol 5b, p 94).

They had ten children of which two had died by the 1911 census. They were Alice Maud (1876-), Harriett Susan (1877-1958), Charles Eli (1880 -), all born in Clyst St Mary, Ada (1882-), Annie (1884-), Ethel (1885-), Hilda (1888-), **Walter Henry (1890-1917)**, Harry Reginald (1892-1918) – also a casualty of WW1.

The family were still living at Rectory Cottage in 1901. By 1911 the family had moved to Park Cottage, High Street/Strand Hill, Dawlish and **Walter Henry Scott** was 20 and the only child living at home, working as a gardener(market). At that time there were eight children of the marriage alive.

Walter received a Notice of conscription and enlisted with 'B' Corps of the 17th Division, King's Royal Rifle Corps on the 25th October 1915 at Coventry. His address was given as Forest Grange, Nr Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire.

He married Lilian Annie Hinch (1892-) on 1st January 1916 at St Mark's Church, Swindon. She was one of three servants to Thomas Dawson, a boot factor, in 1911 and was a nursemaid at Forest Grange, Hinkley Road, Kirby Muxloe (Hinkley Road runs west from Leicester, now the A47).

Lilian Annie Hinch was living with her grandparents at Coleshill, Faringdon, Berks, when she was 9 years old in 1901. It has not been possible to trace her parentage but her mother may have been a daughter of William and Mary Hinch and died after the birth of Lilian. The family were born in parts of Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Lincolnshire.

Walter and Lilian set up home at 22 Gloucester Street, Swindon. Walter's possessions of a watch(broken) and a cigarette case were sent to his widow at that address. She received a widow's pension of 13s. 9d. , a death grant of £3. 4s. 4d. and a War Gratuity of £7. 0s. 0d. (photo portrait on Ancestry: Hellyer Family Tree)

Walter is recorded as Killed in Action and the report in the Dawlish Gazette reveals the circumstances (see Documents, below). His father died earlier in 1917.

In World War I the KRRRC was expanded to twenty-two battalions and saw much action on the Western Front, Macedonia and Italy with sixty battle honours awarded. 12,840 men of the regiment were killed while seven members received the Victoria Cross and over 2,000 further decorations were awarded. (Wikipedia) The 117th Brigade was a formation of the British Army during the First World War. It was raised as part of the new army also known as Kitchener's Army and assigned to the 39th Division.

117th Brigade Formation

Dawlish World War One Project

- 16th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Chatsworth Rifles)
- 17th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Welbeck Rangers)
- **17th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps (British Empire League)**
- 16th Battalion, Rifle Brigade (St Pancras)
- 117th Machine Gun Company
- **117th Trench Mortar Battery**

The 39th Division of the British Army was a New Army division, which saw service on the Western Front and in Italy during the First World War.

The division was formed as part of the fifth wave (K5) of divisions in the New Army; it did not have a regional title, but was composed primarily of recruits from the Midlands, London, and the south of England. Several of its battalions had been raised by local communities, and were named for their towns or industries. After training and home service, it deployed to the Western Front in early 1916, and fought in the Battle of the Somme. The following year, it saw action at the Third Battle of Ypres, and in **Battle of Arras 9- 30 May 1917**.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: SCOTT, W H Lance Corporal R/15920 28/05/1917
Age: 28 King's Royal Rifle Corps, 17th Bn. Husband of Lilian A. Scott, of 22, Gloucester St., Swindon.

Grave Reference II. D. 10. Cemetery New Irish Farm Cemetery This cemetery is north-west of Ypres/ Ieper in Flanders.

Walter Henry Scott is recorded on the Devon Roll of Honour but death recorded as 25th May, France (see CWGC 28th May, Flanders)

Dawlish War memorial inscription: SCOTT W.H. L/CORPL MORTAR BTY
(The report in the Dawlish Gazette, in 'Documents' below, implies that he was serving in a trench mortar battery, but the CWGC record shows that he was attached as a rifleman from the KRRC-*ed*)

The Devon Heritage site gives no information to support the War Memorial listing

Last known address: Forest Grange, Nr Kirby Muxloe, Leicester

Next of kin: Mrs Lilian A Scott, 22 Gloucester Street, Swindon, Wilts

References:

Free birth, marriage, death refs

Wikipedia

Dawlish Gazette 9 June 1917

Refs via subscription websites;

Census records

British Army WW1 Service Records

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

Ancestry family trees – The Brown Family Legacy, Hellyer family tree