



Robert Scott

1899-1918

Robert was born in Smethwick, Staffordshire in 1899. His father was also Robert Scott, AMIMechE (Associate Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers) an Engineer born in Warwick in 1874 and died in 1943. His mother was Emily (nee Beetlestone) born in Warwick in 1876 and died in 1942. They were married in 1899, and moved to Dewsbury around 1905. Robert Sr. was Engineer in charge at Thornhill Iron and Steel Works.

Their other children were; Elsie Emily, born in Aston, Birmingham in 1901 and Dorothy Hilda, born in Birmingham in 1904.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 84, Holte Road, Aston Manor, Birmingham and in 1911 at 21, Orchard Street, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Robert was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and Dewsbury Technical College. He worked as an Accountant Clerk with Messrs W.D. Burlinson, Batley and previously with Mr. Harold Appleyard, Dewsbury and was described as "*a brilliant student of Shorthand*". He was connected to Dewsbury Baptist Church and Sunday school and also the Christian Endeavour Society.

He enlisted in October 1917 serving as Rifleman 53717 in the 1st/8th Battalion (Leeds Rifles) West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He came home on leave at Easter 1918 but was recalled to the front almost immediately after arriving home. He was killed in action near Reims in France on 20th July 1918 during the Second Battle of the Marne whilst acting as a Lewis Gunner; a colleague reported seeing him badly wounded on the battlefield but it proved impossible for stretcher-bearers to reach him. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. Robert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. Here, at the end of May 1918 the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. The Allied counter attack drove back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave.

Robert is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial to former pupils of Eastborough School and on the War Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Baptist Church.

In Memory of
Rifleman
Robert Scott

53717, 1st/8th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 20 July 1918

Remembered with Honour
Soissons Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

