

Sergeant Walter Scriven

Regimental number: 22927

25th Battery, Royal Field Artillery

born: about 1887 - died: 27 September 1918

Sergeant Walter Scriven was born in about 1887¹ in Blackfairs, London.² He was the son of Elizabeth Scriven and possibly Henry Scriven.³ His mother was born in about 1861 in Birmingham, Warwickshire⁴ and Henry was born in about 1850 in Hoxton, London. It is not known when or if Henry and Elizabeth married but, when they were together, they had five children living with them: Amy (born in about 1883), Fredrick (born in about 1885), Walter, Henry (born in about 1890)⁵ and Charles William (born in about 1895).⁶ These children may have been Elizabeth's children from a previous relationship because no birth records were found for any of these children with the surname Scriven, except Charles, who was born after Henry and Elizabeth appear as a couple in the 1891 census.

Henry had been married before. In 1868, he married Matilda Ann Smart in St Silas, Pentonville in London.⁷ They probably had seven children:⁸ Henry James (born in May 1869),⁹ Amelia Sarah (probably born in May 1870),¹⁰ Alice Tryphena (born in November 1871),¹¹ George Alfred (born in February 1873),¹² and Ann Marie (born in May 1874, but died about a year later).¹³ In 1881, the family was living on Goswell Road in Brentwood.¹⁴ The relationship with Matilda ended at some point before 1891, but Matilda continued to live in the London area¹⁵ until probably 1927.¹⁶

In 1891, Walter was living with Henry, Elizabeth and three siblings at 276 Devons Road, Bromley, Poplar in London.¹⁷ Henry was a hairdresser, as he was through all his working life.¹⁸ Ten years later they were living at 10 Leyes Road in West Ham, which was also a barber shop. Henry was then a widower. Elizabeth had probably died at the age of 40 in West Ham in 1900.¹⁹

In 1904, Henry was living with Hannah,²⁰ with whom he had three children before 1911:²¹ John David (born in about 1905), Sarah (born in about 1907) and Edward (born in about 1908).

Walter continued to live with his father and some of his siblings until some point after 1901. Early in 1911, he married Annie L. Ruff in Brentford, Middlesex²² and they were living at 14 Lateward Road, in Brentford, where Walter was a hairdresser's assistant. Annie was probably born in Brentford in 1888,²³ the daughter of Fredrick and Jane Ruff.²⁴ Walter and Annie's daughter, Annie E., was born on 2 January 1912.²⁵ They do not appear to have had any other children.

Walter enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in Stratford in east London²⁶ at the very beginning of the war. He joined the Front on 6 October 1914²⁷ and survived for four years. But, on 27 September 1918, he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.²⁸ He had already died of the gunshot wounds to his chest when he was admitted. He was buried the same day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 25, Plot 7, Row A) with the chaplain W. Fisher presiding.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.²⁹ The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.³⁰ A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September 1918.

His wife, who was his next-of-kin, was notified of his death.³¹ She was living at 5 Arlingford Road in Brixton. She also received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.³²

Walter was awarded the Military Medal,³³ which was given to Other Ranks for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land.³⁴ In addition, he was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).³⁵

His wife may have remarried in 1922, marrying Alexander M. Royan in London.³⁶ His daughter, Annie, probably married Wilfred C. Johnson in 1936 in Rochford, Essex.³⁷

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¹ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 February 2016), entry for Walter Scriven, Registration district: Poplar, ED, institution, or vessel: 23, Piece: 323, Folio: 47, Page Number: 32

² "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 January 2016), entry for Walter Scriven

³ "1891 England Census," entry for Walter Scriven

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "England & Wales births 1837-2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 February 2016), entry for Charles William Scriven, District: Mile End Old Town, County: London, Volume: 1C, Page: 543

⁷ "London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2016), entry for Henry Scriven, Parish: St Silas, Pentonville, Borough: Islington, Register Type: Parish Register

⁸ This is based on information in the 1911 census for Matilda Scriven. Five children have been identified, of which one is known to have died before 1911. ("1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 February 2016), entry for Matilda Scioeu, Registration district: Brentford, Registration District Number: 128, Sub-registration district: Isleworth, ED, institution, or vessel: 27, Household schedule number: 207, Piece: 6832)

⁹ "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2016), entry for Henry James Scriven

¹⁰ "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2016), entry for Amelia Sarah Scriven

¹¹ "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2016), entry for Alice Tryphena Scriven

¹² "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2016), entry for George Alfred Scriven

¹³ "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2016), entry for Ann Marie Scriven; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2016), entry for Ann Maria, Registration district: Pancras, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 54

¹⁴ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2016), entry for Henry Scriven, Registration district: Holborn, Sub-registration district: Old Street, ED, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 360, Folio: 69, Page Number: 33

¹⁵ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 February 2016), entry for Matilda Scriven, Registration district: Holborn, Sub registration district: Pentonville, ED, institution, or vessel: 4b, Piece: 226, Folio: 143, Page Number: 84; "1911 England Census," entry for Matilda Scioeu

¹⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 February 2016), entry for Matilda Scriven, Registration district: West Ham, Inferred County: Essex, Volume: 4a, Page: 205

¹⁷ "1891 England Census," entry for Walter Scriven

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- ¹⁸ The 1881 census records Henry as a bricklayer, but he was shown as a hair dresser in all other census records and in the baptismal records for his children.
- ¹⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 January 2016), entry for Elizabeth Scriven, Registration district: West Ham, Inferred County: Essex, Volume: 4a, Page: 166
- ²⁰ No evidence was found of a marriage, although Hannah is shown as his wife on the 1911 census.
- ²¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2016), entry for Henry Scriven, Registration district: West Ham, Registration District Number: 188, Sub-registration district: Canning Town, ED, institution, or vessel: 8, Household schedule number: 135, Piece: 9478
- ²² "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2016), entry for Walter Scriven, District: Brentford, County: Middlesex, Volume: 3A, Page: 213
- ²³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2016), entry for Annie Louisa Ruff, District: Brentford, County: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 99
- ²⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 February 2016), entry for Annie Ruff, Registration district: Brentford, ED, institution, or vessel: 30, Piece: 1031, Folio: 125, Page Number: 12
- ²⁵ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 January 2016), entry for Walter Scriven
- ²⁶ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 January 2016), entry for Walter Scriven
- ²⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 January 2016), entry for Walter Scriven
- ²⁸ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 681
- ²⁹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- ³⁰ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ³¹ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 681
- ³² "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," entry for Walter Scriven
- ³³ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," entry for Walter Scriven
- ³⁴ "A Guide to British Awards for Gallantry or Meritorious Service in WW1," *the Great War* (<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/medals/ww1-gallantry-awards.htm#MM>; accessed 5 February 2016)
- ³⁵ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for Walter Scriven
- ³⁶ "England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1916-2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 January 2016), entry for Annie L. Scriven, Registration district: Pancras, Inferred County: Middlesex, Volume Number: 1b, Page Number: 144
- ³⁷ "England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1916-2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 January 2016), entry for Annie E. Scriven, Registration district: Rochford, Inferred County: Essex, Volume Number: 4a, Page Number: 975