

Lieutenant Arnold Charles Scott[©]

Regimental number: —

1st Battalion, Royal Scot Fusiliers

born: 1892 - died: 9 June 1918

Lieutenant Arnold Charles Scott was born in 1892 in West Ham, Essex,¹ the youngest son of George Towns and Elspet Scott.² Both his parents came from Scotland—George, the son of George Scott and Helen Hutton, was born on 22 October 1854 in Arbroath³ and his mother, the former Elspet Caie, daughter of Alexander Caie and Margaret Meldrum, on 4 January 1859 in Aberdeen.⁴

George probably lived in Scotland until at least 1861, when he was living with his father, a ships' master.⁵ Elspet and her family also lived in Scotland until some time after 1861.⁶ In 1871, the family was living on Ransoms Terrace, St Mary, in Southampton, Hampshire.⁷

In 1879, Elspet married James Wyse in Southampton. The following year they had a son, Alexander Lindon.⁸ James may have died in London the next year,⁹ because Elspet married George Scott in 1883. They had two sons before Arnold: George Cooper on 22 March 1885¹⁰ and Leslie Caie on 19 September 1888.¹¹

Sadly, when Arnold was just 8, his father died in an accident at sea. The account of his death was reported in the *Morning Oregonian* on 21 January:

On the morning of January 9th, George Towns Scott, chief engineer of the vessel, disappeared between midnight and four o'clock. It is presumed that he fell overboard in some way. He was a native of Arbroath, Scotland.¹²

An article in the local newspaper, the *Arbroath Herald and Advertiser*, further expanded on George's family and his career at sea:

Deceased has several relatives in Arbroath and the first information received here was conveyed in a brief telegram last week from his wife, who resides in London, to his sister Mrs. John Smith, 6 Academy Street. Mr. Scott, who was 44 years of age, was the only son of the late Captain George Scott, who died in Duke Street some 18 years ago, and who for a long time resided in Union Street East. Deceased served his apprenticeship at Den Iron Works, and afterwards went to a shipbuilding firm in Glasgow. About two years later he entered the service of the P & O Steamship Company. While with the Company he reached the position of first engineer, and over a dozen years ago he entered the service of the Shire Line Company, the Monmouthshire being the second vessel of the company in which he held the position of first engineer. For a long time he sailed between London and Japan and between Japan and South America. From a letter received by Mr. Smith on Monday, it appears that at the time of the accident it appears that a heavy sea was rolling, and that he had overbalanced himself and fallen into the water unobserved by anyone. Deceased was of a most genial disposition, and much esteemed by his fellow-officers and all who came in contact with him, and the Captain of the Monmouthshire writes that on the evening before his sad death he was in the best of spirits and health. Besides his widow, Mr. Scott leaves behind him three young children. Much sympathy will be felt for all his relatives in their sad bereavement.¹³

After his father's death, Arnold was living at the Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum in Snaresbrook, Wanstead, Essex.¹⁴ The orphanage was set up in October 1827 to care for the children of men lost at sea. In 1862, the orphanage moved to the facilities at Snaresbrook.¹⁵ His brother Leslie was at the British Orphan Asylum in Slough, Buckinghamshire. It is not known where their mother was living at the time, but it was apparently not necessary for her to have died for the children to be in these institutions. Their older brother George was living at 71 Dacre Road in West Ham, with an aunt and uncle. His aunt, Margaret Osborne, was Elspet's older sister.¹⁶ Margaret had married Joseph Osborne in London in 1888.¹⁷

Ten years later, Arnold was living with another aunt—Alexandra, Elspet's younger sister.¹⁸ They were living at 71 Dacre Road and Arnold was working as a clerk at the Palmer's Oil and Candle Works. Alexandra was then the wife of Alfred Joel Smith,¹⁹ although Alfred was not living at home at the time of the 1911 Census.²⁰ Arnold's brother Leslie, was a civil servant with the Board of Education and was lodging at 173 Boleyn Road, Forest Gate, near West Ham.²¹ It is not known where George was at the time, but his half-brother Alexander was living in Bedford with his wife and three daughters.²² Alexander had married Sarah Elizabeth Broadway in 1907.²³

Arnold enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force early in the war and went to France on 23 April 1915.²⁴ He served first in the London Regiment and then the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He was commissioned in the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers on 4 August 1916.

Two years later, on 27 May 1918, he joined the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots.²⁵ At the end of May 1918, the 1st Battalion was on the front line in billets near Chocques, less than 10 kilometres west of Béthune, France. On 30 May, it relieved the 13th King's Liverpool in the trenches and there was enemy aircraft and artillery activity most days in early June. The battalion war diary notes that, on 7 June, "Artillery (hostile) action in back area and also been active in the front line . . . More movement is also reported behind the German lines."²⁶ Arnold was wounded that day; three Other Ranks were killed and 12 wounded. On 7 June 1918, he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his head.²⁷ He died two days later²⁸ and was buried the following day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row A, Grave No. 1), with the Canadian chaplain R. K. Lambert presiding. Arnold's injury was noted in the battalion's war diary and then on 9 June, the diary records ". . . Liet [*sic*] A. C. Scott died of wounds."²⁹

The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.³⁰ In June 1918, over 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.³¹ There were 82 deaths that month.

The chaplain sent a letter to his brother Leslie, who was then living at 1 Windsmarleigh Gardens, Seven Kings in Ilford, Essex, to notify him of Arnold's death. Later Leslie had the following inscription included on Arnold's gravestone:

FOUGHT WITH THE BRAVE
AND JOYFULLY
DIED IN FAITH OF VICTORY³²

The probate of Arnold's will was awarded to Leslie in July 1918. Arnold left £1087 12s 5d.³³

Arnold was awarded posthumously 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).³⁴ Since Arnold was an officer, his family had to apply for his medals. Leslie did so in September 1921.

Elspet may have died in 1915 in Romford, Essex.³⁵ Just before the war, Arnold's brother Leslie married Beatrice A. Britten in West Ham.³⁶ They married in 1914 and had their first child, a daughter, Elsie M., in 1917.³⁷ Four years later they had a son, born on 3 May 1921.³⁸ He was named Arnold C.—likely in memory of his uncle. In 1939, the family was living at 29 Murray Road in Ruislip, Middlesex.³⁹ Sadly, Arnold's namesake probably died in 1941 at the age of just 20.⁴⁰

His brother George also had a son named Arnold. George married Edith M. Robinson in 1913⁴¹ and their son, Arnold G., was born on 14 February 1919.⁴²

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¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 January 2018) entry for Heasman, Amelia Violet Ivy, Registration district: West Ham, Volume 04A, Page 53

² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for Scott, Arnold Charles

³ "Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2017), entry for George Towns Scott, FHL Film Number: 993332

⁴ "Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 January 2017), entry for Elspet Caie, FHL Film Number: 6035516

⁵ "1861 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for George Scott, Enumeration district: 21, Household schedule number: 36, Line: 22, Roll: CSSCT1861_36

⁶ "1861 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 January 2018), entry for Elspet Caie, Enumeration district: 60, Household schedule number: 157, Line: 22, Roll: CSSCT1861_25

⁷ "1871 Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 14 January 2017), entry for Elspet Caie, Registration district: Southampton, Archive reference: RG10, Piece number: 1189, Folio: 151, Page: 32

⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 January 2018) entry for Wyse, Alexander Lindon, Registration district: Woolwich, Volume 01D, Page 1194

⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 December 2017), entry for James Wyse, Registration district: Whitechapel, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1c, Page: 227

¹⁰ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 23 January 2018), entry for George C. Scott, Ref: RG101/1460A/011/27, Letter code: DAFQ

¹¹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2017), entry for Leslie C. Scott, Ref: RG101/0868D/015/33, Letter code: BOAC

¹² Cited in "Arbroath Engineer Lost," *Arbroath Herald and Advertiser for Montrose Burghs*, 15 February 1900 *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 December 2017)

¹³ "Arbroath Engineer Lost," *Arbroath Herald and Advertiser for Montrose Burghs*, 15 February 1900 *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 December 2017)

¹⁴ "1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for Arnold C. Scott, Registration district: West Ham, Archive reference: RG13, Piece: 1608, Folio: 170, Page: 8

¹⁵ "The Royal Merchant Seamen's Orphanage," *Former Children's Homes* (http://www.formerchildrenshomes.org.uk/the_royal_merchant_seamens_orphanage.html: accessed 5 December 2017)

¹⁶ "1871 Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 14 January 2017), entry for Elspet Caie

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- ¹⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2017), entry for Margaret Caie, Registration district: Mile End Old Town, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1c, Page: 1032
- ¹⁸ "1871 Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 14 January 2017), entry for Elspet Caie
- ¹⁹ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Alexandra Caie, District: West Ham, County: Essex, Volume: 4A, Page: 192
- ²⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for Arnold Charles Scott, Registration district: Bolton, Registration district number: 461, Sub-registration district: Plaistow, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 4, Household schedule number: 201, Piece: 9414
- ²¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for Leslie Caie Scott, Registration district: West Ham, Sub-registration district: Forest Gate, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 2, Household schedule number: 51, Piece: 9375
- ²² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 December 2017), entry for Alexander London Wyse, Registration district: Bedford, Registration district number: 174, Sub-registration district: Bedford and Cardington, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 10, Household schedule number: 221, Piece: 8875
- ²³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2017), entry for Alexander London Wyse, Registration district: Coventry, Inferred county: Warwickshire, Volume: 6d, Page: 834
- ²⁴ Arnold began his service on the Front before the beginning of 1916 because he awarded the 1914-15 Star. ("British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2017), entry for A C Scott)
- ²⁵ "1 Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers," *The National Archives* (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C7352079>: accessed 22 January 2017), Reference: WO 95/1422/3, Date: 1916 Apr–1919 May
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*
- ²⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for Scott, E. C. [*sic*]
- ²⁸ No. 1 CCCS chaplains' journal indicates that he died on 10 June but other military records, including his battalion's war diary, suggest that it was 9 June. This may mean that he was buried on 10 June and not on 11 June.
- ²⁹ "1 Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers," *The National Archives* (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C7352079>: accessed 22 January 2017)
- ³⁰ "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ³¹ "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=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)
- ³² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for Scott, Arnold Charles
- ³³ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for Arnold Charles Scott
- ³⁴ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for A C Scott
- ³⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 December 2017), entry for Elspeth [*sic*] Scott, Registration district: Romford, Inferred county: Essex, Volume: 4a, Page: 550

³⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 December 2017), entry for Leslie C. Scott, Registration district: West Ham, Inferred county: Essex, Volume: 4a, Page: 364

³⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2017), entry for Elsie M Scott, Registration district: Romford, Inferred county: Essex, Suffolk [*sic*], Volume: 4a, Page: 721

³⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2017), entry for Arnold C Scott, Registration district: Romford, Inferred county: Essex, Suffolk [*sic*], Volume: 4a, Page: 1067

³⁹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2017), entry for Leslie C. Scott, Ref: RG101/0868D/015/33, Letter code: BOAC

⁴⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 December 2017), entry for Elspeth [*sic*] Scott, Registration district: Romford, Inferred county: Essex, Volume: 4a, Page: 550

⁴¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 January 2018), entry for Leslie C. Scott, Registration district: Yeovil, Inferred county: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 801

⁴² "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2017), entry for Leslie C. Scott