

Frank Ashley P Scott

Frank Ashley P Scott was the son of Arthur and Ellen Scott. Arthur, of Shirley, was a journeyman miller (flour), living with his family at a house attached to the unoccupied bone mill, Nursling, in 1901. Frank was only a year old at the time of the census, with a ten year old sister, Ada, a seven year old brother, Fred, and an infant sister, as yet unnamed. By 1911, the family are listed as living at Test Vale House, Nursling; Arthur is a foreman miller at a corn mill, Frederick is an assistant miller, Frank (eleven), Salome (the unnamed baby of the earlier census) and their seven year old brother Harold are all at school.

Frank served with the Duke of Cornwall's light infantry, which raised 16 Battalions in WWI, was awarded 57 Battle Honours and 1 Victoria Cross, and lost 4,510 men during the course of the war. He was in the 1/5th Battalion, who saw action at several battles in 1918, including the Battle of St Quentin and the Actions at the Somme Crossings.

Frank was a casualty of spring 1918's final push, which had seen the German army retake much ground which they'd lost earlier in the war. The DCLI suffered many casualties in the German offensive on the River Lys, near the border between Belgium and France. Frank died on 14th April, has no known grave and is commemorated at Ploegsteert (or Plugstreet as the Tommies called it.)

Ann Laird - Rownhams April 2015