

## Walter Charles Scott

### *Private 11212, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry*

**Walter Charles Scott** was born Amersham, Buckinghamshire in 1888 to William and Mary Ann Scott. The 1891 Census of England & Wales has the family living in White Lion Road, Amersham with William recorded as a farm labourer. At that time there were four children, namely; Henry William (6), Edith Eliza (4), Walter Charles (3) and Rosa Martha (2 months) together with two boarders George Bolton (20) and Henry Yates (52) both farm labourers. Ten years later the 1901 Census shows the family still in White Lion Road and William as an agricultural worker, Henry working for a builder while Walter Charles, then aged 13, was a house boy (domestic). There also were five additional siblings born between the two Census dates; Rosa M, Elizabeth C, Edward G, Emma and Mary both one year old and twins. The two boarders were no longer in residence. Walter Charles attended St Mary's School, Amersham and is actually listed in their records of 1906. In the 1911 Census Walter, now 23 and a farm labourer, is still living at home with his parents in White Lion Road, with the residence described as a four-roomed house including kitchen but, not necessarily, a bathroom. The other children also still at home were Henry (26) a wagoner on a farm, Edward (13) an errand boy, plus Emma and Mary the potential twins now eleven plus another daughter May (9). Overall the family numbered ten children with one having died prior to 1911.

Walter Charles enlisted in Chesham, Bucks on the 31 August 1914 for three years' service. He stated his trade or calling as a gardener, was 5ft 6ins tall, weighed 119 lbs, had a fair complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. There is mention of Walter in the *Bucks Examiner* of 9 October 1914, 27 November 1914 and the *Bucks Herald* of 3 October 1914 as a private in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry having been passed fit for service at Oxford on 1 September. Three days later he was posted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion and on 31 October 1914 moved again to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. However, due to continuing medical problems, he subsequently served for only 156 days, without an overseas posting, until 2 February 1915 when he was discharged from Fort Brockhurst as no longer fit for war service. Osteoarthritis was the given reason of the Army Medical Board.

*'Man has a history of occasional attacks of pain in right hip joint for the last 3 years. Probably due to exposure to bad weather in his occupation as a gardener and aggravated by climate on ordinary military service.'*<sup>1</sup>

An Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Minute sheet of 26 July 1915 states also:

*'He (Walter) cannot remember any particular exposure except when in Portsmouth. He suffered with rheumatics the whole time constantly reporting sick supplied with a great coat but no waterproof sheeting. He had a change of clothing and lived in barracks, tents and war shelters till discharge.'*

Subsequently an application for a pension (presumably due to his disability) was initially rejected, but it appears persistence and perseverance ultimately paid off, as a note in the DGAMS (Director-General, Army Medical Services) record of 29 April 1916 reads:-

*'This man's present condition may be regarded for pension purposes as aggravated by (A) Service since the declaration of war. Incapacity in the general labour market ¼ a doubtful case.'*

Backdated to 3 February 1915 and continuing until 29 February 1916, Walter was eventually awarded a small pension of 4s 8d (four shillings and eight pence) a week. This was increased to five shillings commencing 1 March 1916 and then a much larger increase to £1.00 (20 shillings) per week from 29 November 1916. Furthermore, the pension decision was constantly under review until a Medical Board record of 30 June 1917 highlighted his total incapacity by raising the pension

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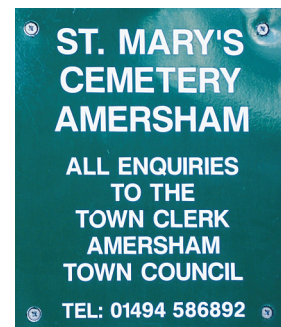
<sup>1</sup> Ancestry.co.uk is the source of all information regarding the army records, including Walter's medical history, short service record, discharge and struggle to obtain a pension.

to £1 7s 6d per week (twenty seven shillings and six pence). However, this final award was officially cancelled on 2 April 1918 following Walter's death at home in Amersham on 17 January 1918.

Registration District Amersham									
1918 Death in the Sub-district of Amersham					in the County of Buckingham				
Columns:- 1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
427	Seventeenth January 1918 White Lion Road Amersham R.D.	Walter Charles Scott	Male	29 years	Pensioner Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry	(1) Tubercular dis of hip (2) Bone Abscess Exhaustion  Certified by G L Wynne M.R.C.S.	M A Scott Mother Prescent at the death White Lion Road Amersham	Eighteenth January 1918	Frank Bryan Registrar

Death Certificate of Walter Charles Scott

He is buried in the cemetery behind St. Mary's Church, Amersham, but has no gravestone.



Walter Charles Scott is remembered with Honour, Amersham War Memorial, Memorial Gardens, Old Amersham, Buckinghamshire