

LIBERATION DU DOUVAISI



Un soldat anglais enterré à Flines



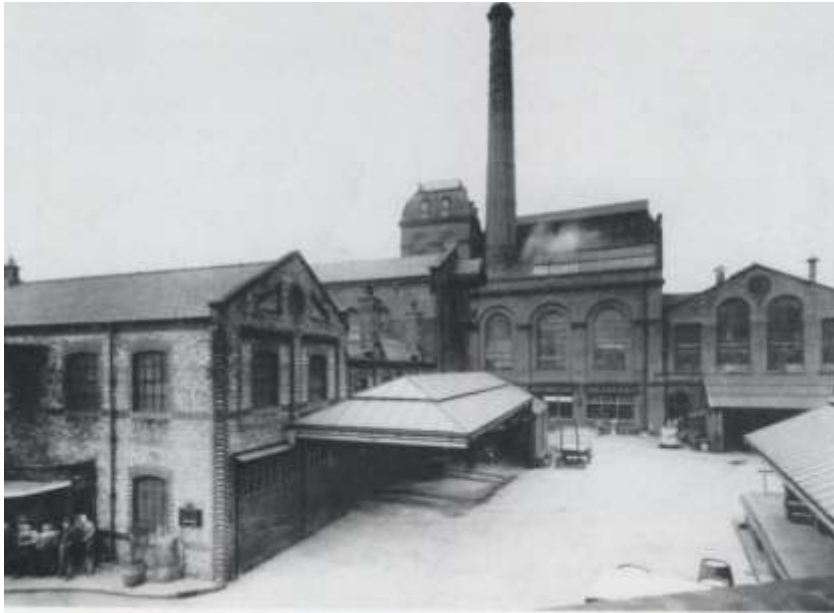
Gunner WJ SCOTT,
Royal Field Artillery.
Killed in Action.
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Un soldat anglais, l'artilleur William Scott (159926), qui appartient à la 31^e Brigade de la Field Artillery, a été "tué à l'ennemi" le 19 octobre 1918 lors de la libération de la région. Il était dans *B Battery* (Batterie B) qui était en train de traverser Flines-les-Râches quand il y a eu une "explosion". Les civils furent terriblement choqués et emportèrent les corps dans leurs maisons que nous visitons l'après midi, pour voir une dernière fois nos camarades reposants dans des chambres sombres éclairées de chandelles"¹.

Il avait 19 ans, était le fils de George et Phoebe Scott. Il avait six frères et sœurs : George (22 ans), Leo (18), Austin (17), John (14), Walter (10) et Rose (8) en 1901. Il est né à St Helens, Lancs et habitait à l'Anglican House, Windleshaw Road à St Helens.

¹ J. Ivor Hanson, *Plough and Scatter" - a diary-journal of a First World War Gunner*, éd. Alan Wakefield.

Dans le civil, William Scott était employé dans la brasserie Greenall Whitley & Co Ltd, hall street, à St Helens, non loin de Liverpool (nord-ouest de l'Angleterre). Pour se souvenir de ses employés morts pendant la Première Guerre mondiale la brasserie a érigé une plaque commémorative où on relève le nom de William Scott.



Brasserie Greenhall Whitley à St Helens



Plaque commémorative apposée à la brasserie

William Scott n'a pas été le seul soldat victime de cette explosion même s'il est le seul à être enterré à Flines. En effet, le mitrailleur Percy LOVEDAY (875458) était avec lui. Il n'est pas mort sur le coup, mais a été mortellement blessé. Il a très probablement reçu des soins, mais a succombé et a été enterré à Râches. Son corps a été exhumé en août 1935 pour être inhumé à Brebières, où il repose actuellement.

Recherches : Thomas Delattre

Sources : <https://www.greatwarforum.org/topic/115963-311th-brigade-rfa/>
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/4000053/loveday,-percy-henry/>
http://www.sthelensrollsofhonour.co.uk/casualty-1121-William_Scott.html

