

# The Draper's Boy.

## 2012 ANZAC SPIRIT SCHOOL PRIZE

In response to Britain's declaration of war against Germany and her allies in August, 1914. Around 416 809 Australian young men would voluntarily enlist. After four grinding years, nearly sixty thousand of them would never return and another 156 000 would bear the scars as; amputees, the blinded, mentally ill and the gassed. Many of these former

soldiers would pick up the threads of their lives, others were too traumatised. Incredibly a few would serve again in a future conflict against the old enemy. Cleve James Scott, the young man I chose to research would become a battle statistic but I wanted to learn more. My father has been in the RAAF for the last 21.5 years and is a proud veteran of the Iraq war. I am a twin and so was Cleve, this fact made me curious to learn his war story. I know how close I am to my sister and losing Cleve must have been a terrible wrench for his twin, Coral.



1. Cleve James Scott

Born in 1896, Cleve, his twin sister, older brother and parents James and Felicia moved from tiny Port Broughton to bustling Church Hill, Gawler. The children attended Gawler Public School (refer to fig. 2). After school Cleve worked in Essex House, Murray Street as a draper's assistant to one of Gawler's most prominent business men, Mr Alfred Sheard. A drapery and haberdashery business of its type was the focal point for many women in town

and on outlying farms. Cleve would have cut and wrapped the cloth for hundreds of the local housewives. Essex house has been heritage listed and the firm has an honour roll of five, including Lieutenant Cleve J Scott. Copies of the local Gawler newspaper at the time provide evidence of community support for the troops. E.g. the Coo-ee Knitting Club. It is probable that materials used to produce comforts could have been purchased from Cleve's employer.



2. The author in front of Gawler Primary School [The primary school Cleve attended] as it is today.



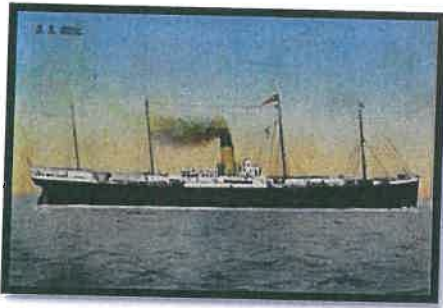
3. A. Sheard's Drapery (Essex House) in 1905.



4. Essex House, 2011. Today it is a furniture shop.

Records suggest that Cleve was interested in military matters, as he was a member of the Gawler Senior Cadets for four years. Also, he spent 12 months with the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry. His brother, Frank John, enlisted on the 22nd of August 1914. It is possible that Cleve enlisted hoping to reunite with his brother. Cleve was 'single and aged 20 years' when he enlisted. [WWI file [B2455, SCOTT C J](#)]

Cleve was appointed to 'C' company bay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Depot Battalion as a Private, soon after he was promoted to Corporal. However, before transferring to 'D' company he asked that his rank be reverted back to Private, nevertheless he was promoted again to Corporal. Cleve sacrificed promotions numerous times to achieve his objective of being transferred to his brother's battalion.



5. HMAT A19 Afric date unknown

Cleve sailed from Outer Harbour, Adelaide on HMAT A19 *Afric* on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, arriving in Marseilles, Southern France on July 20, 1916, eventually embarking for England with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion as a Sergeant. Later, Cleve was admitted to 7th General Hospital in St Omer in the north of France with mumps. My wider reading suggests that mumps, measles and serious flu put many men out of action. These infectious diseases spread quickly and were regarded as serious. Once recovered Cleve rejoined the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. After one month he was reverted to the rank Private, at his request. A week later

Cleve transferred to 'A company' of the 10<sup>th</sup> battalion, in which his brother was a Lieutenant. Again he was admitted to hospital in March, 1917 because of an injury to his feet. Cleve rejoined the 10th Battalion from the hospital within the next month. In April, Cleve was promoted to Lance Corporal and posted to England, transferring back to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in September. He returned to France on October 14.

Unfortunately, during that time, Cleve's brother, Lieutenant Frank John Scott was killed in action, when as raid commander at Celtic Wood on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 1917. Frank was aged 22 years. From my research, (Lieutenant Frank John Scott's Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files 1DRL/0428) I read that a fellow soldier saw Cleve at the hospital and he knew of his brother's death and particulars about his burial. The young brothers served together for nine months before Frank died. This time spent together, which Cleve went to extreme lengths to arrange, was clearly something he yearned for. Despite the personal tragedy there was nothing he could do except continue to fight. His parents back in Gawler would have been notified by telegram of Frank's death. On February 22, 1918 Cleve was promoted to the rank Lieutenant.



The arrow is pointing to Cleve James Scott.

DATE	RANK
10/01/1916	Private
16/01/1916	Corporal
16/03/1916	Private
30/03/1916	Corporal
19/08/1916	Lance Sergeant
02/10/1916	Sergeant
19/01/1917	Private
14/4/1917	Lance Corporal
19/09/1917	Second Lieutenant
22/02/1918	Lieutenant

8. A table of all the ranks held by Cleve Scott during his time in the army.

Cleve and the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion were in the Front Line in Hollebeke, Belgium on March 1st, 1918. An enemy raid of 130 men caused the battalion heavy casualties. On March 8, 1918 Cleve was commended for his brave actions. He was recommended for the Military Cross by the Commanding Officer:

*"At Hollebeke, when the enemy raided our line on the night 1/2nd March, 1918, Lieut. C. J. Scott behaved with coolness and great gallantry. From a post on the right of the one raided he immediately opened Lewis Gun and Rifle Fire, causing the enemy many casualties. He drove off the attack upon his own Post, fired on the enemy who were returning with prisoners, and then under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, reconnoitred the position, re-*



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*established the raided post and assisted to bring in our own and enemy wounded from in front of the Outpost Line. He acted throughout with a total disregard for his personal safety and set a fine example to his men."* Source 9



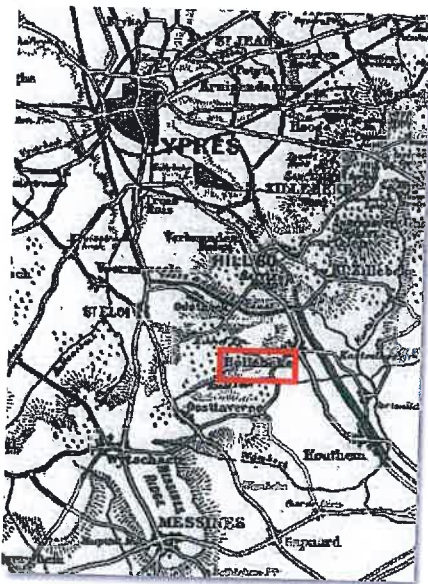
Source 10  
Ruins in Hollebeke, Belgium



Source 11  
Ruins of the Chapel of White  
(property of the King of Belgium)



Source 12  
Military Cross



Source 13  
Map of Ypres

In May, Cleve was admitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Red Cross Hospital, this time suffering from a severe gunshot wound to his thigh. He rejoined his men from the hospital and resumed duty in early July. I cannot help but wonder what he made of England and France when he had leave or lay recuperating in hospital. These short respites must have contrasted starkly with trench warfare.

Ultimately, his luck would run out, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July in Merris, France.

Cleve had gone with a party to take out a machine gun post. He was shot in the head and died instantly. In the operation 60-70 of the enemy were killed, 4 prisoners were taken as well as military equipment. The 10<sup>th</sup>

Battalion's casualties were: 1 officer (Lieutenant Cleve Scott) and 1 other rank killed, 1 officer and 6 other ranks were wounded. Lieutenant W.D

Sharland who witnessed Cleve's death wrote: *"At Merris about midnight of July 22nd, he was in charge of a mopping up party. Whilst attempting to mop up a strong German post he was shot through the head by a machine gun bullet and undoubtedly killed instantly."*-Source 14

Cleve's body was carried to the Battalion Aid Post. He was buried in La Kreule Military Cemetery. Tragically, Mr and Mrs Scott would receive a second dreaded telegram.

Cleve was praised in a memorial held at Gawler. (Refer to source. 15) A biography was also written about him in The Advertiser in August 1918. (Refer to source. 19)

Cleve was an ordinary young man, who became involved in an extraordinary event that would impact on many generations to come. [From looking at digitalised versions of The Advertiser online, I discovered that his mother and sisters had been putting in obituaries on the date of his death up to 22 years after he was killed.] He was dutiful, and served his community as a volunteer cadet before enlistment. The decoration highlights his bravery under fire. But most of all, he was a son, a twin, a brother and one of the 60 000 who would be laid to rest somewhere in France, Gallipoli or North Africa, a world away from Sheard's Drapery store and Church Hill, Gawler. We remember them, not to celebrate war, for that is terrible but for the acts of ANZAC brotherhood and solidarity.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE.**  
An In Memoriam to Lieut. Cleve Scott, who was killed whilst in action was held in the Salvation Army Hall on Sunday evening. The congregation was large, fully 400 being present. The building was draped with mourning colours, the chief decoration being a huge white cross with joy wreath suspended. In the congregation were Major Esau and men of the 80th Infantry, and Captain Connor with the Senior Cadets. The Boy Scouts were also represented: as were the Sons of Temperance. Mr. A. Jordan (Manager) and staff of Mr. E. Sheard's were present as a tribute of respect to the deceased, he formerly being in the employ of that firm. Adj. Munro made a capital address, referring in glowing terms to the loyalty of the lad, who had sacrificed all, even military honors, so as to get early in the fighting lines. When in France he was claimed by his brother, Lieut. Frank Scott, but his ability did not keep him long without honor, and he received his commission in October last year. Messrs. Weston and Parks also spoke. His last message to his mother, Mrs. James Scott, was: "We will carry the flag through to a glorious victory. God has indeed blessed the arms of Australia."

Source 15

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Cleve volunteered to fight for the empire, he suffered the horrors of war: dirty trenches, contagious diseases, bullets, the dead and dying, harsh weather conditions, losing a loved brother and mates. Despite this, Cleve acted with courage. He was part of the ANZAC brotherhood, he stayed loyal to his own by assisting in 'bringing them in' from the front of the Outpost Line. This brotherhood gave the men the courage they needed to keep going and never give in. These ANZACS served and suffered together. A bond of mateship was forged in the trenches.

He was proud of representing Australia. This is clear; firstly in Cleve's last will and testament he wrote: "Should I ever fall it is my last wish that my people or friends shall not wear mourning for me as if by Gods will I fall fighting for my King and Country, I count that as the greatest honour ever conferred upon me." -Source 16. Secondly, in his last communication with his mother: "We will carry the flag through to a glorious victory. God has indeed blessed the arms of Australia." -Source 17



Source 18  
Cleve James Scott and his beloved brother Frank John.

The actions of Cleve, his brother and their mates are what makes me proud to be Australian. The ANZACS made the best of a harrowing situation; doing their utmost to fight for freedom so others could live in peace. It is unlikely that any of them really knew what the experience would be like but were still determined to go and do what they considered was 'their bit.'

Although my generation have not experienced the horror of war it is essential that we honour these ordinary men and women who voluntarily sacrificed their lives. We need to learn from and reflect on their courage, resilience and pride. As I wandered the main streets of Gawler some 97 years later and walked past the Draper's shop I thought of the young boy and tried to imagine how his twin sister and mother may have felt when they were here, left to remember what was, all those years ago.

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die. Source 20  
LEST WE FORGET.



Source 22  
Cleve and his brother's name on an honour roll in Gawler's Public Library.



Source 21  
Cleve's name on the Adelaide Memorial.

Source 23  
Lieutenant C.J Scott's grave in La Kruelle Military Cemetery Hazebrouck, France.



Lieutenant **CLEVE JAMES SCOTT**, second son of James and Felicia Scott, of Gawler, was killed in action on July 22. At the age of 19 he was lieutenant and adjutant of the Gawler Senior Cadets. He enlisted on January 3, 1916, sailing in June as a corporal, reaching France in November as a sergeant, he forfeited his rank and joined the 16th Battalion, as so to be with his brother, the late Lieutenant Frank J. Scott. The following May he went to Oxford and gained his commission, but on returning to his battalion found that his brother had been killed. Lieutenant Cleve Scott was awarded the Military Cross on March 1 at Hallebeke. Previous to his death he had been twice wounded. To assist he left employment with Mr. J. Shand, draper, Gawler. This firm has an honor roll of five, three of whom, Lieutenant A. Shand, Lieutenant Cleve J. Scott, and Gunner J. C. Forgie, have made the supreme sacrifice. Mrs. Scott received a letter from her son, signed by General Birdwood, congratulating him on winning the M.C. It stated that he displayed conspicuous gallantry and courage. His brother, Lieutenant Frank Scott, was killed in France in October, 1917. He was mentioned in dispatches for gallantry, and earned his commission on the field.

Source 19





## Reference List

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2. The author in front of Gawler's Primary School: Taken on June the 18<sup>th</sup> 2011.
3. A. Sheard's Draper Shop: <http://images.slsa.sa.gov.au/mpcimg/64000/B63907.htm>
4. Essex House: Taken on June the 18<sup>th</sup> 2011.
5. HMAT A19 Afric: <http://www.flotilla-australia.com/hmat.htm>
6. The author with the original picture of the Scott brothers: Taken on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 at the Army Museum of South Australia, Keswick.
7. 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the Western Front Belgium: <http://cas.awm.gov.au/photograph/E01783>
8. A table showing Cleves' ranks during his time in the army created by me using his file: <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/file-view.html?b=3002788&s=B2455&c=SCOTT%20C%20J> Series Number: B2455
9. Cleve's Military Cross quote: Cleve's Service and Casualty Form: <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/file-view.html?b=3002788&s=B2455&c=SCOTT%20C%20J> Series Number: B2455
10. Hollebeke Ruins: <http://cas.awm.gov.au/photograph/E01658>
11. Ruins of Chapel of White: <http://cas.awm.gov.au/photograph/A00780>
12. Military Cross Medal: [http://www.ctie.monash.edu.au/hargrave/duigan\\_3squadron\\_01.html](http://www.ctie.monash.edu.au/hargrave/duigan_3squadron_01.html)
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15. Cleve's memorial service article held in Gawler: The Bunyip August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1918.
16. Quote taken from Cleve's Last Will and Testament found in his file: <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/file-view.html?b=3002788&s=B2455&c=SCOTT%20C%20J>
17. Quote from Cleve's last communication with his mother is mentioned in the bottom of Cleve's Memorial Service. [http://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Frank and Cleve Scott.pdf](http://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Frank_and_Cleve_Scott.pdf)
18. Article titled: HEROS OF THE GREAT WAR: THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR KING AND COUNTY: The Adelaide Chronicle, August 31 1918.
19. Biography about Cleve Scott, The Advertiser August 18<sup>th</sup> 1918.
20. A quote inserted by Cleve's loving friend 'Honey,' from The Adelaide Chronicle 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1918, submitted under the DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE section underneath Scott- Cleve, James.
21. Cleve Scott's name on the Adelaide memorial. Picture taken 21/May/2011
22. Honour Roll with Cleves name on, taken on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 from the Gawler Library.
23. Cleve's grave in Hazebrouck, France: [http://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Frank and Cleve Scott.pdf](http://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Frank_and_Cleve_Scott.pdf)

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August 31 p.26 (picture)  
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- The Advertiser (online) <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?q=cleve%20james%20scott>

## Family trips to:

- The State Library of South Australia on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, 2011
- Gawler on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 2011
- The Army Museum of South Australia on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 2011