

**Scott Family  
A Register, 1916-1945**

**Creator:** Scott Family

**Collection Number:** Mss 277

**Title:** Scott Family Collection

**Abstract:** The lives of siblings David Stuart (Scotty), and Lillian Scott (Jit), were impacted by war and the military; specifically during World War I. As a member of the Twenty-Seventh Division out of New York, David Stuart witnessed first hand the ravages of trench warfare while with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe; his correspondence vividly details the life of the American soldier. His sister Lillian, or “Jit” as she is referred to kept up a correspondence with many gentlemen who were stationed in different theatres of war during the conflict. They add additional voice to the experiences of war.

**Quantity:** .45 cubic feet consisting of 21 folders in 2 boxes, 47 photographs, 147 postcards, 10 artifacts, and 1 oversized folder containing 7 items.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers include correspondence, a military pay record book, miscellaneous material related to the Twenty-Seventh Division, New York, diaries, a sketchbook of poetry and drawings, photographs, postcards, artifacts, and three yearbooks.

The correspondence in this collection covers a nine-year period between 1916 and 1925. The letters are separated into three categories: letters received and sent to home by David Stuart, letters from specific gentlemen to Lillian, and miscellaneous letters sent to Lillian. The letters sent/received from David Stuart begin in 1916 and find him on the Texas/Mexico border with the New York State National Guard. Several thousand American troops had been sent to the border by President Woodrow Wilson in the wake of revolutionary turmoil that had broken out in Mexico. By 1917, David Stuart’s correspondence follows him from “B” Company Headquarters in NY to Camp Wadsworth in Spartanburg, SC. Here reflected is general camp life and training in preparation for combat. Starting in 1918, the return addresses move from Camp Wadsworth, SC, to Camp Stuart, VA, and finally on to Europe with the American Expeditionary Forces. David Stuart relates his frontline experiences with the art of trench warfare and scenes of battlefield horrors; refusing to “sugarcoat” what he has been witness to. The 1919-1920 correspondence begins with David Stuart in the south of France; the year 1920 finds him back in New York, USA. In addition, there are several sets of correspondence that are addressed to Lillian Scott. Among them are 1918 letters

from Horace E. Betts, who was with the American Expeditionary Force in France, and 1918-1922 letters from John T. Caverner, who was on board the U.S.S. Arizona. There are also many miscellaneous letters sent to Lillian from gentlemen in several theatres of war that span the years 1917-1918.

The military pay record book is David Stuart's, and reflects a World War I era soldier's typical pay for the years 1918-1919.

The Twenty-Seventh Infantry Division miscellaneous material includes a commemorative booklet entitled *Review and Parade of the Twenty-Seventh Division* dated March 25, 1919; several miscellaneous *Infantry Review* pamphlets covering the years 1927-1937; and an original copy of a publication entitled *The Gas Attack: "Home Again"*-1919 edition.

The material left by Leo J. Nelback includes three diaries, a military courtesy card, and a small booklet entitled *Our Army and How to Know It*. His diaries reflect the life of a soldier during the aftermath of the war; the Armistice was signed before he saw any combat. The diary begins with Nelback aboard the U.S.S. Minnekhada as it heads through the stormy North Atlantic towards Europe. Shortly after arriving in England the troops learn of the Armistice on November 11. Nelback describes his journey to South Hampton, across the English Channel, arriving in La Havre, France on November 13. From then on his diary reflects routine camp life in several different locations around France. In the meantime, he travels around the great cities of France; spending much time in Le Mans, Paris, and Marseilles. In April of 1919 however, Nelback is made witness to the horrors of warfare when he visits the area where the Battle of Verdun occurred. Devastation is everywhere; human remains still litter the site where the great battle was fought. In addition, there is a sixteen point military courtesy card that dictates how military personnel should behave at certain events, and how to properly address one another. The small booklet *Our Army and How to Know It* dated 1918 depicts proper U.S. military dress, medals badges, aircraft, visual signaling, as well as the flags of the nations in conflict. The relationship between Nelback and Scott is not known. Likewise, the nature of how the Scott family acquired these items is also not known.

There is a booklet of original poetry and sketches in this collection entitled *In the Service*. The author of this material is Jack Swetland of the Twenty-Seventh Division, NY. A letter accompanying the material is addressed and dedicated to "Charlie Scott". Charlie Scott was a captain in the Twenty-Seventh Infantry Division, NY. His relationship to David Stuart and Jack Swetland is not known, other than they all served in the Twenty-Seventh. Although the letter addressed to Charlie is dated 1929, the booklet is dated 1918. It is unclear where this copy was made. Its good condition suggests this copy may not have been made on the front lines. Some sketches include scenes of the Hindenburg Line, No Mans Land at Ronssoy Somme in France, and Flanders Field in Belgium. Some of the poetry includes "Our Comrades Sleep", "My Croix de Guerre", "Let's Go", "Seeing France in a Box Car", and "In No Man's Land".

There are 47 photographs in this collection. There is one 3 x 5 black and white photograph of the deck of the U.S.S. Arizona dated January 17, 1918. This photo was taken by John T. Caverner and given to Lillian Scott in a letter. There is one 8 x 10 black and white photograph depicting David Stuart Scott along with a commentary on his military awards and achievements. There are actually two men featured, and the two photographs as they are presented on the page make it difficult to discern of which whom is David Stuart since no other photograph is available. There are 45 small photographs depicting both Camp Upton, NY and the royal palace at Versailles, France.

There are 147 postcards in this collection, the vast majority of which depict various scenes of France such as Le Mans, Marseilles, Chalon Sur Marne, and Chateau Thierry.

Among the 10 artifacts in this collection are commemorative medals and badges.

### **Additional Collection Information**

Cite as: [description of item such as “Correspondence, David Scott (Scotty) to Home (USA)-April 24-December 29, 1917”] box number, folder number, Mss 277, Scott Family Collection, Special collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC

### **Biographical Note**

Much of the biographical information regarding the Scott family is not known. David Stuart Scott was born on January 4, 1894. His military record is as follows: Enlisted in Company “B”--Seventy-First Infantry, National Guard, NY on December 17, 1915; mustered into Mexican border service on June 19, 1916; mustered out of Mexican border service on October 6, 1916; mustered into World War I service on March 25, 1917; Honorably Discharged on April 1, 1919; appointed Second Lieutenant--Company “C”--Seventy-First Infantry, New York National Guard on March 18, 1921; appointed First Lieutenant--Company “C”--Seventy-First Infantry, New York National Guard on October 24, 1924; Honorably Discharged on February 4, 1925. While serving with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War I, David Stuart Scott received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. David Stuart Scott died on January 2, 1963 in Yonkers, NY. No biographical information is available for Lillian Scott, other than the fact that she is David Stuart Scott’s sister.

### **Collection Item Indexed Terms**

Scott Family

World War, 1914-1918—United States

World War, 1914-1918—Personal Narratives, American

World War, 1914-1918—Literature and the War

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Force

United States—Relations—Mexico

Arizona (Battleship)

**Document Types:**

Correspondence  
Postcards  
Photographs

**Correspondents:**

David Stuart Scott (1894-1963)  
Lillian Scott

**Administrative Information:**

Acquired from:  
Mrs. Stanley S. Scott on March 29, 1985.  
Formerly accession number 85-33.

**Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Carl Redd in 2004.

**Collection Separation List:****Artifacts**

Infantry Gear: 1 mirror, 1 American Flag  
Military Parade Pass: August, 1917  
Second Reunion Badge: Twenty-Seventh Division, NY  
Commemorative Button: Captain Charles "Plucky" Lindbergh--"New York 7:15am May 20-Paris 5:21pm May 21"  
Medal: Royal Canadian Strathcona's Horse  
Medal: Canadian Expeditionary Force Frontline Service  
Medal: 105 US Twenty-Seventh Division  
Badge: Scots-Canadian Football Tour 1921  
Medal: Pistol-D Infantry Marksmen  
Insignia: Infantry "crossed rifles"

**Oversized Folder**

1. *Liberty Bonds Advertisement* "Flags of Freedom-United In Defense of Democracy"
2. Illustration: "Our All for Democracy" by F.C. Yohn
3. Poem: "Boys, Remember Mother"
4. Booklet: "Carrying On--By the Boys Back From Over There--Facts and Fun In France" *sold by unemployed ex-service men*
5. Poem: "An Appeal to the Girls"
6. *The Gas Attack* "Home Again"-1919
7. Menu: Thanksgiving Day on U.S.S. Arizona-November 28, 1918

**Photographs**

1. 3 x 5 black & white photo (1) depicting the deck of the U.S.S. Arizona-January 17, 1918
2. 2 x 2.5 black & white photos (25) depicting Camp Upton, NY nd
3. 8 x 10 black & white photo (1) depicting David Stuart Scott
4. 2.5 x 3.5 black & white photos (20) depicting Versailles nd

**Postcards**

1. 11 postcards depicting life at Camp Upton, NY circa 1918
2. 7 postcards depicting Chalon Sur Marne, France
3. 6 postcards depicting Chalon Sur Marne, France-WWI Damage
4. 12 postcards depicting Chateau Thierry, France
5. 10 postcards depicting city of Eparney, France
6. 25 postcards depicting Le Mans, France
7. 31 postcards depicting Marseilles, France
8. 17 postcards depicting Monfort le Rotrou, France
9. 6 postcards depicting Pont de genes (Sarthe), France
10. 12 postcards depicting Reims, France
11. 12 postcards depicting Versailles, France

## Detailed Description

Box	Folder	Folder Title
1		
	1	Correspondence, David S. Scott (Scotty) to Home (USA)-June, July, August 1916
	2	Correspondence, David S. Scott (Scotty) to Home (USA)-April 24-December 29, 1917
	3	Correspondence, David S. Scott (Scotty) to Home (USA) and Received (Miscellaneous)-February 5-December 22, 1918
	4	Correspondence, David S. Scott (Scotty) to Home (USA) and Received (Miscellaneous)-1919-1920
	5	Correspondence, David S. Scott (Scotty) to Home (USA)-no date
	6	Correspondence, Horace E. Betts to Lillian Scott (Jit)-June 10-December 12, 1918
	7	Correspondence, John T. Caverner (U.S.S. Arizona) to Lillian Scott (Jit)-October 2, 1918-July 21, 1922
	8	Correspondence, Jack Cooper to Lillian Scott (Jit)-November 5, 1918-March 13, 1919, no date, June 11-July 22, 1920
	9	Correspondence, Andy Eckrich (?) to Lillian Scott (Jit)-March 22-December 15, 1918
	10	Correspondence, Edmund Greene to Lillian Scott (Jit)-July 9-August 2, 1917
	11	Correspondence, Thomas M. Leonard to Lillian Scott (Jit)-July 30-December 2, 1918
	12	Correspondence, Miscellaneous to Lillian Scott (Jit)-August 2, 1917, May 5-December 19, 1918
	13	Correspondence, Miscellaneous to Lillian Scott (Jit)-March 11-May 29, 1919
	14	Correspondence, Miscellaneous to Lillian Scott (Jit)-1921-1925
	15	Paybook, David S. Scott (Scotty) Soldier's Individual Pay Record Book-August 31, 1918-February 28, 1919
	16	Twenty-Seventh Infantry Division, NY-Miscellaneous Material-1918-1935
	17	Leo J. Nelback Miscellaneous-Diaries, Military Courtesy card, Book: "Our Army and How to Know It"
	18	Sketchbook-Poetry and Drawings by Jack Swetland-"In the Service"
	19	Yearbook-Staunton Military Academy, 1943
2		
	1	Yearbook-Staunton Military Academy, 1944
	2	Yearbook-Staunton Military Academy, 1945