

Bishop's Fighting Men in World War I : the shadow profile of Elton Scott, an exemplary student



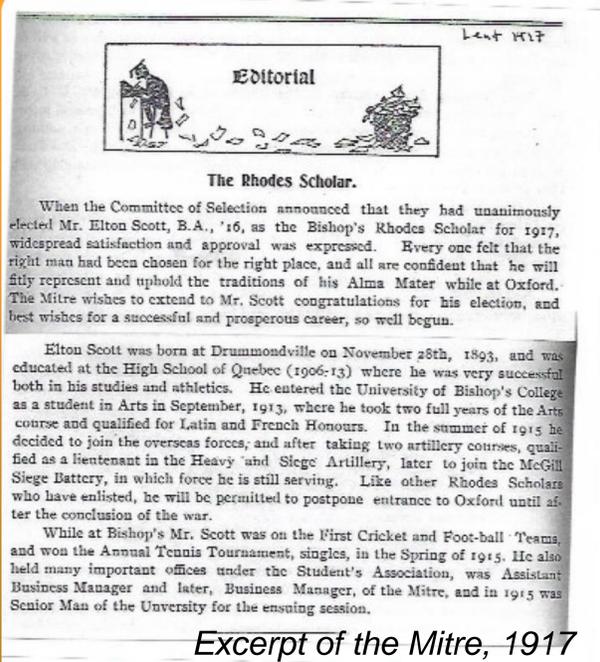
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Introduction:

As you may know, from 1914 onwards, there were a lot of Bishop's student who served in WW1. Unfortunately, some of them lost their lives for their country. However, others managed to survive the war and return. This was the case of Elton Scott who succeeded both at war and at university. What made him a model student? You may think it is having good grades in all classes and being involved in every university event or club.

Well, you are not wrong, but there are also other ways to be exemplary. Elton Scott was a remarkable student. But who was he?



Personal life:

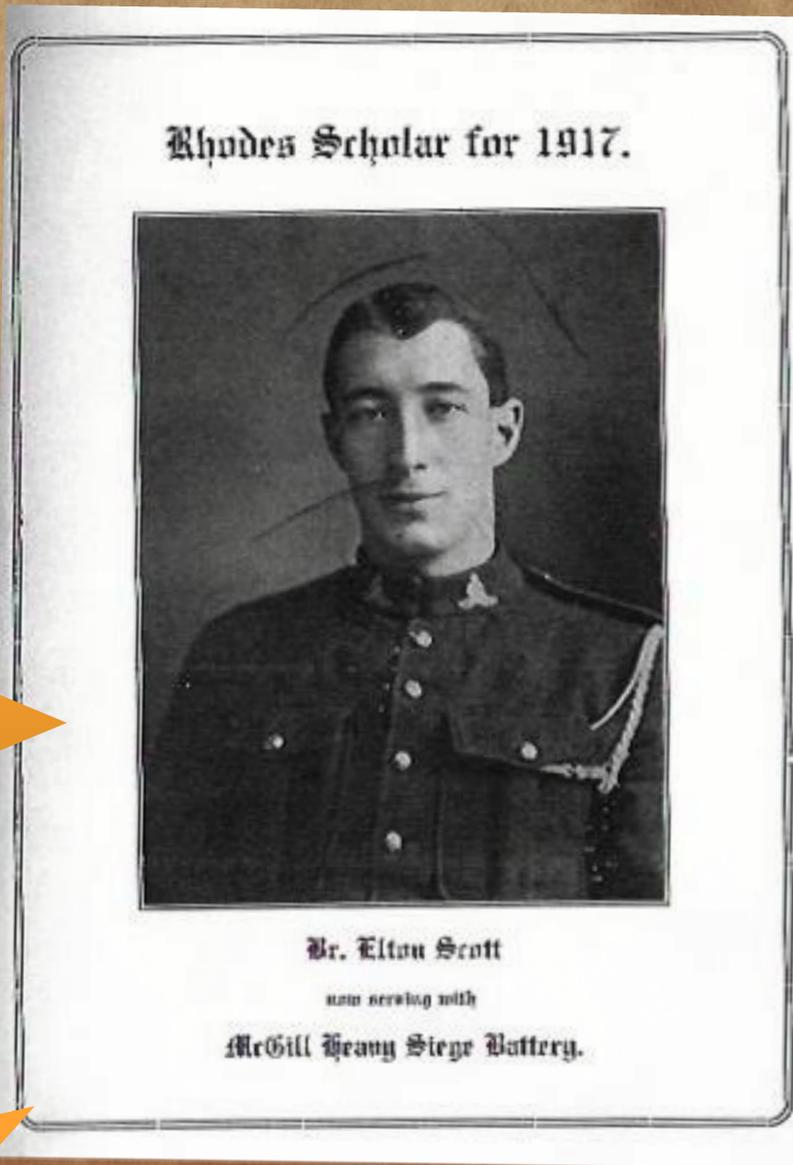
Elton Scott was the third son of the chaplain, Frederick George Scott. He had five brothers : W. B, Henry Hutton, Francis Reginald and Arthur (Charles died as a child). Four of them attended Bishop's University and graduated with distinction.

Life at Bishop's University:

As the excerpt of the *Mitre* above shows, Elton was at the heart of Bishop's University. Yet, he was even more involved than that. He was Senior student for the Second Year Arts '16, the Student Association Secretary '16, the Missionary Union's Secretary '16, the Tennis Club Vice President '16, the Drama Club Secretary '15, the Tobbogan Club President '16 and he was on the Football Club committee '16. In 1914, Elton won the Professor Call prize for French and Mr. Richardson's prize for Science. While on leave in 1916, he received his B.A. degree at Convocation.

What is Rhodes Scholarship?

This is the oldest and one of the most prestigious scholarships. It allows students to go to Oxford University for two years with a one-year extension. It was created in 1902 by Cecil Rhodes, an English businessman working in South Africa. At first, only students from the Commonwealth could apply to this scholarship but by the 21th century, students from all around the world were eligible. Bishop's University has won several of these scholarships but only two from the same family: Elton Scott in 1917 and his brother Francis Reginald in 1920 !



"What would you do if it were suddenly peace-time again?"

This quote is from *All Quiet on the Western Front*. It is a novel about the First World War told through the eyes of a German soldier, Paul Bäumer. In Chapter 5, a friend of Paul's, Müller keeps asking his friends "**What would you do if it were suddenly peace-time again?**" It is quite surprising to see that while war is going on, soldiers wonder about what is going to happen next. It points to the fact that life has to go on and they cannot help but think about life after the war. We can link this with what happened to Elton Scott since he received the letter announcing he was chosen to be a Rhodes Scholar while serving in France. How strange would it be to receive such news between two battles? Nevertheless, there were also soldiers thinking like Kropp about what will happen after war : "**I don't know. Let's get back first, then we'll find out**". This quote shows that some of them do not really think about life after-war but just want to get out of it alive.

World War I

Elton enlisted in the Canadian Aviation Corps on September 1915. However, when it was disbanded he joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.). He was then named Lieutenant in the Heavy and Siege Artillery and ended in the McGill Siege Artillery. During that time, he could receive letters at the following address : 9 Waterloo Place, London, England.

On June 1918, he was in the 5th Canadian Siege Battery of C.E.F. in France.

Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.)



The CEF was the field force created by Canada for service overseas in the First World War. It was one of the most successful forces on the Western Front especially at Vimy Ridge and Passchendale. They were called "storm troopers" by the Germans due to their efficiency.

References:

The *Mitre* from Bishop's University
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Rhodes-Scholarship>
<https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/>
Wikipedia page on Canadian Expeditionary Force