

James Stephen Scott - Diver

Recently Rosemary Allard sent me pictures of her grandfather, James Scott, who was a diver on the Rideau Canal.

This was a highly specialized profession, as you might imagine. The following quote is from "Invisible Army", page 222.

"One of the more specialized trades was that of Diver. This individual was also a carpenter, so that underwater assessments and repairs could be carried out. Some of them worked occasionally and were likely hired from outside the usual team of carpenters. Others, such as Arthur McGuigan, James Scott, James and William Summers dove for many years. Ned Laframboise succeeded James Scott when the latter retired in June 1921."

On page 205 there is a picture of a diver at work on the Newboro locks. The name of the diver is unknown.

The Record-News of December 16th, 1924 carried James Scott's obituary. He had died in Smiths Falls from a sudden heart attack, aged 64. His life was spent in the Rideau Corridor: born at Brewers' Mills in 1863. The article went on to say "For many years, he was employed as a diver for the Rideau Canal and in later years he was engineer of the pump house."

The picture below is courtesy of Rosemary Allard - lock station not yet determined. If you know which one it is (I think it's in the southern half of the canal, but I could be wrong), let me know.

