



**A Rededication Service for  
Lieutenant John Gillis Butt MB**

**Royal Army Medical Corps  
Attached 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards**

**10:00 hours Tuesday 9 October 2018  
Hooge Crater Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Tim Flowers CF  
Chaplain 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Mercian Regiment**

Lieutenant John Gillis Butt MB



Lieutenant John Gillis Butt MB, known as Jack, and his twin sister, Gladys, were born on 13 July 1890 in Lucknow, India. They were the only children of Colonel Edward Ormiston Butt, an Army surgeon, and his wife, Helen Mary Garratt. Lieutenant Butt was educated at Marlborough College and Trinity College Dublin, where he studied medicine. After finishing his studies, he was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps as a Lieutenant on 31 July 1914, 4 days before the outbreak of the First World War. He was attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards.

The Battalion was mobilised on 5 October 1914 landing at Zeebrugge on 7 October. Almost immediately they found themselves on the front line of the First Battle of Ypres. On the eve of the battle Lieutenant Butt wrote to his mother:

*'Just a few lines to let you know that I am free. We have had a lot of marching since we landed here but not much fighting up to the present, only small affairs with outposts.*

*We have been in billets since we landed so on the whole very comfortable, but sleep is very short as we stand to arms sometimes at 4 in the morning and get to bed at night when we can'...*

*...'I'm sorry I can't let you know where we are but things as far as I know are going well'.*

The letter was signed *'Your Affectionate son, Jack'*. The letter was written just eleven days before his death. It is for this reason that his family have selected Rudyard Kipling's poem 'My Boy Jack' as a reading for this rededication service.

On 28 October 1914 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards were located east of the village of Gheluvelt near the Kriusecke crossroads, on the southern side of the Menin Road. The

following day the Germans attacked. Lieutenant Butt and his orderly were in a ditch tending to Lieutenant Colonel M Earle who had been wounded. The Germans rushed through the area and Lieutenant Butt and his orderly were killed.

In the confusion of battle there was at first some uncertainty as to the fate of Lieutenant Butt. It was considered that he may have been taken prisoner and his family made extensive enquiries as to his whereabouts. However, as accounts of the fighting that day came to light it became clear that the likelihood was that Lieutenant Butt had been killed on 29 October 1914 and in 1916 his death was presumed. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate.

New research has shown that Lieutenant Butt was buried where he fell. After the war his body was moved to Hooze Crater Cemetery where he was reinterred as an Unknown Lieutenant of the Royal Army Medical Corps. However, it is now known that he is buried in this grave. Today we will remember Lieutenant John Gillis Butt MB and his grave will be rededicated.

Hooze Chateau was located on the front line for much of the First World War and was the scene of very fierce fighting throughout. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hooze Crater Cemetery was established in early October 1917 but was greatly increased after the Armistice when graves were brought in from smaller cemeteries and the surrounding battlefields of Zillebeke, Zantvoorde and Gheluvelt, including the area where Lieutenant Butt had died. There are now 5,916 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery, but sadly, more than half of whom, remain unidentified.

## **Call to Worship**

We have come to this place to rededicate the final resting place of Lieutenant John Gillis Butt who served with the Royal Army Medical Corps, whose life was taken on the 19 October 1914 during the First Battle of Ypres and whose remains were reinterred here.

Today, in this place, we accord this man the dignity and respect that he is due and commend him to the mercy and grace of God our redeemer and judge, and in the hope and life given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us.

*All* May the peace of the Lord be always with you,  
**and also with you.**

## **Bidding Prayer**

Let us pray.

Almighty God who calls those who follow Him to live lives of justice, mercy and humility;  
Hallow this place and those who stand here before you today and we reflect upon man's humanity and your great gift of life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## Reading

Nicolas Previt 

Great Nephew of Lieutenant Butt

## My Boy Jack

*by Rudyard Kipling*

"HAVE you news of my boy Jack?"

Not this tide.

"When d'you think that he'll come back?"

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Has any one else had word of him?"

Not this tide.

For what is sunk will hardly swim,

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Oh, dear, what comfort can I find?"

None this tide,

Nor any tide,

Except he did not shame his kind---

Not even with that wind blowing, and that tide.

Then hold your head up all the more,

This tide,

And every tide;

Because he was the son you bore,

And gave to that wind blowing and that tide.

## **Gospel Reading**

Read by a Representative from the British Embassy

### **Matthew 8 v 14-17 (KJV)**

And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she arose and ministered unto them. When the even was come they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils, and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

## **Address**

### **The Collect of the Royal Army Medical Corps**

Lance Corporal Liam Brewster  
16 Medical Regiment, RAMC

O God, whose blessed son was made perfect through suffering, give thy grace, we beseech thee, to thy servants of the Royal Army Medical Corps, that, by loyalty in hard service after the example of Saint Luke the beloved physician, we may be found faithful in ministering to those that need, for his sake who went about doing good, the same thy son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Exhortation**

Captain Terence Twining MBE  
Adjutant, 16 Medical Regiment, RAMC

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

*All* **We will remember them.**

### **The Last Post**

**Silence**

**Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

Captain Terence Twining MBE  
Adjutant, 16 Medical Regiment, RAMC

When you go home tell them of us and say:  
'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

### **Laying of Wreaths**



## **Prayer**

May perpetual light shine upon  
The face of he who resteth here.  
May the life that he lived  
Unfold further in spirit.  
May all his past travail  
Find ease in the kindness of the clay.  
May the remembering earth  
Mind every memory he brought.  
May the rains from heavens  
Fall gently upon him.  
May the wild flowers and grasses  
Whisper their wishes into light.  
May we reverence the village of presence  
In the stillness of this silent field.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and all those whom you love now and always.

*All* **Amen.**



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