



**A Rededication Service for**

**Rifleman Albert George Sleet  
1/8<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Battalion  
The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles)**

**14:30 hours Tuesday 5 April 2022  
CWGC Dud Corner Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by  
The Reverend Richard Terrado-Reardon CF  
Chaplain to The London Regiment  
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidée par  
le Révérend Richard Terrado-Reardon CF**

Rifleman Albert George Sleet





Rifleman Sleet with members of his battalion (back row centre).



Rifleman Sleet with two of his brothers (seated with stick).

Rifleman Albert George Sleet was born in Kentish Town, London, in 1885. He was one of eleven children born to Reuben and Mary Sleet. He worked as a postman before the war.

Rifleman Sleet arrived on the Western Front on 18 March 1915 with 1/8<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles). The War Diaries of 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion The London Regiment show that on 14 October 1915, they moved into the frontline west of Hulluch. The following day three soldiers of the battalion were killed. One of these men was Rifleman Sleet. He was 30 years old.

After the First World War, Rifleman Sleet's body was recovered along with his comrades killed alongside him in the line. The cross which marked his original grave was damaged meaning that he could not be identified. As a consequence he was buried at Dud Corner Cemetery as an unknown soldier of '8<sup>th</sup> Londons' killed on 15 October 1915. As he was missing, Rifleman Sleet was commemorated on the Loos Memorial. However, new research has shown that this is the grave of Rifleman Sleet. Today we will remember him and his grave will be rededicated.

There were only five wartime burials at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Dud Corner Cemetery, the remainder of the graves were brought in later from the surrounding battlefields, among them the previously unidentified grave of Rifleman Albert George Sleet. The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded enemy shells found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice.

Rifleman Albert George Sleet est né à Kentish Town, Londres, en 1885. Il été un des onze enfants nés à Reuben et Mary Sleet. Il a été postier.

Rifleman Sleet est arrivé sur le Front Occidental le 18 mars, 1915 avec 1/8<sup>e</sup> (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles.) Les Journaux de Guerre de 1/8<sup>e</sup> Battalion The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles), indiquent que le 14 octobre, 1915, ils s'installer au première ligne à l'ouest de Hulluch. Le lendemain, 3 soldats appartenant du bataillon ont été tués. Un de ces soldats était Rifleman Sleet. Il était âgé de 30 ans.

Après la Grande Guerre, se restes ont été récupérés et il été enterré avec ses camarades qui ont décédés à ses côtés dans la ligne. Cependant, la croix qui a marqué sa tombe originale été détruite et son nom a été perdu. Il été donc enterré à Dud Corner Cemetery comme un soldat inconnu. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Loos. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Rifleman Sleet et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

### **Call to Worship**

*Appel à Adoration*

We have come together as family, friends, representatives of Her Majesty The Queen and The London Regiment, to give thanks for the life of Rifleman Albert George Sleet, who was killed in action on 15 October 1915. As we remember his life, devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God.

### **Bidding Prayer**

*Prière*

Almighty God, you judge us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything that you have made. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of paradise where there is no sound or noise, but one equal music; no dazzling or fear, but one equal light; no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Reading**

### *Lecture*

Read by a representative of the British Embassy Paris

## **For the Fallen**

By Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.  
They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;



As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

### **Scripture Reading**

*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by Marcus Owens

The Great Great Nephew of Rifleman Sleet

### **Psalm 23 (KJV)**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### **Address**

*Allocution*

### **The Exhortation**

*L'Éxhortation*

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Steven Lowe TD VR  
Commanding Officer, The London Regiment

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**

*Sonnerie aux Morts*

### **The Silence**

### **The Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

*L'Épitaphe de Kohima*

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Steven Lowe TD VR  
Commanding Officer, The London Regiment

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

### **Laying of Wreaths**

*Dépôts des Gerbes*

**Prayer***Prière*

Lord, God of the nations, we easily forget those who are the victims of war. Forgive the wrath of the nations, the desire to build empires and to seek domination over others. May your mercy be upon all who have suffered the ravages of war; soothe their sorrows and heal their memories. Restrain the impulse to seek revenge, and by your grace may we find forgiveness in our hearts. Strengthen our wills to do good and not harm, to care and not to destroy, and bring good out of evil. We make this prayer in the name of the one who endured the cross and was victorious over sin and death, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All* **Amen.****Prayer for the Armed Forces***Prière pour les Forces Armées*

Almighty God,  
Stretch forth your mighty arm  
To strengthen and protect the armed forces:  
Grant that meeting danger with courage  
And all occasions with discipline and loyalty,  
They may truly serve the cause of justice and peace;  
To honour your holy name,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

*All* **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Prière du Seigneur*

*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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**The Blessing**

*Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction*

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace this day, and always.

And the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, wherever they may be, this day and always.

*All* Amen.

*I'm thinking  
of you*

GLORIEUX  
SOUVENIR



1914  
1915





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