



A Rededication Service for

**Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson
1/4th Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment**

And

**Corporal William Swan
1/5th Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment**

**14:30 hours on Wednesday 17 April 2024
CWGC York Cemetery, Haspres, France**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Robert Desics CF
Chaplain to 1st Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Robert Desics CF**

Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson

Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson was born in Willington Quay, Northumberland, in 1891. He was one of six children born to Carl Gustafson, who hailed from Ålmeboda in Sweden, and his British wife, Jemima. Before enlisting into the Army he worked as a general labourer.

Thomas enlisted into The Northumberland Fusiliers and was posted to 1/5th Battalion. He arrived on the Western Front on 20 April 1915. Having served with his battalion for much of the war, he was wounded in the spring of 1918 and was later transferred to 1/4th Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment.

On 13 October 1918, 1/4th Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment took part in an attack on Haspres which followed a creeping barrage. Once the leading companies came over the skyline on the ridge west of the village, they came under heavy machine gun fire and at 08:50 hours the enemy put down a barrage on top of the ridge and on the low ground west of the Avesnes to Villers-en-Cauchies railway causing a number of casualties. As more platoons went over the ridge, they were met by increasingly intense machine gun fire and heavy casualties were incurred. The attack was held up nearly a kilometre southwest of Haspres. Although the battalion had got close, they were unable to take the enemy positions. Lance Corporal Gustafson was amongst those killed.

Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson est né en 1891 à Willington Quay, Northumberland. Il été un des six enfants nés à Carl Gustafson, originaire d'Ålmeboda en Suède et et sa femme britannique, Jemima. Avant de s'engager dans l'armée, il a travaillé comme ouvrier.

Thomas s'est engagé dans le Northumberland Fusiliers et a été affecté au 1/5^e Bataillon. Il est arrivé sur le front occidental le 20 avril, 1915. Après avoir servi avec son bataillon pendant une grande partie de la guerre, il a été blessé au printemps 1918 et a ensuite été transféré au 1/4^e Bataillon du York and Lancaster Regiment.

Le 13 octobre, 1918, le 1/4^e Bataillon du York and Lancaster Regiment fait part à une attaque sur Haspres qui suivit un barrage rampant. Une fois que les compagnies de tête ont dépassé la ligne d'horizon sur la crête à l'ouest du village, elles ont essuyé un feu nourri de mitrailleuses et, à 08 :50 heures, l'ennemi a effectué un barrage sur le sommet de la crête et sur le terrain bas à l'ouest de la voie ferrée d'Avesnes à Villers-en-Cauchies, causant un certain nombre de pertes. Au fur et à mesure que les pelotons franchissaient la crête, ils étaient accueillis par des tirs de mitrailleuses de plus en plus intenses et subissaient de lourdes pertes. L'attaque fut arrêté à près d'un kilomètre au sud-ouest de Haspres. Bien que le bataillon se soit rapproché, il n'a pas réussi à prendre les positions ennemies. Corporal Gustafson est l'un des soldats tués.

Corporal William Swan

Corporal William Swan was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, on 5 October 1896. He was one of four children born to George Swan and his wife Elizabeth. Before enlisting into the Army he worked in the linen industry. On 16 February 1918, William married Victoria Rawlings Caulson in Holbeck, Leeds.

William enlisted on 11 January 1915, and was posted to 3rd Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers. On 18 July 1915 he arrived in Egypt and was posted to 1st Battalion who were engaged in the fighting in Gallipoli. In March 1916 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers left Egypt for France.

On 16 August 1916, William was attached to 8th Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment and was later transferred to that battalion. On 8 October 1916, he was admitted to hospital with a shrapnel wound to his thigh which had been received on the Somme. He subsequently served with 10th, 1/4th and 2nd Battalions of The York and Lancaster Regiment before finally being posted to 1/5th Battalion. He was a qualified Lewis Gunner.

On 13 October 1918, 1/5th Battalion The York and Lancaster were also involved in the attack on Haspres. The battalion formed up north of Rieux at 07:00 hours and advanced without difficulty to the ridge where machine gun fire was clipping the top of the hill. They passed through this and D Company, to which Corporal Swan belonged, fought down into the village of Haspres suffering around 70% casualties. The rest of the battalion was held up as a result. Corporal Swan, aged 22, was recorded as wounded and missing.

Corporal William Swan est né à Dunfermline, en Ecosse, le 5 octobre, 1896. Il été un des quatre enfants nés à George Swan et sa femme Elizabeth. Avant de s'engager dans l'armée, il a travaillé dans l'industrie du lin. Le 16 février, 1918, William a épousé Victoria Rawlings Caulson à Holbeck, Leeds.

William s'est engagé le 11 janvier, 1915 et a été affecté au 3^e Bataillon du King's Own Scottish Borderers. Le 18 juillet, 1915, il arrive en Égypte et est affecté au 1^{er} Bataillon qui participe aux combats à Gallipoli. En mars 1916, 1^{er} Bataillon du King's Own Scottish Borderers a quitté Egypt pour la France.

Le 16 août, 1916, William est rattaché au 8^e Bataillon du York and Lancaster Regiment et il est ensuite transféré à ce bataillon. Le 8 octobre, 1916, Il est admis à l'hôpital pour une blessure par éclats d'obus à la cuisse, reçue dans la Somme. Il a en ensuite servi dans les 10^e, 1/4^e et 2^e Bataillons du York and Lancaster Regiment avant d'être affecté au 1/5^e Bataillon. Il était un artilleur Lewis qualifié.

Le 13 octobre, 1918, le 1/5^e Bataillon du York and Lancaster participa également à l'attaque sur Haspres. Le bataillon se forma au nord de Rieux à 07 :00 heures et avança sans difficulté jusqu'à la crête où des tirs de mitrailleuses s'abattaient sur le sommet de la colline. D Company, à laquelle appartenait Corporal Swan, a combattu jusqu'au village de Haspres, subissant environ 70 % de pertes. Le reste du bataillon fut alors bloqué. Corporal Swan, âgé de 22 ans, a été déclaré blessé et porté disparu.

The remains of Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson and Corporal William Swan were recovered following the fighting and buried in York Cemetery, Haspres, as an unknown lance corporal of 1/4th Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment and an unknown corporal of 1/5th Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment respectively. As they were missing, Lance Corporal Gustafson and Corporal Swan were commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial to the missing. However, new research has shown that these are in fact their graves and the headstones over the graves have now been changed. Today we will remember Lance Corporal Gustafson and Corporal Swan, and their graves will be rededicated.

Made in late October 1918, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's York Cemetery, Haspres, is the final resting place of 147 casualties of the First World War. The majority of these casualties belonged to The York and Lancaster Regiment. Among them are the previously unidentified graves of Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson and Corporal William Swan.

Les restes de Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson et du Corporal William Swan ont été retrouvées après les combats et enterrés dans York Cemetery, Haspres, sous les noms respectifs d'un lance corporal inconnu du 1/4^e Bataillon du York and Lancaster Regiment et d'un corporal inconnu du 1/5^e Bataillon du York and Lancaster Regiment. Comme ils étaient portés disparus, le Lance Corporal Gustafson et Corporal Swan ont été commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Vis-en-Artois. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de leur dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Lance Corporal Gustafson et Corporal Swan leur tombes seront consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

We gather in this place in the presence of God to honour the lives of Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson and Corporal William Swan. We give thanks for their courage, and pray that their sacrifice will not be in vain, as we commit ourselves to the cause of unity and peace, and in the seeking of the Kingdom of God.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

God of light and love,
in your tender compassion
you sent your Son to shine on those who sit in darkness
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Grant us, in our doubts and uncertainties,
the grace to ask what you would have us to do.
By your Spirit of wisdom, save us from false choices.
And since it is by your light that we are enlightened,
lead us and protect us,
and give us a straight path to follow,
that we may neither stumble nor fall;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by a representative of the British Embassy Paris

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.

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Second Lieutenant John Crooks

2nd Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

John Chapter 14 v 1-6 (NRSV)

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Reading

Lecture

Read by the Family of Corporal Swan

A Song of the Desert – On the Hindenburg Line, 1918

By Woodbine Willie

I've sung my songs of battlefields,
Of sacrifice and pain,
When all my soul was fain to sing
Of sunshine and of rain.

Of dewdrops glist'ning on a rose,
Cloud castles in blue skies,
Of glory as God's summer grows,
And splendour as it dies.

Of blossom snowed upon the trees,
And fresh green woods that ring
With music of the mating birds,
Love's miracle of spring.

Of summer night in velvet robes,
Bedecked with silver stars,
The captive beauty of the dawn
That breaks her prison bars.

The rustling sigh of fallen leaves
That sing beneath my feet
The swan-song of the autumn days,
So short, so sad, so sweet.

An exile in a weary land,
My soul sighs for release,
It wanders in war's wilderness,
And cries for Peace – for Peace.

Address

Allocution

The Act of Dedication

L'Acte de Dédicace

So let us now bless and dedicate these graves as the final resting places of the mortal remains of Lance Corporal Thomas Gustafson and Corporal William Swan.

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb: Bless and dedicate, we pray, these graves as the places where the bodies of your servants Thomas and William may rest in peace, in the knowledge that he now abides in your glory through the merits of your Son, who is the resurrection and the life; who died and is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by Second Lieutenant John Crooks
2nd Battalion The Royal Yorkshire 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

Played by Lance Corporal April Farthing
The Band of The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Second Lieutenant John Crooks
2nd Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

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

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

Prayers

Prières

*The Chaplain leads prayers of intercession.
At the end of each bidding the following is said,*

Lord, in your mercy;

All **Hear our prayer.**

The Chaplain concludes the prayers of intercession,

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us
and not what we deserve.

Hear our prayers which we make before you,
and as you have called us to your service
make us worthy of that calling,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The York and Lancaster Regiment

Récitation du York and Lancaster Regiment

Read by Second Lieutenant John Crooks

2nd Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

Almighty God, who canst save by many or by few, and dost bid us endure to the end that we may be saved, strengthen, we pray thee, The York and Lancaster Regiment, that, as our perseverance has not been found wanting in battle, so we may be blessed in enduring all temptations, and at length receive the crown of life from Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prière du Seigneur

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth,
and all the nations, peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down upon you and remain with you
now and for evermore.

All **Amen.**



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre, is responsible for the research, identification and burial of all British casualties worldwide.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the graves, memorials, records and memory of the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two World Wars.

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