



A Rededication Service for

Private David Christie Graham
8th Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 10.45am

CWGC Vichte Military Cemetery, Belgium

Service conducted by
Reverend Andy Nicolls CF

David Christie Graham was born on 21 January 1898 in Angus, Scotland. His parents were John Graham and Catherine Christie. At

the time of the 1901 Census, David was living in the parish of Panbride (Angus) with his parents and his older siblings, Aggie, Lizzie, Edward, John and George. David's mother died young in 1915, just 3 years before his death. His brother, Edward, subsequently emigrated to British Columbia and married Ada Hand. They had three children; one of whom, Ethel, married Evan Kaechele in 1948 and had four children, all of whom are still in north America.
Ronald from Strathmore, Alberta
Marilyn from Eagle, Idaho
Cheryl from Garden City, Kansas
Dennis from Merville, British Columbia.

The family was very interested in knowing that David's grave had been identified. Cheryl was in Europe only last month, tracing her Graham family roots in Scotland.

About the Service

The service has been organised by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre and will be attended by regimental representatives and local dignitaries. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission will be providing the headstone.

About the Cemetery

The first burials in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Vichte Military Cemetery were made in October 1918 by the burial officers of the 9th and 31st Divisions. They make up Plot I, Rows A and B and part of Row C and it is here that the previously unidentified body of Private Graham was laid to rest. After the Armistice, the cemetery was enlarged with the addition of graves from the surrounding battlefields.

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

We have come together, family, friends, representatives of His Majesty the King and the Royal Regiment of Scotland sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God.

Bidding Prayer

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 heaven;
through our saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Epitaph written by "Black Watch poet" Joseph Johnston Lee

Where the long trench twines snake-like
To keep the foe at bay,
There be the place to lay me,
And this be what you say:

Here lieth one who loved all life,
Sunshine and song, and sword and strife;
Sea and storm, and wind and rain,
Breaking bud, and bursting grain,
Pulsing pleasure, and stabbing pain—
Who would, an he could, live all over again!

John 14; 1 – 6

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Love Poem written by Private Ed Hall of the Black Watch.

Though rock and sea should us divide,
and you I cannot see.
Still think of one who loves you,
and then you'll think of me.

Many to you have written;
many to you will write.
There is none that loves you better
than the one who writes tonight.

Revelation 21:1-4; 22:4-5

I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished,
and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
made ready like a bride for her husband.

I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne;
"Now God has his dwelling with mankind!
He will dwell among them and they shall be his people,
and God himself will be with them."

He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There shall be an end to death,
and to mourning and crying and pain,
for the old order has passed away.

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be there,
and his servants shall worship him;
they shall see him face to face and bear his name on their
foreheads.

There shall be no more night,
nor will they need the light of lamp or sun,
for the Lord God will give them light;
and they shall reign for ever.

Address: Reverend Andy Nicolls CF

Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them
and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for your servant David Christie Graham
and for all that you did through him.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping: those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

The Exhortation

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

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

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

Wreath Laying

The Prayers

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may give us peace:
for the service men and women
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief
and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatred of humanity;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and religious;
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

The Collect of the Black Watch

O God, whose strength setteth fast the mountains, give thy grace, we pray thee, to the Black Watch, once chosen to guard the mountains for our King, that we may stand fast in the faith and be strong, as we watch for the coming of Him who has bidden us watch and pray, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A Short Prayer for a Soldier

Dear Father I am not alone,
you are by my side.
Hold me, guide me,
as I seek to serve you.
You have called me to rescue,
to protect and to make peace.
I am not alone,
you are by my side.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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; Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, for ever and ever.

Amen.



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