



A Rededication Service for

Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne Jones

Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart

&

Private Lionel Grove

15th (1st London Welsh) Battalion, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers

15.00 hours Tuesday 2 July 2024

CWGC Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, France

Service conducted by Reverend Richard Mutter CF

Chaplain to 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh

*Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Richard Mutter*



**Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne Jones
1895 – 1916**

Noel Osborne Jones was born in 1895 in Cardiganshire, South Wales to Robert Osborne Jones and his wife Ada. Robert was a School Master, and by the time of the 1901 census the family were living in the Tregaron area with four sons – David George, Robert Noel, Martin Thomas and Iorwerth Hywel. By 1911 they had moved to the Ystrad Meurig area where their descendants still live today.

This picture shows Noel on the right, with his brother David on the left and their mother Ada between them.



**Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart
1895 – 1916**

Herbert Taggart was born in 1895 on the Isle of Man. He was the third of five children born to James Taggart, a Draper, and his wife Isabella. By the time of the 1911 census Herbert and his older brother William were both boarders at King Williams College, Isle of Man.

In 1913 Herbert emigrated from the UK to Canada, arriving in Nova Scotia in April of that year and stating that he had been involved in the timber trade in the UK, and intended to continuing working in that field.

In September 1914 Herbert joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, stating his previous experience in the Officer Training Corps of his school. He was assigned to the 9th Bn Canadian Infantry, before joining the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. At the time of his death Herbert was attached to the 15th Bn from the 11th Bn.



**Private Lionel Smart Grove
1896 – 1916**

Lionel Smart Grove was born in Watford on 7 December 1896. He was the middle child of Walter Grove and his wife Elizabeth, though his older brother Leslie and younger sister Gladys both died in childhood. Lionel's father was an auctioneer in 1901, though by the 1911 census he had become an estate agent, and the family had moved to Oxhey. In 1912 Lionel began work as a boy clerk in the Post Sorting Office at Mount Pleasant.

Whilst Lionel's service record no longer survives, we know from his medal card that he signed up for war service as a volunteer and embarked for France on 3rd December 1915 with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Following the war his family would have been entitled to his medals: 1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal.



Men of the 15th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers in the trenches

15th (1st London Welsh) Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers & the events of 7 / 8 May 1916

The 15th Bn Royal Welsh Fusiliers arrived in the front line near Fauquissart on 5th May 1916, and a raid on the enemy trenches was planned for the night of 7 – 8 May. The raid was to be led by Captain Owen, assisted by Second Lieutenant Osborne Jones, Second Lieutenant Taggart and Second Lieutenant Ingledon, and 51 other men. The objectives of the raid were detailed as follows:

1. Kill Germans
2. Take prisoners
3. Capture or destroy machine guns
4. Secure samples of German equipment, steel helmets, respirators, ammunition etc.

The operation was set to commence at midnight, with an advance party setting out at 10.30pm to reconnoitre and cut the enemy's wire. The group were to split in three – the right party consisting of Second Lieutenant Osborne Jones and 20 men, the left party with Second Lieutenant Taggart and 20 men, and the OC raiding party in support with a further 11 men. The men were armed with bludgeons, grenades and a few revolvers.

The left and right parties were instructed to advance side by side in single file, led by the officers, until they reached the gap in the wire. From there they would fan out for 50 yards in either direction along the enemy trench. Captain Owen's party would remain at the parapet, marking the way out, maintaining communications and helping with the prisoners and any wounded.

The operation would last 15 minutes from the point of entry and the withdrawal would be sounded by three whistle blasts.

The raid didn't happen exactly as planned – a German wiring party was at work near where the raid had originally been planned for, and this delayed the order to attack until nearly 2am. When the raid began there were far more Germans in the trenches than originally anticipated, though some were not armed, the congestion meant that the method of

attack had to be changed, though since the Germans hadn't been expecting the attack it was still deemed to be successful.

At the end of the operation Captain Owen had been slightly wounded, Second Lieutenant Osborne Jones and Second Lieutenant Taggart were both listed as wounded and missing, 2 other ranks soldiers were killed, 1 was missing and a further 9 had been wounded. The surviving raiders estimated that they had killed or wounded 50 of the enemy.

The German account of the raid stated that following the initial attack several patrols were sent out under Vice Sergeant Erbacher with Privates Fertl and Holzleiter, and Infantryman Denhart. These men brought two wounded and three dead Englishmen back to the German trenches with them. The dead were buried whilst the wounded were transferred for treatment.

Following the war, Osborne Jones, Taggart and Grove remained missing – their names were inscribed on the Memorial to the Missing at Loos in France.

Analysis of records available to us now which were not so easily available during or immediately after the war, show us that the three dead men must have been Second Lieutenant Osborne Jones, Second Lieutenant Taggart and Private Grove. All three were buried as unknown 'English' soldiers by the Germans in their cemetery at Fournes, and following the war they were moved from there by the British authorities to the Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery near Souchez. At the time they were moved they remained unknown, but partial identifications were possible – buttons and uniform showed that two of them held officer status, one particularly was noted as being a Second Lieutenant of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. All three retained the date of death as 8 May 1916.

Research has now proven these men to be Osborne Jones, Taggart and Grove, and today we restore their names to them.

Call to Worship:*Appel à Adoration*

We have come together in the name of Christ
To offer our praise and thanksgiving,
To hear and receive God's holy word,
To remember all of those who have suffered in conflict, war, and terror,
And to rededicate these graves
That, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
We may be worthy of their sacrifice.

Opening Prayer*Prière*

Merciful Father,
Hear our prayers and comfort us;
Renew our trust in your Son,
Whom you raised from the dead;
Strengthen our faith
That Noel, Herbert and Lionel
and all who have died in the love of Christ
Will share in his resurrection;
Who lives and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.

Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 27

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a representative of the British Embassy

The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me
it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.
Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

Reading – Englynion Coffa Hedd Wynn by R. Williams Parry
Lecture

*Chosen by the family of Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne Jones and
read by Mererid Vaughan Jones, his great-niece*

Y bardd trwm dan bridd tramor, — y dwylo
Na ddidolir rhagor:
Y llygaid dwys dan ddwys ddôr,
Y llygaid na all agor.

Wedi ei fyw y mae dy fywyd, — dy rawd
Wedi ei rhedeg hefyd:
Daeth awr i fynd i'th weryd,
A daeth i ben deithio byd.

Tyner yw'r lleuad heno — tros fawnog
Trawsfynydd yn dringo:
Tithau'n drist a than dy ro
Ger y ffos ddu'n gorffwyso.

Trawsfynydd tros ei feini — trafaeliaist
Ar foelydd Eryri:
Troedio wnest ei rhedyn hi,
Hunaist ymhell ohoni.

Reading – Ellan Vannin by Eliza Craven Green

(The 'alternative' national anthem for the Isle of Man)

Lecture

Chosen by the family of Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart and read by Steve Brown MBE, The Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre

When the summer day is over
Its busy cares have flown
I will sit beneath the starlight
With a weary heart alone

Then it rises like a vision
Sparkling bright it shines for me
My own dear, Ellan Vannin
With it's green hills by the sea

Let me hear the ocean murmur
Let me watch your stormy sky
Then above the emerald waters
Sing the seagull as she flies

Then it rises like a vision
Sparkling bright it shines for me
My own dear, Ellan Vannin
With it's green hills by the sea

And in all my times of sorrows
And on some lonely shore
I'll go back to Ellan Vannin
To my childhood days once more

Reading – The Night Patrol by Arthur Graeme West (excerpt)
France, March 1916

Lecture

Chosen for Pte Grove

and read by Colonel Nicholas Lock, late of The Royal Welsh

Over the top! The wire's thin here, unbarbed
Plain rusty coils, not staked, and low enough:
Full of old tins, though - "When you're through, all three,
Aim quarter left for fifty yards or so,
Then straight for that new piece of German wire;
See if it's thick, and listen for a while
For sounds of working; don't run any risks;
About an hour; now, over!"

And we placed

Our hands on the topmost sand-bags, leapt, and stood
A second with curved backs, then crept to the wire,
Wormed ourselves tinkling through, glanced back, and dropped.
The sodden ground was splashed with shallow pools,
And tufts of crackling cornstalks, two years old,
No man had reaped, and patches of spring grass.
Half-seen, as rose and sank the flares, were strewn
The wrecks of our attack: the bandoliers,
Packs, rifles, bayonets, belts, and haversacks,
Shell fragments, and the huge whole forms of shells
Shot fruitlessly—and everywhere the dead.

Address
Allocution

The Reverend Richard Mutter

Act of Dedication
L'Acte de Dédicace

We rededicate these graves to Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne Jones, Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart, and Private Lionel Smart Grove in the name of Christ who died and rose again; as a symbol of our remembering, as a sign of our thanksgiving, a token of recognition and expression of our love. We look forward with confidence to our reunion with them and all those whose dwelling is forever with Christ in the everlasting kingdom of the Father.

The Exhortation
L'Éxhortation

Read by Colonel Nicholas Lock, late of The Royal Welsh

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.
We will remember them

The Last Post

Sonnerie aux Morts

Played by Sergeant Andrew Jones,

Regimental Band, 3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Colonel Nicholas Lock, late of The Royal Welsh

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

The Collect of The Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Read by Colonel Nicholas Lock, late of The Royal Welsh

Eternal God, whose strength raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, uphold, we pray thee the ancient valour of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, that we may ever endure hardness after His example, and may rise with Him to shine as the sun in thy Kingdom, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer

Prière

God of mercy, Lord of life
You promised eternal life to those who believe.
Remember for good these your servants Noel, Herbert and Lionel,
Bring them and all who rest in Christ
Into the fullness of your kingdom
Where sins have been forgiven and death is no more.
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,
and 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 mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Cemetery

The "Cabaret Rouge" was a small, red-bricked café which, in the early days of the First World War, stood close to the CWGC cemetery that now bears its name. The Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery was made in March 1916 and remained in continuous use until September 1918. After the Armistice, it was greatly enlarged when as many as 7,000 graves were concentrated here from over 100 other cemeteries in the area. Today, the cemetery contains over 7,650 graves of Commonwealth service personnel, of which more than half remain unidentified. This includes the graves of Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne Jones, Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart & Private Lionel Grove, who could not be identified at the time.



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty & 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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