



A Rededication Service for

Private Douglas Henry Dickson

2nd Battalion, Devonshire Regiment

Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 11.45 am

CWGC London Cemetery and Extension, Longueval, France

Service conducted by
Reverend Kevin Jones

Douglas Henry Dickson was born in 1923 in Edmonton, Middlesex to James Dickson and Olive Elson; one of nine children. He was killed in action on 3 September 1944 while serving with the 2nd battalion of the Devonshire Regiment.

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 original London Cemetery at High Wood was begun in September 1916, with the original battlefield burial later extended after the Armistice when many graves were brought in from other locations. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's London Cemetery and Extension was also used for the burial of 165 Second World War casualties, whose graves are in one central plot at the extreme end of the cemetery, behind the Cross of Sacrifice. Among them is Private Dickson, who could not be identified until today.

Introduction

We have come together, family, friends, representatives of His Majesty the King and the Rifles, to give thanks for the life of Private Douglas Henry Dickson, who was killed in action on 3 September 1944. As we remember his life, devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God.

Opening 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.

At a War Grave

written by John Jarman, another British soldier killed in France in 1944.

No grave is rich; the dust that herein lies
beneath this white cross mixing with the sand
was vital once, with skill of eye and hand
and speed of brain. These will not re-arise,
these riches, nor will they be replaced.
They are lost and nothing now and here is left,
only a worthless corpse of sense bereft.
Symbol of death and sacrifice and waste.

John 6 - Selected verses

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal. Then they said to

him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God? Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent'. Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty....Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day'.

Before Action

written by Lieutenant William Hodgson, MC an officer of the Devonshire Regiment, (who was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme)

By all the glories of the day
and the cool evening's benison;
By that last sunset touch that lay
upon the hills when day was done.
By beauty lavishly outpoured
and blessings carelessly received;
By all the days that I have lived
make me a soldier, Lord.

By all of all man's hopes and fears
and all the wonders poets sing.
The laughter of unclouded years,
and every sad and lovely thing;
By the romantic ages stored
with high endeavour that was his;
By all his mad catastrophes
make me a man, O Lord.

I, that on my familiar hill
saw with uncomprehending eyes
a hundred of thy sunsets spill

their fresh and sanguine sacrifice.
Ere the sun swings his noonday sword
must say good-bye to all of this; –
by all delights that I shall miss,
Help me to die, O Lord.

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 Kevin Jones CF

The Act of Remembrance

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 Douglas
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.

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 Devonshire Regiment

O Eternal God, who keepest truth for ever, keep, we beseech thee, thy servants of the Devonshire Regiment ever faithful and true to thee, not by our might nor by our power, but by thy spirit, for His sake who calls us to bear the cross, our Saviour Jesus Christ

Amen.

A Soldier's Prayer for help

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do anything that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40: 31

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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