



**A Burial Service for**  
**Private William Johnston, Royal Scots Fusiliers**  
**and**  
**An Unknown Soldier of the**  
**East Yorkshire Regiment**

**10:30 hrs on 5 May 2022 at Loos British Cemetery**

**led by The Revd Dave Jeal CF**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland**

*Déroulement de la cérémonie présidé par les pasteurs*

*Dave Jeal CF, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion,*  
*The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

## **Private William Johnston**

William Johnston was born in 1876 in Co Armagh, Northern Ireland, to William and Mary Jane Johnston.

What we now know to be his remains were recovered on 11 January 2018, following their discovery during a routine WW1 ordnance survey on the site where the new Lens hospital is being built.

This area was the site of two peaks in activity:

- The Battle of Loos took place from 25 September to 8 October 1915. It was the biggest British attack of 1915. The front lines between Lens and Loos were aligned south west /north east; running through the hospital site.
- The Battle of Hill 70 took place between 15 and 25 August 1917 between the Canadian Corps and five divisions of the German 6th Army.

The main piece of evidence in this case is a spoon with the number 13228 stamped on the back. Historical military research proves that this is a regimental number and refers to Private William Johnston of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers; he died on 26 September 1915. The war diary of the 7<sup>th</sup> battalion proves that they were in the recovery location on the day of his death and, for confirmation, a DNA sample compared with a member of his biological family proved a match.

## **An Unknown Soldier of the East Yorkshire Regiment**

This casualty's remains were recovered from the Lens Hospital site in March 2018. He was found with some military artefacts, giving us his regiment and appears to have been killed in the same action as Private Johnston. Sadly there are too many casualties killed at the same time for us to be able to identify him.

## **THE CEMETERY**

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission's Loos British Cemetery was begun by the Canadian Corps in July 1917 for casualties from the Battle for Hill 70. The remainder of the cemetery was formed after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from smaller cemeteries and the surrounding battlefields. The two soldiers being buried today were recovered nearby and will now be laid to rest alongside their comrades

## **Welcome**

### *Invitation a la Prière*

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

*John 11.25.26*

We are gathered here today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past.

Today we remember with thanksgiving these two soldiers Private William Johnston of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers and an unknown soldier of the East Yorkshire Regiment whose name is known only to God. They, alongside so many others, answered the call of their country, served with honour and gave their lives in the service of their nation.

We will shortly commit their bodies to be buried. In so doing let us commit ourselves anew to remember them. For by doing so we honour them and we reflect upon their sacrifice.

Let us offer ourselves in God's service that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven and that His kingdom of justice and peace be established everywhere.

## **Bidding Prayer**

### *Prière*

Let us recall the presence of God, the Father of all mankind, maker and sustainer of all that is, whose

purposes are good, whose love is never withheld and whose mercy never passes away. We call to mind His faithfulness in times of darkness and despair.

We remember before Him our brothers whose lives we honour today, and all who have served in the Armed Forces of our nation; who counted service to others greater than service of self, and who gave their lives in battle.

### **Silence**

Merciful Father,  
hear our prayers and comfort us;  
renew our trust in your Son  
whom you raised from the dead;  
strengthen our faith  
that 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 for ever.

**Amen**

### **Scripture Reading**

*Lecture des Ecritures Saintes*

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.  
Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life  
for one's friends.

*John 15, 12-13*

## **Moment of Reflection**

*Moment de réflexion*

## **Scripture Reading**

*Lecture des Ecritures Saintes*

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven;

a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

a time to embrace and a time to refrain,

a time to search and a time to give up,

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,

a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and a time for peace.

*Ecclesiastes 3, 1 – 8*

## **Interment**

Our days are like the grass;

we flourish like a flower of the field;

when the wind goes over it, it is gone

and its place will know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures

for ever and ever.....

We have entrusted these two soldiers to God's eternal keeping. Private William Johnston and our brother whose name is known only to God. They rest safely in His arms at peace eternally. We now commit their earthly remains to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. In the earth we give them a final resting place. They will not be forgotten.

**Amen.**

### **The Exhortation**

*L'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.

**We will remember them.**

### **The Last Post**

*Sonnerie aux morts*

**Silence**

**Reveille**

## **Kohima Epitaph**

*Lecture de l'Épitaphe de Kohima*

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

## **Wreath Laying**

*Depots des Gerbes*

## **Prayers**

*Prières*

Almighty God, protect all who serve in the Forces of The Queen; strengthen us in danger and temptation, give us courage and loyalty, that we may remain true to the highest traditions of our profession; and keep us steadfast when faced with the perils of action in war; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us in time of war. We thank you that the offering of these soldiers' lives was not in vain. By your grace, enable us this day to dedicate ourselves anew to the causes of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your name. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**



**The Lord's Prayer**

*Prière du Seigneur*

**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.**

**Regimental Collect of the Royal Highland Fusiliers**

*Récitation du Régiment*

Almighty God, who didst so bless the endeavours of our fathers that they have handed down to us an example of heroism and sacrifice, grant, we beseech thee, to The Royal Highland Fusiliers thy continued blessing.

Abide with us wherever we may be called upon to serve; strengthen us to resist to the uttermost all the assaults of evil; and inspire us so to serve thee in our day and generation that we may worthily uphold the trust that has been committed to us;

through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**Amen**

## **Regimental Collect of the East Yorkshire Regiment**

### *Récitation du Régiment*

Oh God, whose blessed son found such great faith in the obedience of a soldier, grant to us thy servants of the East Yorkshire Regiment, which has long served this, our country, in the ends of the earth, such faith and obedience that in every land we may seek and find thee who are not far from every one of us; through the same, thy son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

### *Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction*

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

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you and remain with you  
today and always.

**Amen.**



# ARMY

*The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) research, approve and organise commemorative funerals and rededication services for casualties in cemeteries (including nominated CWGC cemeteries) within the country of the casualty's death.*

*The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the first and second world wars and ensure they will never be forgotten.*

© Crown Copyright/JCCC – 2022