



A Burial Service for

**Second Lieutenant James Arthur Greenhalgh
1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment**

And

Two Unknown Soldiers of the Great War

**11:00 hours on 22 May 2024
CWGC Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Gary Birch CF
Chaplain to 19 Regiment Royal Artillery
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Gary Birch CF**

Second Lieutenant James Arthur Greenhalgh



Second Lieutenant James Arthur Greenhalgh was born in Bolton, Lancashire, on 5 May 1889. He was one of five children born to Joseph Greenhalgh and his wife Hannah. James began studying at Manchester University in 1907. He achieved a BA in 1910, a Teachers Certificate Class II in 1910, and an MA in Philology in 1912. He had been a member of the Officer Training Corps whilst at university. James was appointed as a Classics Master at Thame Grammar School before moving on to the grammar school in Ashton-in-Makerfield. Just before the outbreak of the First World War he was appointed as the Secretary of the International Textile Institute. James was also a keen amateur footballer and had played for Bolton Wanderers.

On 6 August 1914, Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh was Commissioned into 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, having been held on the Reserve of Officers, and joined his battalion in Birkenhead. He arrived with the battalion in France on 7 September 1914. The battalion took part in the Battle of the Aisne and fighting around Festubert.

On 17 October 1914, 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment twice attacked towards Violaines alongside 1st Battalion The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, but were repulsed. They remained around the Rue du Marais for the rest of the day. At 18:15 hours they occupied Violaines. On 19 October they attempted to occupy La Bassée. They came under heavy fire and entrenched around 450 yards in front of their former positions. On 20 October they held Violaines before unsuccessfully attacking La Bassée again on 21 October.

At 05:30 hours on 22 October 1914, the enemy attacked their positions. D Company's Advanced Post did not raise the alarm and was not heard from again. The alarm was raised by a patrol from D Company, but their trenches were rushed before they could make any effective resistance and bayonet fighting ensued. After heavy fighting the entire battalion was forced to

retire to the Rue du Marais. At 20:00 hours they were withdrawn and went into rest. 6 Officers and 209 other ranks were missing.

Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh, a member of C Company, was reported later to have been in the trenches and to have been seen to fall having been shot in the head. He was 25 years old. As the enemy had broken on them suddenly, his men were forced to retire leaving Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh behind. After the enemy had captured the village a Serjeant Sanders of The Norfolk Regiment was taken by a German Officer to the location where Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh had fallen and was allowed him to bury his body. After the war no trace of Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh's grave was found, and as he was missing, he was commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial.

In 2020, the remains of three soldiers were found on the outskirts of Violaines during the construction of a new housing estate. Although two of the soldiers had no artefacts on them which would lead to their identification, one was believed to have been an Officer of The Cheshire Regiment. After DNA testing, this casualty was identified as Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh. Today we will remember Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh and his remains will be laid to rest alongside his two unknown comrades.

"Windy Corner" was the name given to a crossroads at Cuinchy. Between January 1915 and May 1916, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, was created adjacent to a house used as Battalion Headquarters and as a Dressing Station. Following the Armistice, the cemetery was greatly enlarged when more than 2,700 graves were brought in from neighbouring battlefields. It is from this same area that Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh and two unknown soldiers were found and are now being laid to rest.

Second Lieutenant James Arthur Greenhalgh est né le 5 mai, 1889 à Bolton, Lancashire. Il est un des cinq enfants nés à Joseph Greenhalgh et sa femme Hannah. James a commencé à étudier à l'université de Manchester en 1907. Il obtient une licence en 1910, un Teachers Certificate Class II en 1910 et une maîtrise en philologie en 1912. Il avait été membre du corps de formation des officiers pendant ses études universitaires. James a été nommé professeur de lettres classiques à la Thame Grammar School avant de rejoindre la grammar school d'Ashton-in-Makerfield. Juste avant le début de la Première Guerre Mondiale, il a été nommé secrétaire de l'Institut International du Textile. James était également un footballeur amateur passionné et avait joué pour les Bolton Wanderers.

Le 6 août, 1914, Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh a été commissionné dans le 1^{er} Bataillon du Cheshire Regiment, après avoir été retenu dans la réserve des officiers, et a rejoint son bataillon à Birkenhead. Il est arrivé avec le bataillon en France le 7 septembre, 1914. Le bataillon a participé à la bataille de l'Aisne et aux combats autour de Festubert.

Le 17 octobre, 1914, le 1^{er} Bataillon du Cheshire Regiment a attaqué deux fois en direction de Violaines aux côtés du 1^{er} Bataillon du Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, mais a été repoussé. Ils restent autour de la Rue du Marais pendant le reste de la journée. À 18 :15 heures, ils occupent Violaines. Le 19 octobre, ils tentent d'occuper La Bassée. Ils essuient un feu nourri et se retranchent à environ 450 mètres devant leurs anciennes positions. Le 20 octobre, ils tiennent Violaines avant d'attaquer à nouveau La Bassée le 21 octobre, sans succès.

Le 22 octobre, 1914 à 05 :30 heures, l'ennemi a attaqué leurs positions. Le poste avancé de D Company n'a pas donné l'alerte et on n'a plus entendu parler d'eux. Une patrouille de la D Company a donné l'alerte, mais leurs tranchées ont été envahies avant qu'ils ne puissent opposer une résistance

efficace et un combat à la baïonnette s'ensuivit. Après de violents combats, l'ensemble du bataillon est contraint de se retirer vers la Rue du Marais. À 20 :00 heures, ils se sont retirés et se sont mis au repos. 6 officiers et 209 soldats manquent à l'appel.

Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh, un membre de C Company, a été signalé plus tard comme ayant été dans les tranchées et comme ayant été vu tomber après avoir reçu une balle dans la tête. Il était âgé de 25 ans. Comme l'ennemi les avait attaqués soudainement, ses hommes furent contraints de se retirer, laissant Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh derrière eux. Après la prise du village par l'ennemi, un Serjeant Sanders du Norfolk Regiment fut conduit par un officier allemand à l'endroit où le Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh était tombé et fut autorisé à enterrer son corps. Après la guerre, aucune trace de la tombe du Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh n'a été retrouvée et, comme il était porté disparu, il a été commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Le Touret.

En 2020, les restes de trois soldats ont été découverts à la périphérie de Violaines lors de la construction d'un nouveau lotissement. Bien que deux des soldats ne portent aucun objet permettant de les identifier, il a été pensé que l'un d'entre eux était un officier du Cheshire Regiment. Après un test ADN, cette homme a été identifiée comme Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh. Aujourd'hui, nous nous souviendrons du Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh et il reposera aux côtés de ses deux camarades inconnus.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have come to this place to inter the mortal remains of Second Lieutenant James Arthur Greenhalgh, an Officer of 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, who gave his life in battle nearby at Violaines in October 1914, and two of his comrades who remain known only unto God.

Today we accord these men the dignity and respect that they are due and commend them to the mercy and grace of God our redeemer and judge, and in the hope and life given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us.

All May the Peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

We meet in the presence of God.

To commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom justice and peace.

We come to pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We come to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh, and all whose lives, in World Wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Colonel Paul Bedford

On Behalf of the British Embassy Paris

Romans Chapter 8 v 31-35, 37-39 (NIV)

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Lieutenant Oliver Sherwood

1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment

John Chapter 15 v 9-17 (ESV)

Jesus said, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading*Lecture*

Read by Alex Clarkson

A Cousin of Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh

The Send-Off

By Wilfred Owen

Down the close, darkening lanes they sang their way
To the siding-shed,
And lined the train with faces grimly gay.

Their breasts were stuck all white with wreath and spray
As men's are, dead.

Dull porters watched them, and a casual tramp
Stood staring hard,
Sorry to miss them from the upland camp.
Then, unmoved, signals nodded, and a lamp
Winked to the guard.

So secretly, like wrongs hushed-up, they went.
They were not ours:
We never heard to which front these were sent.

Nor there if they yet mock what women meant
Who gave them flowers.

Shall they return to beatings of great bells
In wild trainloads?
A few, a few, too few for drums and yells,
May creep back, silent, to still village wells
Up half-known roads.

Address*Allocution***The Committal***L' Enterrement*

We have but a short time to live.
Like a flower we blossom and then wither;
like a shadow we flee and never stay.
In the midst of life we are in death;
to whom can we turn for help,
but to you, Lord, who are justly angered by our sins?
Yet, Lord God most holy, Lord most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
deliver us from the bitter pains of eternal death.
Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;
hear our prayer, O God most mighty;
spare us, most worthy judge eternal;
at our last hour let us not fall from you,
O holy and merciful Saviour.

We entrust our fallen comrades to God's mercy
and we commit their bodies to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Read by Sergeant Ashley Foster
1st Battalion The Mercian 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

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by a Soldier of the Bearer Party

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

Eternal God, in your wisdom and grace you have given us freedom through the lives of your departed servants. We thank you for the life of Second Lieutenant Greenhalgh and his comrades and for those who loved them. We thank you for your goodness and mercy that followed them all the days of their lives and their ultimate faithfulness to the tasks to which you had called them. May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

We pray for all who have died or suffer as a result of conflict. Those whose lives are disfigured by war or terror. For service men and women, for civilians, for those held captive, each one remembered by and known to God.

May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

We pray for peace-makers and peace-keepers; those who seek to keep this world secure and free; 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.**

Finally, we pray 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.
Amen.**

Collect of The Cheshire Regiment

Récitation du Cheshire Regiment

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Ret'd Tony Angel TD

The Cheshire Regiment Association

Almighty God, Lord, and giver of life, nourish, we pray thee, The Cheshire Regiment with thine abundant grace, that, as we wear the oak leaf in token of loyalty and forget not the valour of our fathers, so, being rooted in the love of Christ and of our brethren, we may not fall away in time of temptation but stand fast in the faith, and be strong like the oak for his sake, the same 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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessing

Séparation de Dernière Bénédiction

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth
and all people, unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you all and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go forth with hope and seek for peace in the service of
God.

In the name of Christ.

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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