



A Rededication Service for

Private James McCaffrey (served as McCafferty)

5th Battalion, Tank Corps

Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 10.15 am

CWGC Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Service conducted by
Reverend Kevin Jones

James McCaffrey was born in Tullylish Down, Ireland. According to the *Soldiers Died in the Great War* records, he previously served in the 5th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

At the time of his death he was serving with the 5th Battalion of the Tank Corps. He was originally found buried – as an unknown British Soldier of the Tank Corps – by Rethueil Farm – north east of the village of Sebancourt. This area only saw tank action very briefly on 11 October 1918, when two tanks and crews from 5th Battalion Tank Corps were sent to assist a French unit in clearing the area round Rethueil Farm. Both tanks were hit and casualties sustained. James was one of those casualties.

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 Commonwealth War Grave Commission's Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension was first used in October 1918 as the burial ground for the 48th, 37th and 12th Casualty Clearing Stations, with the initial burials located in plot I. The cemetery was greatly expanded after the end of the war by the concentration of burials, including the previously unidentified Private McCaffrey, from the former battlefields in a wide area between Cambrai and Guise.

Introduction

We have come together, family, friends, representatives of His Majesty the King and the Royal Tank Regiment, to give thanks for the life of Private James McCaffrey, who was killed in action on 11 October 1918. As we remember his life, devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God. We also remember today Corporal George Quarterman of the 5th Tank Corps; he died in the same incident as Private McCaffrey and now rests in the next grave.

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.

Extracted from a "Lost" poem

by A A Milne, heralding the invention of the tank in WW1

Read by Captain (Retd) Dean Hutton, RTR Association

But they're not quite mechanical tanks,
there are men at the wheel and the guns.
And the grim reputation of tanks
and the wonderful things that they've done,
and the battles they've won are the work of the men in the tanks.
And it isn't all fun for the men who sit tight in the tanks.
No, it isn't all fun in the tanks.
You may read with a cheer how they crashed down the wire,
but perhaps you don't hear that a couple caught fire –
well, it's one of the risks of the tanks.

For the humans who sit in the tanks; the brain and the soul of the tanks; the tanks that go anywhere; anywhere true.
If the men of the tanks will go anywhere too – as they do.
So remember, whenever you talk of the tanks,
the newest invention, the wonderful tanks;
the older invention – the men in the ranks;
the wonderful men of all ranks.
For they're just the same men – only more so – in tanks.
You'll remember them?
Thanks!

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'.

Flower of Youth

Written by Irish poet, Katharine Tynan.

There they go marching all in step, smooth cheeked and golden.
Food for shells and guns.
Blithely they go as to a wedding day
The Mothers' Sons
Oh, if the sonless mothers weeping,

and widowed girls could look inside
the glory that hath them in keeping,
who went to the Great War and died,
they would rise and put their mourning off
and say "Thank God, he has enough".

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

Read by a representative of the British Embassy, Paris

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

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 James
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 Royal Tank Corps

Almighty God, whose perfect love casteth out fear, mercifully
grant that thy servants of the Royal Tank Corps may fear naught
but to fall from thy favour; for His sake in whom thou art well
pleased, thy beloved son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

A Soldier's Prayer

by Sgt J E Blue

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands,
protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform
for us in our time of need,

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

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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