



A Rededication Service for

Lieutenant Cecil William Charles Shelley

2nd Battalion Scots Guards

Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 3.30 pm

CWGC Loos British Cemetery, France

Service conducted by
Reverend Kevin Jones



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Cecil Shelley was born in Windsor on 5 September 1873. He was the son of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Charles Shelley, JP (5th Baronet Shelley of Castle Goring) and Mary Jane Jemima Stopford. He had 8 siblings. He married Sybil Bertie Peel in what was then Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and their daughter, Eileen Sybil Shelley was born there on 10 July 1906. Her mother died only 20 days later and it would appear she was brought up abroad, returning to England when she was 22. The Shelley family provided several of England's greatest literary figures.

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.

Introduction

We have come together, family, friends, representatives of His Majesty the King and the Scots Guards, to give thanks for the life of Lieutenant Cecil William Charles Shelley, who was killed in action on 17 October 1915. 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.

Bereavement

written by Percy Bysshe Shelley

How stern are the woes of the desolate mourner
as he bends in still grief o'er the hallowed bier
As enanguished he turns from the laugh of the scorner,
and drops to perfection's remembrance a tear.
When floods of despair down his pale cheeks are streaming,
when no blissful hope on his bosom is beaming,
or, if lulled for a while, soon he starts from his dreaming,
and finds torn the soft ties to affection so dear.

Ah, when shall day dawn on the night of the grave,
or summer succeed to the winter of death?
Rest awhile, hapless victim! and Heaven will save
the spirit that hath faded away with the breath.

Eternity points, in its amaranth bower
where no clouds of fate o'er the sweet prospect lour,
unspeakable pleasure, of goodness the dower,
when woe fades away like the mist of the heath.

Luke 23; 33, 39 – 43

When the soldiers reached the place called Calvary, they crucified Jesus there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. One of the criminals hanging there abused him, "Are you not the Christ?" he said. "Save yourself and us as well". But the other spoke up and rebuked him. "Have you no fear in God at all?" he said. "You got the same sentence as he did but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong". "Jesus", he said, "remember me when you come into your kingdom". "Indeed I promise you", he replied. "Today you will be with me in paradise".

The word of the Lord.

Response; Thanks be to God.

Extracted from Way of Revelation;

written by Wilfred Ewart, who served with the Scots Guards from 1915 – 1919.

They perished.

When the roll came to be called, barely one quarter of those who had marched into action hours earlier answered to it.

The colonel fell gloriously. From a shell hole in the midst of the battlefield, though mortally wounded, he directed the swaying fortunes of his battalion, while consciousness remained, thus at the last earning the admiration of the officers and men who had hated him. His second in command, had fallen an unexpected victim to illness. The young adjutant, coming up with all speed from reserve was fatally struck down. The other two company commanders, supported by the remnants of their men, were last

seen fighting at bayonet's point, a grey sea of Germans in full counter attack closing round.

Of the rank and file, the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, the majority of those not accounted for were found to have attained their ultimate rest.

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 Cecil
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 Scots Guards

O Lord Jesus Chris, in whom we are builded together for an habitation of God, stretch forth thy hand, we pray thee, to strengthen the Scots Guards against the furiousness of the enemy of our souls; that, continuing in brotherly love, we may go from strength to strength in thee who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, art one God for ever.

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.

About the Cemetery

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission's Loos British Cemetery was begun by the Canadian Corps in July 1917. The remainder of the cemetery was formed after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from smaller cemeteries and the battlefields over a wide area North and East of the village of Loos. It is from this same area that the previously unidentified body of Lieutenant Shelley was recovered.



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