



**A Burial Service for**

**Rifleman Frederick Thomas Adams  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Rifle Brigade**

**12:30 hours on 16 October 2024  
CWGC Passchendaele New British Cemetery  
Belgium**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Huw Ryden CF  
Chaplain to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles**

### **Rifleman Frederick Thomas Adams**

Rifleman Frederick Thomas Adams was born in Brighton, Sussex, on 25 April 1891. He was the eldest of two children born to Walter Adams and his wife Sarah Ann. Frederick enlisted into The Rifle Brigade on 1 March 1909. He had previously worked as a clerk and had served with a territorial unit of The Royal Army Medical Corps. On 10 July 1909, Rifleman Adams was posted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifle Brigade. His first Good Conduct Badge was awarded on 1 March 1911. His second Good Conduct Badge would have been awarded on 1 March 1914.

At the outbreak of the First World War on 4 August 1914, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifle Brigade was stationed in Cork, Ireland. The battalion embarked at Southampton on 8 September 1914 and sailed onboard the SS Lake Michigan for France. They disembarked in St Nazaire on 12 September. Having been involved in the Battle of the Aisne and subsequent fighting, Rifleman Adams was wounded in the left knee by a piece of shrapnel, in the Bois-Grenier area, south of Armentieres, on 25 October 1914. He was evacuated back to the UK and treated at 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital in Wandsworth.

Rifleman Adams was discharged from hospital on 30 November 1914. On 8 July 1915, he was deemed unfit for war service but suitable for clerical work. On 26 June 1916, Rifleman Adams was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Garrison Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment. On 12 June 1917, Rifleman Adams returned to The Rifle Brigade and was posted to 6<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion. On 3 August 1917, he joined 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Rifle Brigade in the field in Belgium.

On 17 November 1917, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Rifle Brigade moved into the frontline north of Passchendaele. They were heavily shelled during the relief and that night. They remained in the frontline on 18 November under shell fire. The battalion

received orders to establish a line of posts in a straight line from Vox Farm. During the night they advanced their line in the centre to straighten it. They were heavily shelled again on 19 November and were relieved that night. Rifleman Adams was posted as missing, and his death was accepted as having occurred on or since 19 November 1917. He was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

In 2018, the remains of a soldier of The Rifle Brigade were discovered during roadworks in Passchendaele. He was found with two chevrons, indicating that he may have either held the rank of corporal or that he may have been wearing or been in possession of two Good Conduct Stripes. After extensive research carried out by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre and DNA testing, the soldier was identified as Rifleman Adams. Today we will remember Rifleman Adams and his remains will be laid to rest.

Created after the Armistice next to the 's Graventafelstraat, which links Ypres to the village of Passchendaele, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Passchendaele New British Cemetery was formed by the concentration of battlefield cemeteries and isolated graves from Passchendaele and Langemarck. It was in this same area that Rifleman Adams was discovered. There are more than 2,100 burials and commemorations of the First World War in the cemetery, mainly those killed in the autumn of 1917, of whom 1,600 remain unidentified.

### **Call to Worship**

We have come here today to remember before God our brother Frederick Thomas Adams, a rifleman of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of The Rifle Brigade; to give thanks for his life; to commend him to God our merciful redeemer and judge; to commit Frederick's body to be buried and to lay his mortal remains to rest.

### **Bidding Prayer**

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 Frederick Thomas Adams, and all whose lives, in World Wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading**

Read by Group Captain John Dickson  
Defence Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg

### **Revelation Chapter 21 v 1-7 (ESV)**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

Read by the Reverend Huw Ryden CF  
Chaplain to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles

#### **John Chapter 11 v 17-27 (ESV)**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Reading**

Read by Lieutenant Henry Waterson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles

**Perhaps**

By Vera Brittain

Perhaps some day the sun will shine again,  
And I shall see that still the skies are blue.  
And feel once more I do not live in vain,  
Although bereft of You.

Perhaps the golden meadows at my feet  
Will make the sunny hours of Spring seem gay.  
And I shall find the white May blossoms sweet,  
Though You have passed away.

Perhaps the summer woods will shimmer bright,  
And crimson roses once again be fair,  
And autumn harvest fields a rich delight,  
Although You are not there.

Perhaps some day I shall not shrink in pain  
To see the passing of the dying year,  
And listen to Christmas songs again,  
Although You cannot hear.

But, though kind Time may many joys renew,  
There is one greatest joy I shall not know  
Again, because my heart for loss of You  
Was broken, long ago.

**Address**

### **Commendation**

Let us commend Frederick Thomas Adams to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

### **Silence**

God our creator and redeemer,  
by your power Christ conquered death  
and entered into glory.  
Confident of his victory  
and claiming his promises,  
we entrust Frederick Thomas Adams to your mercy  
in the name of Jesus our Lord  
who died and is alive  
and reigns with you,  
now and forever.

### **The Committal**

As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.  
For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.  
As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.  
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to  
everlasting on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children.

Psalm 103 v 13-17 (ESV)



Though we are dust and ashes, God has prepared for those who love him a heavenly dwelling place.

We have commended Frederick Thomas Adams into the hands of almighty God. We now, in good order and with care, compassion and honour, commit his body to the earth.

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**

Read by Corporal Philip Ingamells  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles

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**

Played by Rifleman Callum Phillips  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles

**Silence**

**Rouse (Reveille)**

**Kohima Epitaph**

Read by Corporal Jake Wilkinson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles

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

**Laying of Wreaths**

**Prayers**

**The Collect of The Rifle Brigade**

Read by Lieutenant Henry Waterson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles

O God, whose servant David put off his armour the better to prevail against his enemy, grant, we beseech thee, that we, thy servants of The Rifle Brigade, who were chosen of old to obey with speed and to fight unburdened, may lay aside every weight and every besetting sin, and run with patience the race that is set before us by Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 Dismissal**

Support us, O Lord,  
all the day-long of this troublous life,  
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,  
the busy world is hushed,  
the fever of life is over  
and our work is done.  
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest, and peace at the last;  
through Christ our Lord.

*All*    **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

May God give you his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
In this world and the next;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you, and your loved  
ones, now and ever more.

Go in peace, ever labouring 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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