



A Rededication Service for

**Private Thomas Parry**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers**

Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 11.30am

CWGC Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Belgium

Service conducted by  
Reverend Andy Nicolls CF

Although Thomas Parry served with the King's Own Scottish Borderers, he was a Lancashire man who was born and lived in Atherton. He was born in 1896 to George Parry and Jane Mahon.

He was aged 5 when he first appeared in the 1901 census, living with his family in Union Street, Atherton. By the 1911 census, he was age 15 and working as a Cotton Mule Piecer. He was still living with his family, although they'd moved to Oldham Street in Tyldesley by this time.

### **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**

Begun by French troops in November 1914, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Perth Cemetery (China Wall) was adopted by the 2nd Scottish Rifles for front line burials from June to October 1917. Also known as Halfway House Cemetery, it was named after Perth, where the predecessors of the 2nd Scottish Rifles were raised, and China Wall from a nearby communication trench known as the Great Wall of China. After the Armistice further graves from the battlefields around Ypres, including Private Parry, were brought in for burial.

## **Introduction**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

We have come together, family, friends, representatives of His Majesty the King and the Royal Regiment of Scotland, to give thanks for the life of Private Thomas Parry who was killed in action on 4 June 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.

## **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.**

**Home** written by Cpl Charlie Skeels of Darwin, Lancashire

Just think of those in foreign lands,  
in prison camps that lie,  
their vision blurred by foemen's steel,  
beneath the summer sky.  
High boards around the dwelling place,  
barbed wire on every side.  
And with a dull monotony,  
the days do slowly glide.  
Weary and worn, with longings vain  
for freedom, they do pine.  
As on parade their names are called,  
to form a fall'ring line.  
Just think how anxiously they wait,

for news of those so dear.  
So don't forget to send along  
a line, their hearts to cheer.

**Psalm 103: 1-5, 9-17**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who  
forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.  
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

**Sonnet – Evening** written by Thomas Henry Quarmby (1894 - 1917);  
a British soldier poet from Burnley, Lancashire

Oh when the dusk is falling, and the stars  
flash their reveille to the realm of the night.  
Me thinks that Nature, all her souls unbars;  
and fills each common thing with mystic light.  
Then come there whispering from the leafy trees,  
a subtle rustle from the swaying reeds:  
Ten thousand murmurs from the evening breeze,  
nectar on which the heart poetic feeds.

Then do I sit and muse, as twilight drops  
her last slow ray upon the dim lit plain.  
Until pale stars come peeping o'er hilltop,  
and set the scene for nature's highest strain.  
Eternity! I hear thy whispers throng,  
Oh! Could I weave them all, into my song.

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

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 Andy Nicolls CF

You have done all you can on a physical level, and now must  
enter sacred waiting. The hardest most integral step is turning all  
over to the grace of life and the coming transformative powers  
born from the steps you have already taken.

Written by Sarah Blondin

### **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 Thomas Parry  
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 King's Own Scottish Borderers**

O Lord, without whom our labour is but lost and all our watching is  
in vain, grant that the King's Own Scottish Borderers may ever  
trust in thy true religion and endure hardness as good soldiers of  
him who bore the cross, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**



### **A Soldier's Prayer**

Make Thou the nation pure, more worthy of thy care.  
Oh England! If thou would'st endure,  
seek thou thy path in prayer.  
Thy wisdom light our way,  
so in years to be more happy with each passing day,  
as we draw near to Thee. **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**

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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