



**A Rededication Service for  
Captain Hubert Leslie Smith  
19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment)**

**10:00 hours on Tuesday 25 March 2025  
CWGC Ham British Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Paul Robinson CF  
Chaplain to  
4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment  
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par  
le Révérend Paul Robinson CF**

**Captain Hubert Leslie Smith**



Captain Hubert Leslie Smith was born on 19 February 1884 in Chagford, on Dartmoor in Devon. He was one of six children born to the elementary school teachers George and Josephine Smith. Hubert trained as a schoolmaster at St Luke's College, Exeter, and went on to work as a master at the Admiralty Schools in Greenwich. On 6 August 1914, he married Bertha Hilda Frances Rogulski at St Peter's Church in Brockley, Lewisham.

Hubert had previous territorial service with 5<sup>th</sup> (Haytor) Volunteer Battalion The Devonshire Regiment in which he had held the role of serjeant instructor of musketry. During his time in London, he had been the captain of the Greenwich Rifle Club. On 8 January 1915 Hubert enlisted and was posted to 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion (2<sup>nd</sup> Sportsmen's) The Royal Fusiliers. He was a keen rugby player having played for St Luke's College and The London Devonians. Hubert transferred to The King's (Liverpool Regiment) on 17 April 1915 and was Commissioned as a second lieutenant on 20 June 1915, joining 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the same battalion to which his brother Captain Harold Aubrey Smith belonged. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 1916 and to the rank of captain in 1917.

19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment) arrived on the Western Front on 7 November 1915 and saw action on the Somme in 1916. It was there that his brother, by then the adjutant, lost his arm and was invalided home. The battalion took part in the Battle of Arras in the spring of 1917 and the Third Battle of Ypres later that year. Hubert was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre and Order of Leopold for his service in Belgium.

On 21 March 1918, the German Army launched Operation Michael, the first phase of their Spring Offensive. By 23 March the 23<sup>rd</sup> Entrenching Battalion was in the line south of the Saint Quentin Canal to the west of Ham. That morning Captain Smith arrived with around 100 men of 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's

(Liverpool Regiment) to support them. At 13:30 hours the enemy attacked but was driven off. At 07:00 hours on 24 March, the enemy attacked again. They were held off until about 09:30 hours when the line began to break. The British forces began to retire with the last man crossing the bridge at Rainecourt at around 13:30 hours. Around 16:00 hours their new positions were heavily shelled. Captain Smith was killed during the fighting that day. He was 34 years old. His Commanding Officer wrote to his widow that Captain Smith had been 'slightly wounded, but went back as the only Officer left, and was killed leading his men, upholding the best traditions of the British nation'.

After the war the remains of Captain Hubert Leslie Smith were recovered and buried in Ham British Cemetery as an unknown captain of The King's (Liverpool Regiment). As he was missing Captain Smith was commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial. However new research has shown that this is in fact his grave and the headstone over the grave has now been replaced. Today we will remember Captain Hubert Leslie Smith and his grave will be rededicated.

Begun in January 1918, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Ham British Cemetery was established by the 61<sup>st</sup> Casualty Clearing Station and was an extension of Muille-Villette German Cemetery. Following the end of the war, additional Commonwealth graves were brought to this cemetery from nearby churchyards, German Cemeteries and, as in the case of the previously unidentified Captain Hubert Leslie Smith, from the surrounding battlefields. There are 485 burials and commemorations of the First World War in this cemetery, of which over 200 are still unidentified.

Captain Hubert Leslie Smith est né le 19 février, 1884 à Chagford, sur Dartmoor dans Devon. Il été un des six enfants nés des instituteurs George et Josephine Smith. Hubert a suivi une formation de maître d'école au St Luke's College, à Exeter, puis a travaillé comme maître dans les écoles de l'Amirauté à Greenwich. Le 6 août, 1914, il a épousé Bertha Hilda Frances Rogulski à l'église St Peter de Brockley, Lewisham.

Hubert avait déjà servi sur l'armée territoriale dans 5<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du Devonshire Regiment, où il avait occupé le poste de sergent instructeur de mousqueterie. Pendant son séjour à Londres, il a été capitaine du Greenwich Rifle Club. Le 8 janvier, 1915, Hubert s'engagea et fut affecté au 24<sup>e</sup> Bataillon (2<sup>e</sup> Sportsmen's) du Royal Fusiliers. C'est un joueur de rugby passionné qui a joué pour le St Luke's College et les London Devonians. Hubert est transféré au King's (Liverpool Regiment) le 17 avril, 1915 et devient sous-lieutenant le 20 juin 1915, rejoignant le 19<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, le même bataillon auquel appartenait son frère, le Captain Harold Aubrey Smith. Il est devenu lieutenant en 1916 et capitaine en 1917.

19<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du King's (Liverpool Regiment) est arrivé sur le front occidental le 7 novembre, 1915 et a combattu dans la Somme en 1916. C'est là que son frère, alors adjudant, a perdu son bras et fut rapatrié comme invalide. Le bataillon a participé à la bataille d'Arras au printemps 1917 et à la troisième bataille d'Ypres plus tard dans l'année. Hubert a reçu la Croix de Guerre Belgique et l'Ordre de Léopold pour son service en Belgique.

Le 21 mars, 1918, l'armée allemande lance l'opération Michael, la première phase de son offensive de printemps. Le 23 mars, le 23<sup>e</sup> Entrenching Battalion se trouve dans la ligne au sud du canal de Saint-Quentin, à l'ouest de Ham. Ce matin-là, Captain Smith arrive avec une centaine d'hommes du 19<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du King's (Liverpool Regiment) pour les soutenir. À 13 :30 heures, l'ennemi attaque mais a été repoussé. Le 24

mars à 07 :00 heures, l'ennemi attaqua à nouveau. Ils ont été repoussés jusqu'à environ 09 :30 heures, quand la ligne commence à se rompre. Les forces britanniques commencent à se retirer, le dernier homme a traversé le pont de Rainecourt vers 13 :30 heures. Vers 16 :00 heures, leurs nouvelles positions furent lourdement bombardées. Captain Smith a été tué au cours des combats ce jour-là. Il avait 34 ans. Son commandant écrivit à sa veuve que Captain Smith avait été 'légèrement blessé, mais qu'il était le seul officier restant et qu'il avait été tué à la tête de ses hommes, défendant les meilleures traditions de la nation britannique'.

Les restes du Captain Smith ont été récupéré après la guerre et enterré a Ham British Cemetery comme un Officier inconnu du King's (Liverpool Regiment). Comme il était porté disparu, Captain Smith a été commémoré le monument commémoratif des disparus à Pozieres. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Captain Hubert Leslie Smith et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

### **Call to Worship**

*Appel à Adoration*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

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

### **Bidding Prayer**

*Prière*

We meet this day to remember before God Captain Hubert Leslie Smith who lived and died in the service of his country, and to rededicate his grave.

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers for your servant Hubert whom we remember this day.

*All* Fulfil in him the purpose of your love and bring us, with him, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading**

*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

### **Mark Chapter 16 v 1-6 (NIV)**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

This is the word of the Lord.

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



## **Gospel Reading**

*Lecture de l'Évangile*

Read by Captain Andrew Adams

4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

### **John Chapter 6 v 35-40 (NRSV)**

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. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never send away; for I have come down from heaven, I do not 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

## **Reading**

*Lecture*

Read by Peter Smith

Great Nephew of Captain Smith

## **There Is No Night Without A Dawning**

By Helen Steiner Rice

There is no night without a dawning  
No winter without a spring  
And beyond the dark horizon  
Our hearts will once more sing ....  
For those who leave us for a while  
Have only gone away  
Out of a restless, care worn world  
Into a brighter day.

## **Address**

*Allocution*

## **The Act of Dedication**

*L'Acte de Dédicace*

So let us now bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Captain Hubert Leslie Smith.

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb:  
Bless and dedicate, we pray, this grave as the place where the body of your servant Hubert may rest in peace, in the knowledge that he now abides in your glory through the merits of your Son, who is the resurrection and the life; who died and is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

### **The Exhortation**

*L'Éxhortation*

Read by Sergeant Liam Cruise-Taylor

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Yorkshire 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**

### **The Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

*L'Épitaphe de Kohima*

Read by Sergeant Liam Cruise-Taylor

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

### **Laying of Wreaths**

*Dépôts des Gerbes*

**Prayer**

*Prière*

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 Captain Hubert Leslie Smith and for those who loved him. We thank you for your goodness and mercy that followed him all the days of his life and his ultimate faithfulness to the tasks to which you had called him.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Collect of The King's (Liverpool Regiment)**

*Récitation du King's (Liverpool Regiment)*

Read by Captain Andrew Adams

4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

Lord Jesus, wisdom of God, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice, look mercifully on thy servants of The King's Regiment, and so strengthen us that in hardships and dangers we may fear no evil for that thou art with us, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest for ever.

*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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

*Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction*

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, now and always.

*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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