



**A Rededication Service for**

**Private Peter Keill  
7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders**

**14:30 hours 25 October 2023  
CWGC Dadizeele New British Cemetery  
Belgium**

**Service conducted by the Reverend David Jeal CF  
Chaplain to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland**

**Private Peter Keill**



Private Peter Keill was born on 20 May 1898 in Gorvan, Glasgow, Scotland. He was one of ten children born to Robert Keill and his wife Mary. Peter enlisted into The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He later transferred to 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders before transferring to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

By October 1918 the static fighting associated with the Western Front, which had kept the British Army in Belgium within the Ypres Salient since 1914, had lifted, and Allied forces were advancing. By 06:00 hours on 1 October 1918, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders were in assembly positions in front of the village of Slypscappelle. After a brief barrage, they attacked at 06:15 hours and were successful in reaching their first objective, the Menin to Roulers railway line north of Ledeghem. After a pause they continued the attack, but now met stiffer resistance. They captured the village of Ledeghem and pushed out patrols in the direction of Rolleghemcappelle.

7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders encountered hostile machine gunfire and as the battalions operating on their flanks had not made the same progress, they fell back to the railway line and consolidated their positions. The battalion had suffered casualties of 23 killed in action or died of wounds, 4 missing and 73 wounded. Private Peter Keill was among these casualties. The location of Private Keill's grave was lost and as he was missing, he was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. However, new research has located his grave in Dadizeele New British Cemetery. Today we will remember Private Keill and his grave will be rededicated.

The village of Dadizeele, behind German lines for most of the war, was captured by British forces in late September 1918. It wasn't until after the Armistice that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Dadizeele New British Cemetery was established. The graves, including that of Private Peter Keill, were brought in from the surrounding burial grounds and battlefields. There are now over 1000 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery.

## **Welcome**

We are gathered here today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past.

We remember with thanksgiving Private Peter Keill of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders, who was killed in action on 1 October 1918. He, alongside so many others, answered the call of his country, served with honour and gave his life in the service of his nation, counting service to others greater than service of self.

His sacrifice is summed up in Jesus' words to His disciples:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15, 12-13

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us in time of war. We thank you that the offering of these soldiers' lives was not in vain. By your grace, enable us this day to dedicate ourselves anew to the causes of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your name.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Moment of Reflection**

**Scripture Reading**

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

**Psalm 121 (NIV)**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains –  
    where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
    the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip –  
    he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
    will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord watches over you –  
    the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day,  
    nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all harm –  
    he will watch over your life;  
the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
    both now and for evermore.

**Gospel Reading**

Read by Lieutenant Thomas Purslow  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

**John Chapter 14 v 1-3 (NIV)**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God;  
believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms;  
if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going  
there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare  
a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with  
me that you also may be where I am.

### **Reading**

Read by Colonel Campbell Close,  
Commander Field Army Liaison Officer, France  
Representing the Colonel of The Royal Regiment of  
Scotland

### **To a Dead Soldier**

By Lieutenant Ewart Alan Mackintosh MC  
5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders  
Killed in Action 21 November 1917

So I shall never see you more.  
The northern winds will blow in vain  
Brave and heart-easing off the shore.  
You will not sail with them again.  
I shall not see you wait for me  
Where on the beach the dulse is brown,  
Nor hear at night across the sea  
Your chorus of the Nighean doun.

Are you so easy handled now  
That Flanders soil can keep you still  
Although the northern breezes blow  
All day across the fairy's hill?  
And can an alien lowland clay  
Hold fast your soul and body too,  
Or will you rise and come away  
To where our friendship waits for you?

You cannot rest so far from home,  
Your heart will miss the northern wind,  
Back from the lowland fields will come  
Your soul the grave can never bind.  
Once more your hands will trim the sail  
That carries us across the bay  
To where the summer islands pale  
Over the seas and far away.

And you will sail and watch with me  
The things we saw and loved before.  
The happy islands of the sea,  
The breakers white against the shore.  
A hundred joys that we held dear  
Will call you from the Flanders town,  
And in the evenings I shall hear  
Your chorus of the Nighean doun.

### **The Act of Dedication**

We remember with thanksgiving at God's throne of grace all those who have died during operational service. We remember this day especially Private Peter Keill. Merciful God, you have made us all and given your Son for our redemption. We once again commend our brother to your perfect mercy and wisdom and rededicate his final resting place into your care. For in you alone we put our trust.

### **The Collect of The Seaforth Highlanders**

Read by Warrant Officer Class 2 Darran Pasifull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Almighty God, who givest salvation unto kings, teach us, thy servants, The Seaforth Highlanders, who are vowed to help our Lord The King against his enemies, ever to lift up our eyes unto the hills from whence commeth our help, even from thee, maker of heaven and earth; for Jesus Christ our saviour's sake.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Exhortation**

Read by Fusilier Nathan Clark

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

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 Corporal William Crawford

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

### **Silence**

### **Flowers of the Forest**

Played by Piper Sergeant Joe Davies

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

### **Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

Read by Fusilier Caleb Donaghy

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

### **Laying of Wreaths**



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

*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 Blessing**

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.**

### **Amazing Grace**

Played by Piper Sergeant Joe Davies  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



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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