



A Rededication Service for

Corporal Thomas Stannage

10th (Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Hussars

Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 12.00 pm

CWGC Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, France

Service conducted by
Reverend Kevin Jones

Thomas Stannage was born in 1892 in Rathdowney, Queen's County, Ireland, to Thomas and Mary Jane Stannage. He had four sisters (Annie, Susan, Pollie and Mary Jane) and three brothers (James, George and William). James became a vicar and he and his wife, Helen, had two children, Miriam and Charles Thomas (known as Tom) after his uncle Thomas. Tom and Helen's son, Chris, (our soldier's great nephew) and his family are with us today from their home in New South Wales.



Thomas (left) and his brothers Jim (centre) and George (right). Photo courtesy of the Stannage family

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 King's Royal Hussars, to give thanks for the life of Corporal Thomas Stannage, who was killed in action on 9 October 1918. 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.

A Soldier's Grave

written by Francis Ledwidge, an Irish poet who served in WW1

Then in the lull of midnight, gentle arms
lifted him slowly down the slopes of death,
lest he should hear again the mad alarms
of battle, dying moans, and painful breath.

And where the earth was soft for flowers we made
a grave for him that he might better rest.
So, Spring shall come and leave it seet arrayed,
and there the lark shall turn her dewy nest.

John 6 - Selected verses

Read by a representative of the British Embassy, Paris

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.'

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....Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to 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.'

A Shropshire Lad

written by A E Housman

Read by Chris Stannage – Thomas' great nephew

The street sounds to the soldiers' tread,
and out we troop to see:
A single redcoat turns his head,
he turns and looks at me.

My man, from sky to sky's so far,
we never crossed before;
Such leagues apart the world's ends are,
we're like to meet no more;

What thoughts at heart have you and I
we cannot stop to tell;
But dead or living, drunk or dry,
Soldier, I wish you well.

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 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, Thomas
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 10th Royal Hussars

O God, whose beloved son came down from Heaven not to do his own will but thine, have mercy, we beseech thee, on the 10th Royal Hussars, that as our reasonable service we may present our bodies a living sacrifice unto thee; and at last may enter into thy joy where thy servants shall serve thee and shall see thy face. Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

A WW1 Soldier's Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose grace thy servants are enabled to fight the good fight of faith and ever prove victorious: we humbly beseech thee so to inspire us, that we may yield our hearts to thine obedience and exercise our wills on thy behalf.

Help us to think wisely: to speak rightly: to resolve bravely: to act kindly: to live purely. Bless us in body and in soul and make us a blessing to our comrades. Whether at home or abroad may we ever seek the extension of thy Kingdom. Let the assurance of thy presence save us from sinning: support us in life, and comfort us in death. O Lord our God accept this prayer for Jesus Christ's Sake.

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

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb: may this grave be the place where the body of Thomas your servant may rest in peace, through your Son, who is the resurrection and the life; who died and is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

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

After the Battle of Le Cateau (26 August 1914), the town remained in German hands until the middle of October 1918. The original cemetery (Plot III) was made by the 50th (Northumbrian) Division after the fighting of 17 October 1918. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission's Highland Cemetery was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when graves from the fighting of October and November 1918 were brought in from isolated positions on all sides of Le Cateau. Highland Cemetery now contains 624 First World War burials, including that of Corporal Thomas Stannage, whose grave has now been identified by name.



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