



A Rededication Service for

**Lance Corporal Brunton Smith**  
8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Scots

Killed in action on 24 March 1918

**CWGC Bancourt British Cemetery, France**

Thursday 17 November at 15:00 hours

**Service conducted by**  
**The Reverend Timothy Clarke-Wood**  
**Chaplain, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion,**  
**The Royal Regiment of Scotland**



Lance Corporal Brunton Smith  
1882 - 1918

### **Lance Corporal Brunton Smith**

Brunton Smith was born on 13 July 1882 and worked as a gunpowder maker and coalminer in the colliery near his home in Roslin, Midlothian.

His family believe that when he was in his late 20's, he boarded a ship to New Zealand in anticipation of finding a new life, which he could return to with his family after marrying in Scotland. He landed at Westport on the West side of the South Island and made his home in the burgeoning coal mining town of Denniston, where he found work in the mine of Denniston Plateau, 1700ft up the mountain. Denniston Mine was founded by the Scottish mining engineer R. B. Denniston and the unique mountain railway and winch installation was known as the "eighth wonder" for its pioneering engineering feat in 1905. During his stay in Denniston, Brunton sent home several postcards and messages expressing his love for the country and his work there.

Brunton was a member of the independent Order of Rechabites and was an avowed abstainer of alcohol.

On 31 December 1913, Brunton married Helen Webster Anderson at the Original Hotel in Roslin, Midlothian. He had two daughters, Helen Anderson, born in August 1914 and Jane Lawrie, born in December 1915. Brunton's emigration plans were put on hold when he joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots in 1915. He was killed in action on 24 March 1918.

## **The Gathering**

*Chaplain*

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." *John 11:25 & 26*

We have come together to rededicate the final resting place of Lance Corporal Brunton Smith and to honour him this day with family and friends gathered here.

As Christians, we believe that those who die in Christ share eternal life with him. Therefore, in faith and hope we offer our prayers of trust and thanksgiving to God. Facing the certainty of our own death and judgement we yet proclaim that Christ is indeed risen, and that all who believe in him will rise in him.

## **Opening Prayer**

*Chaplain*

Heavenly Father, in your son Jesus Christ you have given us a true faith and sure hope: Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days, that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to eternal life through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

*John 14, 1-6 (King James Version)*

*Chaplain*

Let not your heart be troubled:

Ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**Scripture Reading**

*Ecclesiastes 3, 1-8 (King James Version)*

To everything there is a season,

And a time to every purpose under the heaven;

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time of war, and a time of peace

**In memoriam (Private D Sutherland killed in action 16  
May 1916 and others who died)**

*Read by Sandra Clague, a member of the Smith family*

So you were David's father,  
And he was your only son,  
And the new-cut peats are rotting  
And the work is left undone,  
Because of an old man weeping,  
Just an old man in pain,  
For David, his son David,  
That will not come again.

Oh, the letters he wrote you,  
And I can see them still,  
Not a word of the fighting,  
But just the sheep on the hill  
And how you should get the crops in  
Ere the year get stormier,  
And the Bosches have got his body,  
And I was his officer.

You were only David's father,  
But I had fifty sons  
When we went up in the evening  
Under the arch of the guns,  
And we came back at twilight -  
O God! I heard them call  
To me for help and pity  
That could not help at all.

Oh, never will I forget you,  
My men that trusted me,  
More my sons than your fathers',  
For they could only see  
The little helpless babies  
And the young men in their pride.

They could not see you dying,  
And hold you while you died.

Happy and young and gallant,  
They saw their first-born go,  
But not the strong limbs broken  
And the beautiful men brought low,  
The piteous writhing bodies,  
They screamed "Don't leave me, sir",  
For they were only your fathers  
But I was your officer.

**By Ewart Alan Mackintosh  
(killed in action 21<sup>st</sup> November 1917 aged 24)**

## **Address**

*Chaplain*

## **The Act of Dedication**

*Chaplain*

We remember with thanksgiving at God's throne of grace all those who have died during operational service. We remember this day especially Lance Corporal Brunton Smith. 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. **Amen.**

## **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.  
**We will remember them.**

## **The Last Post**

**Silence**

**Reveille**



## **Kohima Epitaph**

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

## **Laying of Wreaths**

### **A Prayer for the Armed Services**

*Chaplain*

O Lord God, we commend to thy gracious care and keeping the men and women of the Armed Services, especially those now serving in conflicts around the world. We beseech thee to protect them from all danger to body and soul; to give them a loyal, courageous and disciplined spirit; to instil in them the love of justice and liberty, and to grant that they may be called to serve only for the establishment of peace throughout the world; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Collect of the Royal Scots**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who art the first and the last, grant, we pray thee, that, as thou hast promised to be with us even unto the end of the world, so may the Royal Scots be the first to follow thee and the last to forsake thee, who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God, world without end.

**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**

*Chaplain*

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and all those whom you love now and always.  
**Amen.**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Fosse 7 Military Cemetery (Quality Street) was begun by French troops in May 1915 and carried on by British units from June 1915 to April 1917. The cemetery takes its name 'Quality Street' from the trench which led into the cemetery. Private McLean was buried here by his comrades, alongside those from the same Battalion who were killed in the nearby front line during September 1915.



ARMY

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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