



A Rededication Service for

**Lance Corporal George Rankeillor**

1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons

**11.00 hours Wednesday 19 March 2025**  
**CWGC Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by Reverend Thomas Sander CF**  
**Chaplain to the Household Cavalry**

*Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par*  
*le Révérend Thomas Sander*

## **Lance Corporal George Rankeillor**

17 January 1897 – 11 April 1917

George Rankeillor was born in Edinburgh in 1897 to George senior, a rubber worker, and his wife Julia McDonald. He was the second-eldest of 10 children.

Unfortunately very little survives to tell us about his young life, but we know that he attested to the 5<sup>th</sup> Reserve Regiment of Cavalry, York in late 1914 or early 1915. He was then posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons and arrived in France with them on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1915. He was promoted to an unpaid Lance Corporal in October 1916.

By 1917 George had been confirmed in the role of Lance Corporal, and had received the award of salary commensurate with that rank. At the beginning of April he was with his unit on the outskirts of Arras. It was bitterly cold, snowing and the war diary records blizzard conditions. During this time, the area came under very heavy shell fire, the Royal Dragoons were relatively lightly affected losing 68 horses and just a few men. George was one of the those killed. Regimental records show that George was buried in the field and his grave was marked with a wooden cross

In October 1919 two casualties of the 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons were recovered from unmarked field graves just north of Feuchy Chapel. One was identified as Private J. Jordan who had died on 11 April 1917 whilst the other could only be identified as a member of the Royal Dragoons.

Recently, all the records were drawn together for the first time and interrogated as one. This has shown that Private Jordan and the unknown soldier were buried in the same field grave, and therefore most likely died together. With George being the only man of the Royal Dragoons missing from this area on this day, it has finally been possible to prove that the grave of the unknown soldier is in fact that of Lance Corporal George Rankeillor of the 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons.

## **The Cemetery**

### *Le cimetière*

CWGC Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery contains the graves and commemorations of 1,103 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War. The original cemetery, Plot I, was begun by the VI Corps Burial Officer in May 1917 and used at intervals until March 1918, and again in August and September 1918. Following the Armistice, a further 834 graves were brought in from the battlefields of Fampoux, Roeux, Monchy and Wancourt. This included the previously unidentified grave of Lance Corporal George Rankeillor.

**Welcome**

*Appel à Adoration*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

We meet this day to remember before God, George, who lived and died in the service of his country, and to rededicate his grave

**Opening Prayer**

*Prière*

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

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: Matthew Chapter 5 v 1-12 (NIV)**

*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

*Read by a representative of the British Embassy*

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Reading: The Soldier's Grave by William Barnes**

*Lecture*

*Read by Captain Henry Tregear, The Household Cavalry*

The warrior, when he sinks to rest,  
By many a grateful tongue is blest;  
His decent grave demands a sigh  
From everyone that passes by.  
Tread lightly on the hallowed soil  
Where he is resting from his toil.  
And think upon the woes he bore  
When you were couched in peace before.

Remember all the toil and pain  
He suffered in the long campaign,  
And how he fainted on the way  
While untrod leagues before him lay;  
How oft he saw his fellows fall  
Where gleamed the sword, and flew the ball.  
But now in a celestial band,  
He triumphs in a happier land.

**Address**

*Allocution*

*The Reverend Thomas Sander*

## **The Act of Dedication**

*L'Acte de Dédicace*

We rededicate this grave to Lance Corporal George Rankeillor in the name of Christ who died and rose again;  
as a symbol of our remembering, as a sign of our thanksgiving,  
a token of recognition and expression of our love.  
We look forward with confidence to our reunion with him  
and all those whose dwelling is forever with Christ in the everlasting kingdom of the Father.

## **The Exhortation**

*L'Éxhortation*

*Read by Captain Henry Tregear, The Household Cavalry*

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**

*Sonnerie aux Morts*

*Played by Musician Benjamin Kinch, Band of the Household Cavalry*

## **Silence**

## **Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

*L'Épitaphe de Kohima*

*Read by Captain Charles Carr-Smith, The Household Cavalry*

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

### **Laying of Wreaths**

*Dépôts des Gerbes*

### **Collect of the 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons**

*Récitation du 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons*

*Read by Mr. Pete Storer, Formerly of The Blues & Royals,  
Committee Member of the Blues & Royals Association*

O God, in whose sight all the creatures are manifest and to whose eyes all things are open, grant that the works thou requires of the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Dragoons may never be done to be seen of men, but always for they glory, and that, waiting on thee to renew our strength, we may mount up with wings as eagles at thy word, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



### **The Lord's Prayer (all)**

*Prière du Seigneur*

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**

*Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction*

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 the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty & 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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