



A Rededication Service for

**Serjeant James Gratton DCM
2/5th (City of London) Battalion
The London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade)**

**10:30 hours Wednesday 6 April 2022
CWGC Lebuquiere Communal Cemetery Extension,
France**

**Service conducted by
The Reverend Richard Terrado-Reardon CF
Chaplain to The London Regiment
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidée par
le Révérend Richard Terrado-Reardon CF**

Serjeant James Gration DCM



Serjeant James Gration DCM was born in Pentrich, Derbyshire, in 1891. He was one of seven children born to Thomas and Elizabeth Gration. In 1914 he married Edith Marshall in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Their daughter Edith Olive Marshall Gration was born on 17 August 1915.

Serjeant Gration arrived on the Western Front on 25 January 1917, when his battalion, 2/5th (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade), was deployed. On 30 January 1918, he was attached to 1/28th (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment (Artists Rifles). When the German Spring Offensive commenced on 21 March 1918, the battalion were located near Gouzeaucourt. On the night of 22 to 23 March they were forced to withdraw. The following night they were forced to withdraw again to the ground to the west of Ytres but it was found that a large section of C Company had been cut off and were now missing. As Serjeant Gration belonged to C Company, it is likely that he was one of these men.

The London Gazette of 21 October 1918, shows that Serjeant Gration was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The citation reads:

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. When his officer had become a casualty he led his platoon with great courage and determination, reaching his objective and personally killing three of the enemy. During the whole time he set a fine example to his men.'

Serjeant Gration was buried as an unknown serjeant in Lebuquiere Communal Cemetery Extension. As he was missing, he was commemorated on the Arras Memorial. However, new research has shown that this is the grave of Serjeant Gration. Today we will remember him and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Lebuquiere Communal Cemetery Extension was begun on 24 March 1917 and was used by various units for almost a year until the village was captured by the Germans during the Spring Offensive. The Allies reoccupied Lebuquiere on 3 September 1918, with further burials made in the cemetery. It was greatly enlarged after the Armistice with concentrations of graves from the surrounding battlefields, including that of Serjeant James Gratton.

Serjeant James Gratton DCM est né à Pendrich, Derbyshire, en 1891. Il été un des sept enfants nés à Thomas et Elizabeth Gratton. En 1914, il a épousé Edith Marshall à Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Le couple a eu une fille, Edith Olive Marshall Gratton, née le 17 août, 1915. Il a été décoré avec le Distinguished Conduct Medal le 21 octobre, 1918.

Serjeant Gratton est arrivé sur le Front Occidental le 25 janvier, 1917 quand son bataillon, 2/5^e (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade), été déployé. Le 30 janvier, 1918, il avait été rattaché au 1/28^e (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment (Artists Rifles.) Au debut de l'offensive allemande du printemps, le 21 mars, 1918, son bataillon été situé à Gouzeaucourt. Au cours de la nuit de 22 au 23 mars, ils ont été forcés de se retirer. La nuit prochaine ils ont retiré encore au terrain à l'oeust de Ytres, mais ils ont trouvés que 'C Company' avait été interrompues et qu'ils avait été disparu. Serjeant Gratton été un membre de 'C Company', il est donc probablement qu'il été parmi ces hommes. Il avait 27 ans.

Ses restes ont été enterré à Lebuquiere Communal Cemetery Extension comme un Serjeant inconnu. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Arras. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Serjeant Gratton et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have come together as family, friends, representatives of Her Majesty The Queen and The London Regiment, to give thanks for the life of Serjeant James Gratton DCM, who was killed in action on 24 March 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.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

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 paradise where there is no sound or noise, but one equal music; no dazzling or fear, but one equal light; no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by a representative of the British Embassy Paris

Matthew Chapter 5 v 1-12 (NIV)

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

Lecture

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Steven Lowe TD VR
Commanding Officer, The London Regiment

I Went to See the Soldiers

By Kenny Martin

I went to see the soldiers, row on row on row,
And wondered about each so still, their badges all on
show.

What brought them here, what life before
Was like for each of them?
What made them angry, laugh, or cry,
These soldiers, boys and men.

Some so young, some older still, a bond more close than
brothers

These men have earned and shared a love,
That's not like any other
They trained as one, they fought as one
They shared their last together
That bond endures, that love is true
And will be, now and ever.

I could not know, how could I guess, what choice each
had made,
Of how they came to soldiering, what part each one had
played?
But here they are and here they'll stay,
Each one silent and in place,
Their headstones line up row on row
They guard this hallowed place.

Scripture Reading*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by Officer Cadet Amy Reeves,

The London Regiment

Isaiah Chapter 40 v 28-31 (NIV)

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.**Address***Allocution*

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Steven Lowe TD VR
Commanding Officer, The London 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

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Steven Lowe TD VR
Commanding Officer, The London Regiment

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

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

Prayers

Prières

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, comrades, 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 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.**

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Prière pour les Forces Armées

Almighty God,
Stretch forth your mighty arm
To strengthen and protect the armed forces:
Grant that meeting danger with courage
And all occasions with discipline and loyalty,
They may truly serve the cause of justice and peace;
To honour your holy name,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prière du Seigneur

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 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; the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, wherever they may be, this day and always.

All **Amen.**



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