



A Rededication Service for

**Lieutenant Frederic Hornby Lever Rushton MC
2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment**

**11:00 hours Tuesday 17 May 2022
CWGC Montcornet Military Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by
Reverend Dr Isaac Thompson MBE TD DL HCF
Chaplain to The Royal Irish Regiment
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Dr Isaac Thompson**

Lieutenant Frederic Hornby Lever Rushton MC





Officers of 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment photographed at Raglan Barracks on 10 August 1914. Lieutenant Rushton is seated in the front row, fifth from the left.

Lieutenant Frederic Hornby Lever Rushton MC was born in the village of Gresford near Wrexham on 29 August 1888. He was one of five children born to Frederic Lever Rushton and his wife Frances Alice. He joined The King's (Liverpool Regiment) in 1907, before being Commissioned into The Royal Irish Regiment in December 1909. In October 1911 he was promoted to Lieutenant. Known as 'Hornby' within the regiment, he is recorded as having been Captain of the regimental football team and a keen fisherman and motorist.

At the outbreak of the First World War Lieutenant Rushton was serving with 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment. He arrived on the Western Front on 14 August 1914 with his battalion and took part in the Retreat from Mons, during which he distinguished himself. It is recorded that he saved the life of his Commanding Officer by taking him out of the firing line after he had been wounded and subsequently also saved the life of the Adjutant. He was Mentioned in Despatches on 16 October 1914 and again on 9 December 1914. He was awarded the Military Cross posthumously on 1 January 1915.

On 15 September 1914, the day of Lieutenant Rushton's death, 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment was located at Vailly-sur-Aisne. Lieutenant Rushton led an assault on an enemy machine gun position and was killed during this attack. It is recorded that prior to this he had been wounded in the shoulder. The wound having been treated he had been urged not to go back into the attack but he had insisted on doing so.

Members of his battalion returned to the position where Lieutenant Rushton had been killed and were given permission by a German Officer to recover his body. In 1934 his remains were discovered along with two other soldiers. They were buried in Montcornet Military Cemetery as those of an unknown Officer of The Royal Irish Regiment. As Lieutenant Rushton was missing he was commemorated on the La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial. However, new research has confirmed

that Lieutenant Rushton is in fact the unknown Officer buried in this grave. Today we will remember him and his grave will be rededicated.

Montcornet was a German hospital centre in 1918 and French, Russian, German and Commonwealth casualties were buried in the adjoining cemetery. After the Armistice, the Commonwealth graves were re-grouped to form the present Military Cemetery. Between 1927 and 1938, the bodies of British soldiers recovered from former battlefields east of Soissons were buried here; most of these were known to have died in September 1914, but could not be identified by name. Among them was Lieutenant Frederic Hornby Lever Rushton MC.

Lieutenant Frederic Hornby Lever Rushton MC est né le 29 août, 1888, à Gresford, près de Wrexham au Pays de Galle. Il été un des cinq enfants nés à Frederick Lever Rushton et sa femme Frances Alice. En 1907, il s'est joint le King's (Liverpool Regiment). En 1909 Il a obtenu une commission comme Second Lieutenant dans le Royal Irish Regiment. Il fut Lieutenant en octobre 1911. Reconnue comme 'Hornby' parmi ses collègues, il été le capitaine de l'équipe de football regimental et passionné par la pêche et les automobiles.

Au début de la Première Guerre Mondiale, Lieutenant Rushton servait avec 2^e bataillon du Royal Irish Regiment. Il est arrivé sur le Front Occidental le 14 août, 1914. La bataillon a pris part au la retraite britannique de Mons où il se distingue. Il a sauvé la vie de son commandant et l'adjudant. En reconnaissance de son courage il a reçu deux 'Mentioned in Despatches' et le Military Cross.

Le 15 septembre, 1914, le jour de la mort de Lieutenant Rushton, 2^e bataillon du Royal Irish Regiment été situé à Vailly-sur-Aisne. Lieutenant Rushton a menait un assaut sur un

position de mitrailleuses ennemies. Il été tué durant cette attaque. Avant l'assaut, Lieutenant Rushton a été blessé à l'épaule. Après avoir été traités il a été prié de ne reviennent pas a l'attaque, mais il a insisté. Ses restes ont été recuperés par sa bataillon.

En 1934, ses restes ont été trouvés avec deux soldats. Il été enterré à Montcornet Military Cemetery comme un officier inconnu du Royal Irish Regiment. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à La Ferte-sous-Jouarre. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Lieutenant Rushton et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27: 1, 14

Jesus says, I am the resurrection and the life. The person who trusts in me will live even though they die and whoever lives and trusts in me will never die.

St John 11:25-26

We are gathered today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past. Today we remember with thanksgiving that Lieutenant Frederic Hornby Lever Rushton who, alongside so many others, answered the call of his country, served with distinction, and gave the ultimate sacrifice of his life in the service of others.

Bidding Prayer and Rededication

Prière

God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. St John 4:24

God of grace and truth without You we can do nothing as we ought, so come now and lead us by Your Spirit as we worship You in thanksgiving for the service that Lieutenant Frederic Hornby Lever Rushton gave to King and country and rededicate this his last resting place as it no longer holds the remains of an unknown soldier. Give us grace to rededicate also our lives in the service of God, so that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven and that His Kingdom of justice and peace may be established.

We now rededicate this grave of Lieutenant Frederic Hornby Lever Rushton, in the name of The Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, remembering, with humility, the courage that You gave to him and his determination to help others.

All **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Palmer

On behalf of the British Embassy Paris

John Chapter 6 v 35-40 (ESV)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 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. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

Scripture Reading*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by Colonel Darren Doherty

Deputy Colonel of The Royal Irish Regiment

Psalm 96 v 1-3, 6-7, 10-13 (GNT)

Sing a new song to the Lord!
Sing to the Lord, all the world!
Sing to the Lord, and praise him!
Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us.
Proclaim his glory to the nations,
his mighty deeds to all peoples.
Glory and majesty surround him;
power and beauty fill his Temple.
Praise the Lord, all people on earth;
praise his glory and might.
Say to all the nations, "The Lord is king!
The earth is set firmly in place and cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with justice."
Be glad, earth and sky!
Roar, sea, and every creature in you;
be glad, fields, and everything in you!
The trees in the woods will shout for joy
when the Lord comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the peoples of the world
with justice and fairness.

Reading

Lecture

Read by Henry Thomas Hornby Salt
Great Great Nephew of Lieutenant Rushton

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.

Address

Allocution

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by Colonel Darren Doherty

Deputy Colonel of The Royal Irish 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 Colonel Darren Doherty

Deputy Colonel of The Royal Irish 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

Almighty and Holy God, You are the Author of life, full of grace and mercy. You alone can deliver our eyes from tears and our feet from falling and our souls from death. In Your love for the world, You gave Your Son to be our Saviour, to live our life, to bear our griefs, to die our death upon the Cross. You brought Him back from death with power and glory, and gave Him full authority in heaven and on earth.

We thank You that He has conquered death for us and opened to us the gate of eternal life.

We pray for all who serve in Her Majesty's Forces; keep them safe in times of danger and daily inspire them in all their work and endeavours.

Thank You for the courage that You gave to Lieutenant Rushton and his determination to help others, and may You spur us on by his example and that of many others. Father God, by all Your dealings with us whether of joy or sorrow, bring us closer to one another and to You, and help us to walk amid the things of this world with our eyes wide open to Your glory.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Royal Irish Regiment

Récitation du Royal Irish Regiment

Read by Colonel Darren Doherty

Deputy Colonel of The Royal Irish Regiment

Almighty God, whose love knows no bounds, grant that we, The Royal Irish Regiment, may do our duty courageously whether at home or abroad, so that undaunted by the difficulties which beset us, your will may be done and united as members one with another, may we, mindful of the valour and sacrifice of those who have gone before us, *clear the way* for those that follow: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Faugh a Ballagh!

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

Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then Lord, in Your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you all, now and for ever more.

All **Amen.**



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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