



A Funeral Service for

Private Arthur Burt

Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Killed in action on 16 September 1916

Guards' Cemetery Lesboeufs

France

Wednesday 10 April 2019 at 11:00 hours

**Service Conducted by
The Reverend Richard Begg CF,
3 Battalion, The Rifles**



**Private Arthur Burt
(1887 – 1916)**

History

Arthur was born in 1887 in Mevagissey, Cornwall to William Coffin Burt and Amelia Smith. Arthur was the second youngest of nine surviving siblings. Mevagissey was an ancient fishing port and Arthur, his father and his brothers were all involved in the fishing trade.

Arthur enlisted in the army as soon as war broke out in September 1914, aged 27. He signed up at The Keep in Bodmin, which had been the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry headquarters since the 1880s. Arthur joined the 7th Battalion and was soon sent to France after receiving his training. He was praised for his gallant and brave conduct during the attack on Guillemont on 31 August 1916 and was recommended for the Military Medal. Arthur died on the 16 September 1916, when his battalion was involved in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette (5 – 22 September 1916), which was fought during the Battle of the Somme.

For over 100 years, Arthur's final resting place was unknown to his family until construction work, on the outskirts of a French village called Ginchy, uncovered the remains of a British soldier. Recovered with the soldier was an ID tag engraved with "Pte. A. Burt, WES, 13201, 7th D.C.L.I". Further research showed that the location of the soldier was exactly where the "jumping off" point of Arthur's battalion is recorded in the war diaries on the 16 September 1916. A positive DNA match with Arthur's nephew was the final piece of evidence to prove that this was Private Arthur Burt.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Guards' Cemetery was created after the capture of Lesbœufs in September 1916. Originally consisting of 40 graves, the cemetery increased after the Armistice with the concentration of isolated graves and small cemeteries from the surrounding battlefields. It is in this area that Private Burt was killed in action on 16 September 1916. He can now be laid to rest with other men from his battalion.

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
And the love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with you all.

We are gathered here today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past.

Today we remember with thanksgiving Private Arthur Burt who, alongside so many others, answered the call of his country, served with honour and gave his life in the service of his nation.

We will shortly commit his body to be buried. In so doing let us commit ourselves anew to remember his courage. For by so doing we honour his memory and we reflect upon that sacrifice.

Let us offer ourselves also to God's service, that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven and that His kingdom of justice and peace be established everywhere.

Bidding Prayer

Let us recall the presence of God, the Father of all mankind, maker and sustainer of all that is, whose purposes are good, whose love is never withheld and whose mercy never passes away. We call to mind His faithfulness in times of darkness and despair.

We remember before Him our brothers and sisters whose names are known only to God, and all who have served in the Armed Forces of our nation; who counted service to others greater than service of self, and who gave their lives in battle.

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in His resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

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.

For the Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs into battle, they were young
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hope profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars that are known to the Night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Lawrence Binyon

Scripture Reading

John 14, 1 – 6 (King James Version)

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 go to 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.

Interment

John 11: 25-26

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.

Our days are like the grass;

we flourish like a flower of the field

when the wind goes over it; it is gone

and its place will know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures
for ever and ever...

We have entrusted Private Arthur Burt in to the hands of God. We therefore commit his body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust having our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of our heavenly Father, and in the victory of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who died, was buried and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for evermore.

Amen

Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

Volley of Shots

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".

Wreath Laying

Prayers

Almighty God, protect all who serve in the Forces of The Queen; strengthen us in danger and temptation, give us courage and loyalty, that we may remain true to the highest traditions of our profession; and keep us steadfast when faced with the perils of action in war; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Almighty God, who has revealed your only Son as the resurrection and the life; raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness that, when we depart from this life, we may rest in Him, and at the last may receive the blessing; Well done good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord. Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our mediator and redeemer.

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**

Regimental Collect of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who earnestly prayed for us before His death that we might all be one in thee, give thy most excellent gift of charity to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, that we may one and all love thee with all our hearts, and one and all love our neighbours as ourselves, for His sake who is one with thee and the Holy Ghost, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you
and all those you love and for whom you pray,
this day and always.

Amen



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