



A Rededication Service for

Lance Corporal Edward Smith
1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

15:30hrs on Tuesday 14 May 2024
CWGC Courcelles au Bois
Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Service conducted by Reverend (Major) Geoffrey Berry CF
Chaplain to The Black Watch
3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

*Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Geoffrey Berry CF*

Lance Corporal Edward Smith

1893 – 7 December 1916

Edward Smith was born in Tickton, Yorkshire in 1893. He was the fourth of nine children born to William Smith and his wife Harriet (nee Worledge). Prior to the war Edward lived at home and worked as a Carrier's Horseman in the Beverley area.

Unfortunately Edward's service record has not survived, so we don't know when he joined up, but his medal card indicates entitlement to the Victory Medal and the British War Medal which suggests that he first entered into a theatre of war in 1916. He was initially part of the 1/5th Bn Northumberland Fusiliers before being attached to the 10th Entrenching Battalion. Finally, he was transferred to the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers with whom he was serving at the time of his death.

1st Northumberland Fusiliers – War Diary

- 5th December – Marched to a point between BUS and COURCELLES where a stop was made for dinner. At 2.30 the Bn marched off again ... to COURCELLES where gum boots should have been available but as usual there were none there. After waiting some considerable time 240 pairs were obtained and with these the battalion moved into the trenches
- 6th December – A quiet day except for from 2.15pm – 3.45pm when the enemy shelled Observation Wood, Basin Wood and vicinity vigorously. A quiet night.
- 7th December – intermittent shelling in vicinity of Observation and Basin Wood. Sapper Trench was hit.
- 8th December – a quiet day, orders received for relief on 9th inst.
- 9th December - Casualties during tour – 4 killed, 10 wounded
- 10th – 11th December – in billets at COURCELLES

Although the records which do survive are unclear and offer conflicting information, it is likely Edward died in the shelling on 7th December. He is thought to have died alongside Sergeant Leonard Speight, who is buried in the plot next to him.

Call to Worship: 1 Corinthians Chapter 16 v13-14

Appel à Adoration

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

We meet this day to remember before God, Edward Smith, 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
Edward 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: Ephesians Chapter 6 v 1-18

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a representative of the British Embassy, Paris

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Reading

Lecture

The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak - by Capt. Archibald MacLeish

Read by Major Patrick Marshall,

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The young dead soldiers do not speak.

Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses:
who has not heard them?

They have a silence that speaks for them at night
and when the clock counts.

They say: We were young. We have died.
Remember us.

They say: We have done what we could
but until it is finished it is not done.

They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished
no one can know what our lives gave.

They say: Our deaths are not ours: they are yours,
they will mean what you make them.

They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for
peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say,
it is you who must say this.

We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.

We were young, they say. We have died; remember us.

Address given by Reverend (Major) Geoffrey Berry CF

Allocution

The Act of Dedication

L'Acte de Dédicace

We rededicate this grave to Lance Corporal Edward Smith
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 Colour Sergeant John Gray

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

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 Private Archie Keith

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Private James Jones

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

When you go home tell them of us and say:

"For your tomorrow, we gave our today".

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

The Collect

Récitation de

The Northumberland Fusiliers

Read by Major Patrick Marshall,

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

O God, in whose strength we shall tread down the enemy of our souls, grant that wheresoever thy secret will may call the Northumberland Fusiliers, we may ever by faith wax valiant in fight for the captain of our salvation, Jesus Christ, thy son, our Lord.

Prayer

Prière

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.

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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