



ARMY



A Funeral Service for
Private Thomas Telford Edmundson
Durham Light Infantry

At 10:30 hours

Wednesday 14 March 2018

Perth Cemetery (China Wall),

Ypres, Belgium

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Order of Service

**led by The Revd John Swanston CF,
1st Battalion, The Rifles**

**Private Thomas Telford Edmundson 2648
1st/7th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry
Killed in Acton 26 April 1915**

Thomas was born in 1894, son of George and Mary Edmundson of 15, Abingdon Street, Chester Road, Sunderland. He was aged just 20 when he was killed. We are delighted that his family are well represented here today and would like to welcome his cousins from the UK and Canada.

The remains of a British soldier were found in Zonnebeke. With them was a shoulder title of the Durham Light Infantry.

Investigations ruled out several of the regiment's battalions as they did not fight at Zonnebeke. One battalion that did was the 1st/7th; they were in the area towards the end of April 1915. Their war diary records them as being under heavy shell fire on 26 April. Eight soldiers from the 1st/7th battalion were killed that day, none of whom have a known grave. Their names are recorded on the Menin Gate.

A DNA sample was taken from the remains and compared to a family member from each of the 8 soldiers. The results proved that the remains are those of Private Thomas Telford Edmundson.

Welcome

John 1, 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.

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

Today we remember with thanksgiving Thomas Edmundson 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 him. For by so doing we honour him and we reflect upon his sacrifice.

Let us offer ourselves in His 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 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.

Hymn – Amazing Grace

Lyrics: Rev John Newton (1779)

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

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

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 Thomas Edmundson to God's eternal keeping.
We now commit his earthly remains to the ground, earth to earth,
ashes to ashes, dust to dust in the sure and certain hope of the
resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Hymn – O God Our Help in Ages Past

Lyrics; Isaac Watts

Music; William Croft

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
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.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Anthem for Doomed Youth

By Wilfred Owen

What passing bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries now for them, no prayers nor bells.
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs;
the shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
and bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
their flowers the tenderness of patient minds.
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

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 Durham Light Infantry

Almighty God, who requirest that thy servants be found faithful, grant, we pray thee, that we, the Durham Light Infantry, who twice a year remember the great valour of those who went before us, may ever be ready as they to fight the good fight, and above all things to give obedience to thy call, through 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

The National Anthems of the United Kingdom and Belgium