



**A Rededication Service for**

**Second Lieutenant Albert Hutchinson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment**

**15:00 hours on Tuesday 16 April 2024  
CWGC Busigny Communal  
Cemetery Extension, France**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Robert Desics CF  
Chaplain to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment  
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par  
le Révérend Robert Desics CF**

Second Lieutenant Albert Hutchinson



Second Lieutenant Albert Hutchinson was born on 9 April 1898 in Hull, East Yorkshire. He was one of six children born to Charles Hutchinson and his wife Mary Elizabeth. On 19 November 1914, Albert enlisted into 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment at the age of just 16.

On 30 July 1915, Albert transferred to B Company of 5<sup>th</sup> (Cyclist) Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment, a mobile coastal defence unit which carried out defence duties along the east coast of the United Kingdom throughout the First World War. By 6 October 1917, he had become an acting lance serjeant. On 9 November 1917 he was discharged to Commission and sent to the Officer Cadet Battalion at Balliol College, Oxford.

Second Lieutenant Hutchinson arrived on the Western Front on 15 September 1918 and was posted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment. On 8 October 1918, the battalion attacked from a position northeast of the village of Sequehart and was just in front of the Beaurevoir-Fonsomme Line. They followed a creeping barrage and aimed to attack the village of Mericourt. The battalion formed up in the rear of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Buffs who in turn followed 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

Having come into the attack 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment were forced to halt and form a defensive flank. They could not advance towards Mericourt immediately owing to heavy machine gun fire. Later that day they were able to advance and obtained touch with the enemy in Mericourt. Second Lieutenant Hutchinson, by then aged 20, was killed during the fighting that day.

After the war the remains of Second Lieutenant Hutchinson were concentrated into Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension and he was buried as an unknown second lieutenant of The York and Lancaster Regiment. As he was

missing, Second Lieutenant Hutchinson was commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial to the missing. However, new research has shown that this is in fact the grave of Second Lieutenant Hutchinson and the headstone over the grave has now been changed. Today we will remember Second Lieutenant Hutchinson and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension was first used in October 1918 as the burial ground for several Casualty Clearing Stations. After the Armistice, it was expanded when graves were brought in from smaller cemeteries and the battlefields between Cambrai and Guise. There are over 750 Commonwealth service personnel buried in the cemetery. Among them is Second Lieutenant Albert Hutchinson, who could not be identified at the time.

Second Lieutenant Albert Hutchinson est né à Hull, East Yorkshire, le 9 avril, 1898. Il été un des six enfants de Charles Hutchinson et sa femme Mary Elizabeth. Le 19 novembre, 1914, Albert s'engage dans 4<sup>e</sup> Bataillon de réserve du East Yorkshire Regiment à l'âge de juste 16 ans.

Le 30 juillet, 1915, Albert est transféré à B Company du 5<sup>e</sup> Bataillon (cycliste) du East Yorkshire Regiment, une unité mobile de défense côtière qui a effectué des missions de défense le long de la côte est du Royaume-Uni tout au long de la Première Guerre Mondiale. Le 6 octobre, 1917, il est devenu lance serjeant. Le 9 novembre, 1917, il été libéré de l'armée et envoyé au bataillon des élèves Officiers du Balliol College, à Oxford.

Second Lieutenant Hutchinson est arrivé sur le front occidental le 15 septembre, 1918 et est affecté au 2<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du York and Lancaster Regiment. Le 8 octobre, 1918, le bataillon attaqua à partir d'une position située au nord-est du village de

Sequehart, juste devant la ligne Beaufort-Fonsomme. Ils suivirent un barrage rampant et visèrent à attaquer le village de Méricourt. Le bataillon se forma à l'arrière du 1<sup>er</sup> Bataillon du Buffs qui, à son tour, suivit le 1<sup>er</sup> Bataillon du King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

2<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du York and Lancaster Regiment, qui s'était porté à l'attaque, fut contraint de s'arrêter et de former un flanc défensif. Ils ne purent avancer vers Méricourt immédiatement en raison des tirs nourris de mitrailleuses. Plus tard dans la journée, ils purent avancer et entrèrent en contact avec l'ennemi à Méricourt. Second Lieutenant Hutchinson, alors âgé de 20 ans, fut tué au cours des combats ce jour-là.

Après la guerre, les restes du Second Lieutenant Hutchinson furent concentrés dans Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension et il a été enterré en tant qu'un second lieutenant inconnu du York and Lancaster Regiment. Comme il était porté disparu son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Vis-en-Artois. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis de situer le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Second Lieutenant Hutchinson et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

### **Call to Worship**

*Appel à Adoration*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

We gather in this place in the presence of God and the whole company of heaven to remember with thanksgiving Second Lieutenant Albert Hutchinson who gave his life in the service of our country. We ask for God's aid and blessing that we may continue to honour the memory of all those who have gone before us in duty and self-sacrifice.

### **Bidding Prayer**

*Prière*

God of all righteousness,  
you have taught us through your Son  
to set our minds on your Kingdom and justice  
before all things.

Grant that in us and all people,  
faith, hope and love may grow,  
so that the world may come to the fullness of  
the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
Through him who is our life and our salvation,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading***Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by a representative of the British Embassy Paris

**Psalm 121 (NRSV)**

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

### **Gospel Reading**

*Lecture de l'Évangile*

Read by Second Lieutenant John Crooks  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

#### **John Chapter 6 v 35-40 (NRSV)**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away, 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. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**



## **Reading**

*Lecture*

Read by the Family of Second Lieutenant Hutchinson

### **Will You Forget?**

By David Mackie

Will you forget? When all the fight is done,  
And victory is won, Will you forget?  
The soldiers in their pride,  
Who freely fought and died,  
Will you forget?

Will you forget? When war gives up his lease,  
To gentle-spoken Peace, Will you forget?  
The heroes in their graves?  
That you might have been slaves,  
Will you forget?

Will you forget? The widow and her brood?  
Oh, Heavens, if you should – Will you forget?  
The blinded and the lamed,  
The broken and the maimed,  
Will you forget?

Will you forget? Like those in other wars,  
The soldier and their scars – Will you forget?  
When times are safe and soft,  
My God! I wonder oft,  
Will you forget?

## **Address**

*Allocution*

### **The Act of Dedication**

#### *L'Acte de Dédicace*

So let us now bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Second Lieutenant Albert Hutchinson.

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb: Bless and dedicate, we pray, this grave as the place where the body of your servant Albert may rest in peace, in the knowledge that he now abides in your glory through the merits of your Son, who is the resurrection and the life; who died and is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

### **The Exhortation**

#### *L'Éxhortation*

Read by Second Lieutenant John Crooks  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Yorkshire 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*

Played by Lance Corporal April Farthing  
The Band of The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

### **Silence**

## **The Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

*L'Épitaphe de Kohima*

Read by Second Lieutenant John Crooks  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Yorkshire 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*

*The Chaplain leads prayers of intercession.  
At the end of each bidding the following is said,*

Lord, in your mercy;

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Chaplain concludes the prayers of intercession,*

Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Collect of The York and Lancaster Regiment**

*Récitation du York and Lancaster Regiment*

Read by Second Lieutenant John Crooks

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

Almighty God, who canst save by many or by few, and dost bid us endure to the end that we may be saved, strengthen, we pray thee, The York and Lancaster Regiment, that, as our perseverance has not been found wanting in battle, so we may be blessed in enduring all temptations, and at length receive the crown of life from Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Prière du Seigneur*

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*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 love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his  
service;  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**



Second Lieutenant Hutchinson (back row left) with his parents and siblings.



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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