



A Funeral Service for

Second Lieutenant Leslie Wallace Ablett
Second Lieutenant Edward Douglas Bruty
Serjeant Thomas Feasby
Lance Corporal Stanley Blakeborough
Private Harry Miller
Private Joseph Patrickson MM
Private Arnold Sanderson MM
One Unknown Soldier
11th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers
Killed between 13 – 15 October 1917

And

One Unknown Soldier
of an Unknown Regiment

CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery
Belgium

Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 11:00 hours

Service Conducted by
The Reverend Gary Watt CF

Biographies

Second Lieutenant Leslie Wallace Ablett



Second Lieutenant Ablett was born in Manchester on 9 June 1897. He was the son of Joseph and Caroline Ablett. He had one brother, Frederick, and his father's occupation was listed as 'Fur Buyer' on his birth certificate. Leslie's family had moved from Manchester and were living in Streatham, London by 1911. Leslie attended Alleyn's School from 1908 to 1913. He was described as 'bright, cheerful and of good tone'. Leslie was also a keen poet and writer. He joined the military in October 1915 as a Private and was subsequently granted a commission less than a year later and joined the 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Second Lieutenant Edward Douglas Bruty

Second Lieutenant Bruty was born in Dulwich, Surrey on 7 December 1895. He was the son of William and Edith Bruty. Edward came from a large family, having four brothers and four

sisters. He was recorded on the 1911 Census as living on Lordship Lane, Dulwich. His occupation was listed as 'Railway Clerk'. He enlisted in September 1914 and joined the Queen Victoria's Rifles as a Rifleman. He subsequently moved his way up through the ranks, transferring to the Army Cyclist Corps and becoming a Sergeant. He gained his commission in February 1917 and joined the 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Sergeant Thomas Feasby

Sergeant Feasby was born in Eston, Yorkshire on 8 October 1885. He was the son of Joseph and Catherine Feasby. He had one brother, George, who he was listed as living with on the 1901 census, both of them working as Tram Conductors. On the 1911 census, Thomas was working as a Foreman at the local Steelworks in Eston. Unfortunately, his military records do not survive, however we know that Thomas served in the 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers for the majority of the war and was promoted from Private to Sergeant.

Lance Corporal Stanley Blakeborough



Lance Corporal Blakeborough was born in Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire on 17 August 1896. He was the son of Harry and Mary Blakeborough. Stanley had five brothers and two sisters. His two brothers, Charles and Donald also both fought during the First World War. Sadly, Donald was killed less than three

months after Stanley. Unfortunately, Stanley's military records did not survive, however we know that he served in the 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers for the majority of the war and was promoted from Private to Lance Corporal.

Private Harry Miller



Private Miller was born in Cockerton, near Durham on 21 November 1888. He was the son of James and Anne Miller. Harry had three brothers and four sisters. Harry married Melita Florence Birkett on 22 May 1909 and had four children: Annie, James, Minnie and George. On the 1911 census, the family were recorded as living in Burton Leonard, Yorkshire with Harry working as a Farm Labourer. Unfortunately, Harry's military records do not survive, however we know that he served in the 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers for the majority of the war.

Private Joseph Patrickson MM

Private Patrickson was born in Gateshead, Durham on 12 October 1893. He was the son of Robert and Lucy Patrickson. Joseph had two brothers and six sisters. On the 1911 census, Joseph's occupation was listed as errand boy for a fruit retailer. Unfortunately, Joseph's military records did not survive, however we know that he served in the 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers for the majority of the war and was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during the fighting in October 1917.

Private Arnold Sanderson MM

Private Sanderson was born in Darlington on 16 June 1891. He was the son of Thomas and Emily Sanderson. Arnold was their only son, although they also had six daughters. On the 1911 census, the family were still living in Darlington and Arnold was recorded as working at the local Railway Plant. Although Arnold's military records did not survive, we know that he was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during fighting in October 1917, whilst working as runner for the officers. A letter written to his mother by 2/Lt J.S. Youll VC, stated that he was thought of a great deal by the officers and men. He was described as a good soldier who always did his duty.

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 these brave men whom, alongside so many others, answered the call of their country, served with honour and gave their lives in the service of their nation.

We will shortly commit their bodies to be buried. In so doing let us commit ourselves anew to remember their courage. For by so doing we honour their 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)

**Read by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Arter, Commanding
Officer, First Fusiliers**

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.

Scripture Reading

John 14, 1 – 6 (King James Version)

Read by Captain Alexander Edmund, Adjutant, First Fusiliers

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.

Address

The Reverend Gary Watt

The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

**Read by Major Scott David Benest, Contingent Commander,
Alleyn's School Combined Cadet Force**

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England. There shall be
In that rich dust a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by the suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Interment

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 these nine men in to the hands of God. We therefore commit their bodies 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.

Firing Party

The Exhortation

**Read by WO1 David Barton, Regimental Sergeant Major,
First Fusiliers**

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

Read by Major (Ret'd) GT Heron, Vice-President, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Association (Northumberland)

When you go home tell them of us and say:

"For your tomorrow, we gave our today".

The Laying of the Wreaths

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 Northumberland Fusiliers
Read by HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO CD ADC
(P), Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

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. **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.

Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world, is now the resting place of more than 11,900 servicemen from the First World War. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on a German pillbox captured by the 3rd Australian Division on 4 October 1917. After the Armistice remains were brought in from small burial grounds and the surrounding former battlefields including from where these nine individuals were recently recovered.



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