



A Rededication Service for

**Lance Corporal Samuel Chapman
1/4th Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment**

**11:15 hours on Wednesday 26 March 2025
CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Paul Robinson CF
Chaplain to
4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment**

Lance Corporal Samuel Chapman



Lance Corporal Samuel Chapman was born on 6 March 1898 in Hull, East Yorkshire. He was the youngest of three children born to Samuel Chapman and his wife Rachel. As a child Sam was a choir boy at St Mary's Church in Beverley. He and his elder brother, John, are now both commemorated on a plaque in the church. At the start of the First World War Sam worked as an assistant steward on SS Transport Romeo, which operated between Scandinavia and Hull.

Sam enlisted into The East Yorkshire Regiment in March 1915 and arrived on the Western Front to join 1/4th Battalion on 1 September 1915. The battalion took part in the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and the Battle of Arras in the spring of 1917, before moving to the Ypres Salient, where they took part in the Third Battle of Ypres.

The War Diaries on 1/4th Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment state that on 12 December 1917, they relieved 2nd Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the line near Passchendaele. On 14 December the battalion was still in the line and it is recorded that RSM Jagger was killed, and three men were wounded. It is possible that Lance Corporal Chapman was amongst these men, although he may have been wounded earlier.

Lance Corporal Chapman was evacuated to the Regimental Aid Post at Tyne Cot. This was located in a pillbox with elephant shelters erected next to it and is now the location of the Cross of Sacrifice. Casualties who did not survive were buried near the pillbox. Lance Corporal Chapman was one such casualty and appears to have died there or en route to the RAP on 14 December 1917. He was 19 years old.

His brother, Private John Chapman of 1/5th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment, had died of wounds just six weeks earlier on 28 October 1917. He is buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery.

The marker over the grave of Lance Corporal Chapman was lost. After the war the grave was rediscovered but as the casualty was not identifiable, the grave was recorded as being that of an unknown lance corporal of 1/4th Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment. As he was missing, Lance Corporal Chapman was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. However, new research has shown that this is in fact his grave and the headstone over the grave has now been replaced. Today we will remember Lance Corporal Samuel Chapman and his grave will be rededicated.

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 that was captured by the 3rd Australian Division on 4 October 1917 and was subsequently used as an Advanced Dressing Station. The graves surrounding this feature in plots I and II, including the previously unidentified grave of Lance Corporal Samuel Chapman, are part of the original cemetery.

Call to Worship

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

All May the Peace of the Lord be always with you,
And also with you.

Bidding Prayer

Today we accord Lance Corporal Samuel Chapman the dignity and respect that he is due and commend him to the mercy and grace of God our redeemer and judge, and in the hope and life given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us.

We meet in the presence of God, to commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom justice and peace.

We come to pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.
All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Read by Group Captain John Dickson
Defence Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg

Psalm 90 (NRSV)

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Have compassion on us. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Read by Sergeant Liam Cruise-Taylor
1st Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

John Chapter 11 v 32-38 (NRSV)

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

Jesus said to Mary, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Read by Tim Buescher

Great Great Nephew of Lance Corporal Chapman

Isiah Chapter 2 v 2-5 (KJV)

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Address

The Act of Dedication

So let us now bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Lance Corporal Samuel Chapman.

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 Samuel 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

Read by Captain Andrew Adams
4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's 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

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

Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Captain Andrew Adams

4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

Eternal God, in your wisdom and grace you have given us freedom through the lives of your departed servants. We thank you for the life of Lance Corporal Samuel Chapman and for those who love him.

We thank you for your goodness and mercy that followed him all the days of his life and his ultimate faithfulness to the tasks to which you had called him.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The East Yorkshire Regiment

Read by Sergeant Liam Cruise-Taylor

1st Battalion The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

O God, whose blessed son found so great faith in the obedience of a soldier, grant to us thy servants of The East Yorkshire Regiment, which has long served this our country in the ends of the Earth, such faith and obedience, that in every land we may seek and find thee who art not far from every one of us; through the same thy son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Support us, O Lord, all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, 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 the last.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and those whom you love and remember this day and for evermore.

All **Amen.**



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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