



**A Rededication Service for
Lieutenant Gilbert Donnelly**

1st Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers

**10:30 hours Thursday 21 March 2019
Ste. Emilie Valley Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Nathan King CF
Chaplain 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment**

Lieutenant Gilbert Donnelly



Lieutenant (Carl) Gilbert Donnelly, was serving with 1st Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers, when he was killed at Sainte Emilie on 21 March 1918, the first day of the German Spring Offence. He was 20 years old. Gilbert was the son of John and Jemima (née Doggart) Donnelly and the eighth of their ten children. John was superintendent of Post & Telegraphs at Belfast General Post Office and was a widower at the time of his son's death. Lieutenant Donnelly was studying medicine at Queen's University Belfast when on 4 October 1915 he enlisted in the Officer Training Corps. Three weeks later on 26 October 1915, he applied for a temporary commission in the regular Army, asking to be considered for the Infantry – the application states “any unit, Irish preferred”.

He started his army career in the 6th Battalion of The Royal Munster Fusiliers as a Second Lieutenant in November 1915. In December 1916 he moved to 8th Battalion and then in May 1917 to the 1st Battalion. He fought at the Battle of Messines in June 1917, the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) in August 1917 and at the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917. By December of 1917 he was acting in the role of Lieutenant.

On the first day of the Battle of St. Quentin, the 16th (Irish) Division were on the “Blue Line”, a 4 mile section of the front. 1st Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers were in reserve. According to the Battalion's War Diary, they were at Sainte Emilie on the “Brown line”. Lieutenant Gilbert Donnelly was acting as a “spotter” for a Lewis machine gun crew when he was killed by a sniper. Until now the whereabouts of Lieutenant Donnelly's grave remained unknown and he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial. However, research has shown that he is buried in this cemetery. Today we will remember Lieutenant Donnelly and his grave will be rededicated.

Lieutenant (Carl) Gilbert Donnelly été servait comme un membre de 1^{er} Bataillon The Royal Munster Fusiliers quand il a été tué le 21 mars 1918, au début de l'Offensive Allemande du Printemps. Il avait 20 ans. Gilbert fut le fils de John et Jemima (née Doggart) et le huitième de leurs dix enfants. John été surintendant de Poste et Télégraphes au General Post Office à Belfast et il était alors déjà veuf quand son fils été tué. Lieutenant Donnelly était en train d'étudier la médecine à Queen's University Belfast quand il été engager dans le 'Officer Training Corps' le 4 octobre 1915. Trois semaines plus tard, le 26 octobre 1915, il est devenu un officier commissionné et il a demandé d'être considéré pour l'infanterie. Sa demande indiquant 'toute unité, de préférence irlandaise'.

En novembre 1915 il a commencé sa carrière militaire avec 6^e Bataillon The Royal Munster Fusiliers au rang de Second Lieutenant. En décembre 1916 il a rejoindre 8^e Bataillon et puis en mai 1917 il a rejoindre 1^{er} Bataillon. Il a combattu à la Bataille de Messines en juin 1917, à la Troisième Bataille d'Ypres (Passchendaele) en août 1917 et a la Bataille du Cambrai en novembre 1917. Avant décembre 1917 il est devenu Lieutenant intérimaire.

Le premier jour de la Bataille de St Quentin, le 16^e (Irish) Division été situé sur 'la ligne bleu', une section de la ligne du front 4 miles de longueur. Le 1^{er} Bataillon The Royal Munster Fusiliers fut en réserve. Les Journaux de Guerre de 1^{er} Bataillon, indiquent qu'ils ont été situés sur 'la ligne brune' dans Ste Emilie. Lieutenant Donnelly été en train d'assister une équipe de mitrailleurs Lewis quand il a été tué par un tireur. Jusqu'au maintenant le site de son dernier repos restait inconnu et son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le Monument commémoratif des disparus à Pozières. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de sa tombe à être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Lieutenant Donnelly et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Villers-Faucon was captured by the 5th Cavalry Division on 27 March 1917, lost on 22 March 1918, and retaken by the III Corps on 7 September 1918. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Ste. Emilie Valley Cemetery, consists of both the graves of Commonwealth soldiers buried by the Germans during the spring of 1918 and graves brought in from the surrounding battlefields after the Armistice. Many of these concentrated graves are those of soldiers of the 16th (Irish) Division who were killed during March 1918, including the previously unidentified grave of Lieutenant Gilbert Donnelly.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We are gathered here today to pay our respects for a fallen soldier and member of a family. As we say the words in this service may we be filled with a sense of peace, as we offer before God ourselves and those whom we love. God is kind and just and remembers us all. May we receive that peace that passes all understanding.

All May the peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Lord, hear our prayers as we call upon your name. You neither leave us nor forsake us. In your mercy be upon those whom we love but no longer see at this time.

All **Amen.**

Reading

Lecture

Read by Colonel Christopher Borneman
Military Attaché British Embassy Paris

Matthew Chapter 5 v 3-10 (NIV)

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

Gospel Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Dan Donnelly

Great Nephew of Lieutenant Donnelly

John Chapter 15 v 9 – 17 (NRSVA)

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Reading

Lecture

Read by Ann Donnelly

Great Niece of Lieutenant Donnelly

Soliloquy by Francis Ledwidge (1887-1917)

When I was young I had a care
Lest I should cheat me of my share
Of that which makes it sweet to strive
For life, and dying still survive,
A name in sunshine written higher
Than lark or poet dare aspire.

And now I'm drinking wine in France,
The helpless child of circumstance.
To-morrow will be loud with war,
How will I be accounted for?
It is too late now to retrieve
A fallen dream, too late to grieve
A name unmade, but not too late.

To thank the gods for what is great;
A keen-edged sword, a soldier's heart.
Is greater than a poet's art.
And greater than a poet's fame
A little grave that has no name.

Danny Boy

Performed by Sean Donnelly
Great Nephew of Lieutenant Donnelly

Address

Allocution

The Collect of The Royal Irish Regiment

Récitation du Régiment

Read by Brigadier Mike Murdoch MBE
Deputy Colonel of the Royal Irish Regiment

Almighty God whose love knows no bounds grant that we, The Royal Irish Regiment, may do our duty courageously so that, undaunted by the difficulties which beset us, your will may be done and, united as members one with another may we, mindful of the valour and sacrifice of those who have gone before us, clear the way for those that follow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All **Amen.**

Act of Dedication

Acte de Dévouement

Heavenly Father, we remember Lieutenant Gilbert Donnelly and offer before you the souls of the faithful departed and ask that as we offer up our prayers you look upon those who have moved from this life to the next just as you look upon us here. The veil of death is thin and your love is infinite. Dwell with the living both here and in the time to come.

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by WO2 Gary Wilkins

2nd Battalion The Royal Irish 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

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

Irish Boy

Played on the low whistles by Mark and Barra Doherty

Great & Great Great Nephews of Lieutenant Donnelly

Prayer

Prière

Thank you Lord that you have given us a sure faith and a sure hope in you. Help us to live as those who believe in the communion of saints and the forgiveness of sins. Dwell with us now and those whom we love, in this world and in the world to come.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prière du Seigneur

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessing

Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction

May the Blessing of God Almighty, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and those whom we love now and forever more, that we may receive His peace as we put our trust in Him and His promises to us.

All **Amen.**

Amazing Grace

Played on the bagpipes by Sean McLaughlin
Great Great Nephew of Lieutenant Donnelly



ARMY

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