



A Rededication Service for

**Serjeant Alexander Jones
21st Battalion The Manchester Regiment**

**10:30 hours Tuesday 13 September 2022
CWGC Doullers Communal Cemetery Extension,
France**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Martin Pritchard CF
Chaplain to 4th Battalion
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Martin Pritchard CF**

Serjeant Alexander Jones

Serjeant Alexander Jones was born Clement Alexander Jones, in 1880 in Penmaenmawr, North Wales. He was one of four children born to Edwin Clement Jones and his wife, Mary. As an infant, Alexander moved to the Hulme area of Manchester. In 1914 he married Emily Campbell Jones. Their daughter, Kathleen Maud Jones, was born on 2 April 1918.

Alexander enlisted into The Manchester Regiment and arrived on the Western Front on 6 September 1915. He initially served with 13th Battalion. By the autumn of 1918, the stalemate on the Western Front had been broken and allied forces were rapidly advancing eastwards. Serjeant Jones had transferred to 21st Battalion The Manchester Regiment. He was killed aged 38, on 7 November 1918, just 4 days before the Armistice came into effect.

On the morning of 7 November 1918, 21st Battalion The Manchester Regiment was located at Taisnieres and was to act as the advance guard for 7th Infantry Brigade as the advance continued. They were ordered to advance along the Avesnes Road. They pushed forward to La Croisette Farm meeting resistance along the way. The advance stopped at 16:30 hours, and the battalion remained in positions northwest of Avesnes.

Serjeant Jones was killed during this advance and was buried with other members of his battalion on the outskirts of the village of La Bringuette. After the war his remains were concentrated into Dourlers Communal Cemetery Extension as an unknown serjeant of The Manchester Regiment. As he was missing, Serjeant Jones was commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. However, new research has shown that this is his grave. Today we will remember Serjeant Jones, and his grave will be rededicated.

For almost the whole of the First World War, Dourlers village was held by German forces who used the communal cemetery. It was finally taken on 7 November 1918, after heavy fighting following which, a small extension was made by Commonwealth troops at the west end. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Dourlers Communal Cemetery Extension contains 161 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. Casualties were brought in from the surrounding cemeteries and battlefields after the war including Serjeant Jones, whose grave could not be identified by name at that time.

Serjeant Alexander Jones est né en 1880, à Penmaenmawr, au Pays de Galles. Il été un des quatre enfants nés à Edwin Clement Jones et sa femme Mary. Quand il était encore bébé, sa famille est déménagée à Hulme, à Manchester. En 1914, il s'est marié avec Emily Campbell Jones et leur fille Kathleen Maud Jones est née le 2 avril, 1918.

Il se joint au Manchester Regiment et il est arrivé sur le Front Occidental le 6 septembre, 1915. Au début, il a servi avec le 13^e Bataillon. A l'automne 1918, l'impasse sur Front Occidental est terminée et les Forces alliées s'avançaient vers l'est. Serjeant Jones avait été transféré au 21^e Bataillon du Manchester Regiment. Il a été tué à l'âge de 38 ans, le 7 novembre, 1918, juste quatre jours avant l'Armistice.

Le matin du 7 novembre, 1918, 21^e Bataillon du Manchester Regiment était situé à Taisnieres. Ils ont reçu l'ordre d'avancer sur la route vers Avesnes. Ils ont atteint la ferme de La Croisette mais l'avance s'est arrêtée à 16 :30 heures. Ils sont restés dans les positions au nord-ouest d'Avesnes.

Serjeant Jones fut tué au cours de cette avance et il a été enterré dans les environs de La Bringuette. Après la guerre il été ré-enterré à Dourlers Communal Cemetery Extension

comme un serjeant inconnu du Manchester Regiment. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Vis-en-Artois. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Serjeant Jones et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

Yn yr Enw Tad a Mab a'r Ysbryd Glan.

(In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.)

All **Amen.**

We stand here together in the presence of God and remember the life of Serjeant Alexander Jones who was killed aged 38, on 7 November 1918. As we remember his life, devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God.

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.' The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Almighty God, you judge us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything that you have made. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of paradise where there is no sound or noise, but one equal music; no dazzling or fear, but one equal light; no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

Wisdom Chapter 3 v 1-8 (RSVA)

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever.

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Major Andrew Holsgrove

4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

John Chapter 15 v 9-17 (ESV)

Jesus said, '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 Second Lieutenant Hayder Al-Azzawi
8th Battalion The Rifles

Afterwards

By Ivor Gurney

Those dreadful evidences of Man's ill-doing
The kindly Mother of all shall soon hide deep,
Covering with tender fingers her children asleep,
Till Time's slow cycle turns them to renewing
In other forms their beauty - No grief, no rueing
Irrevocable woe. They'll lie, they'll steep
Their hearts in peace unfathomed, till they leap
Quick to the light of the sun, as flowers strewing,
Maybe, their own friends' paths. And that's not all.
When men who knew them walk old ways alone,
The paths they loved together, at even-fall,
Then the sad heart shall know a presence near,
Friendly, familiar, and the old grief gone,
The new keen joy shall make all darkness clear.

Address

Allocution

The Act of Dedication

l'Acte de Dédicace

We remember with thanksgiving at God's throne of grace all those who have died during operational service. We remember this day especially Serjeant Alexander Jones. Merciful God, you have made us all and given your Son for our redemption. We once again commend our brother to your perfect mercy and wisdom and rededicate his final resting place into your care. For in you alone we put our trust.

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Read by Second Lieutenant Hayder Al-Azzawi
8th Battalion The Rifles

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 Stephen Elliott
8th Battalion The Rifles

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Second Lieutenant Hayder Al-Azzawi

8th Battalion The Rifles

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

Prayer

Prière

God of love, whose compassion never fails; we bring before you the griefs and perils of peoples and nations; the necessities of the homeless; the helplessness of the aged and weak; the sighings of prisoners; the pains of the sick and injured; the sorrow of the bereaved. Comfort and relieve them, O merciful Father, according to their needs; for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Anselm (1033–1109)

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Manchester Regiment

Récitation du Manchester Regiment

Read by Major Andrew Holsgrove

4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

O God, of whose only gift it cometh that we are able to praise famous men who were the glory of their times in a memorial year by year, give grace to thy servants of The Manchester Regiment that we may ever remember them before thee, to his praise who was revealed, as on this day, to be the glory of thy people and the light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Blessing

Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction

May the Lord bless us and watch over us, may the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us, may the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace...

... a bendith Duw hollalluog, y Tad, y Mab, a'r Ysbryd Glân a fo yn eich plith ac a drigo gyda chwi yn wastad.

(And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.)

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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