



A Rededication Service for

Corporal Francis Flynn

1/7 Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

14.30 heures 9 July 2025

CWGC Rocquencourt Valley Cemetery, France

**Service conducted by Reverend Andrew Thompson C/P
Chaplain to 2 Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland**

*Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Andrew Thompson*

Francis Flynn

10 March 1896 – 8 April 1917

Francis Flynn was born to John Flynn, a labourer, and his wife Mary Eliza Cowan, in Falkirk, Scotland. Francis was the youngest of three children of John and Mary – having an older brother, John, and a sister Mary.

Francis' mother died when he was just an infant, and John Flynn married a second wife – Mary Reynolds – in 1899. Francis lived with his maternal grandparents for much of his childhood – being listed as resident with them on both the 1901 and 1911 censuses.

Although Francis' service record no longer survives, his medal card tells us that he first arrived in France with the army on 15 December 1914.

In early 1917, Francis found himself near Arras preparing to go into action. At 5.30am on 6th April the attack on Vimy Ridge was launched and the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were in the thick of the action near Rodincourt. Francis died on this first day of battle, and following the action was buried at Thelus Road Cemetery – partially identified as an unknown Corporal of the 1/7 Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. In 1919 his body was moved to Rodincourt Valley Cemetery, but he remained unidentified.

Recent research has shown that Francis is the only missing Corporal of the 1/7 Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders who matches the details of the unknown Corporal at Rodincourt Valley Cemetery. Today we rededicate his grave accordingly, reuniting his mortal remains with his name.

The Cemetery **Le cimetière**

Rodincourt was just within the British lines before the Battle of Arras in 1917. It was from this village that the 51st (Highland) and 34th Divisions advanced on the opening day of the battle on 9 April. Among these men was Corporal Francis Flynn, whose grave could not be identified at the time. He lies in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Rodincourt Valley Cemetery, which was made when the battlefields were cleared following 9 April 1917 and subsequently expanded.

Welcomes **Appel à l'attention**

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world and who leads us by his Holy Spirit in his way.

As we give thanks for God's great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.

We remember this day those who have laid down their lives in the cause of justice and peace for their country and for the world. May we, with the help of God, be worthy of their sacrifice.

Opening Prayer

Prayer

Let us confess our sins and our shortcomings: our pride, our selfishness, our greed; our contribution to the evils and divisions of the world; our failure to seek and establish that peace God wills for all his children.

All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive our sins and lead us in your ways,
That we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you our God;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen

Scripture Reading:
Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a representative of the British Embassy

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Readings: Gude Night (excerpt)

By Alexander Boswell

Lecture

*Read by Captain Finn MacPherson,
2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

Gude night, and joy be wi' ye a',
your harmless death has cheered my heart,
may life's fell blasts not o'er ye blow,
in sorrow may ye never part.
My spirit lives, but strength is gone,
the mountain fires now trace in vain,
Remember, sons, the deeds I've done,
and in your deeds I'll live again.

Address

Allocution

The Reverend Andrew Thompson

The Act of Dedication

L'Acte de Dédication

We rededicate this grave to Corporal Francis Flynn in the name of Christ who died and rose again;
as a symbol of our remembering, as a sign of our thanksgiving,
a token of recognition and expression of our love.

We look forward with confidence to our reunion with him
and all those whose dwelling is forever with Christ in the everlasting
kingdom of the Father.

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

*Read by Captain Finn MacPherson,
2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

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

Sonnerie aux Morts

*Played by Corporal Paul McIntyre,
2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

Silence

Lochaber No More

*Played by Lance Corporal Donald Stewart,
2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph
L'Épître de Kohima

*Read by Captain Finn MacPherson,
2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

When you go home tell them of us and say:
"For your Kohima, we gave our today".

Laying of Wreaths
Dépôt des Gerbes

Collect of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders
Recitation du Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

*Read by Captain Finn MacPherson,
2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

O God, our creator, grant that we, thy servants, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, may never forget thy commandments, but in holiness and righteousness may serve thee without fear of peril by sea or by land all the days of our life, for the love of thine only son our saviour Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer (all)

Prêtre du Seigneur

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

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting: and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty & 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 identity of the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two world wars.

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