



A Funeral Service for

Private George Fleming Brock

11th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Private Percy Todd

11th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

and

Two Unknown British Soldiers

Of the Gordon Highlanders

Two Unknown Scottish Soldiers

Of an Unknown Regiment

CWGC Point-Du-Jour Military Cemetery, Athies

Thursday 24 September 2026 at 11.00 hours

Service Conducted by

The Reverend Thomas Wilde CF

4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Private George Fleming Brock

George Fleming Brock was born on 18 June 1898 in Saltpans, Dunipace, Scotland, the son of Andrew Brock and Abigail Fleming. At the time of George's birth, his father was employed as a joiner at the Dalmeny Oil Works. A few years later, the family relocated to Bandeath Colliery in Fallin.

George received his early education at Fallin Public School, where he distinguished himself as an outstanding pupil and was awarded the prestigious Dux Medal in recognition of his academic excellence. He later attended the Stirling High School Continuation Classes, where he continued to excel. Before joining the Army, George was serving an architectural apprenticeship with the Stirling firm of Messrs Bruce & Livingstone.

George enlisted on 17 June 1916, the day before his 18th birthday. In September 1917, he joined the 11th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in France and was posted to 'C' Company. On 20 October 1917, while the battalion was in the front lines just outside of Arras, George suffered from a gunshot wound and was sent to hospital. He returned to the battalion in January 1918, and only two months later the Germans launched a huge offensive on the Western Front, in a final attempt to win the war.

On 28 March 1918, George's battalion was holding positions in the area of Tilloy-les-Mofflaines when the sector came under intense enemy bombardment. Subjected to relentless shellfire throughout the day, the battalion suffered heavily. It was during this action that George tragically lost his life, aged just nineteen.

Private Percy Todd

Percy Todd was born on 26 January 1880 in Radford, Nottinghamshire, the son of Ezekiel Todd and Elizabeth Rutter. His father worked as a pork butcher, and together Ezekiel and Elizabeth raised a family of twelve children.

After leaving home, Percy moved to London, where he found employment as a draper's assistant with Rutter Bros on Walworth Road in Southwark. In 1907, he married Alice Maud Powell, a cashier at the same firm. By the time he enlisted in the Army, Percy had advanced considerably in his career, holding the position of draper's manager at Bryan's Drapery in Isleworth. He and Alice lived in a flat above the shop, reflecting the progress he had made through hard work and dedication.

Percy joined the Army on 10 November 1915 and eventually embarked for France in January 1917, where he joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He was fighting with the 11th Battalion when he was wounded on the first day of the Battle of Arras on 9 April 1917. He rejoined his battalion in February 1918 but tragically lost his life during the German Spring Offensive on 5 April 1918.

In 2023, during an archaeological survey on a site in Tilloy-les-Mofflaines, three British First World War casualties were recovered, having been buried together. Found with them were a variety of artefacts, including regimental insignia of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Seaforth Highlanders. After extensive historical research and DNA testing, two of these casualties were identified as Private George Fleming Brock and Private Percy Todd, meaning that they had finally been found more than 108 years after their deaths. Sadly, the other casualty was unable to be identified.

At the same site in Tilloy-les-Mofflaines, three other casualties were also recovered, lying side-by-side in a shell hole. Two of the casualties had artefacts that suggested they belonged to

the Gordon Highlanders. Sadly, only one DNA profile was able to be obtained from these three men and despite extensive DNA testing, no match has been found.

Welcome
Appel à Adoration

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 who, 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 their 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
Prière

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 3:1-11 (NIV)

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a representative from the British Embassy, Paris.

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

**A Candid Opinion by Serjeant William Fox Ritchie, 12th
Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.**

Lecture

*Read by Second Lieutenant Findlay Johnstone
4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.*

Do we want to go back to the trenches?
To get biscuits and bully to eat,
To get caught by a sniper's chance bullet
Or crippled with frost-bitten feet?

There are some say they're anxious to get back,
There are others who say they are not.
It is not that they care for the danger
Or are frightened that they will get shot.

It's the awful conditions you live in,
Midst the rain and the mud and the dirt,
Where you'd give a month's pay for a square meal,
And twice that amount for a shirt.

No, I'm not at all anxious to get back,
But I'll have to go that's understood.
So I'm willing and ready to go there,
And if needs be to stop there for good.

A Long Farewell by Anna C. Park

Lecture

Read by Anna C. Park, relative of Private Percy Todd.

The echoes of the trench have faded.
All heavy gear laid down.
The long watch is now over and stillness reigns....
Free of shell blast...and missile fire
The gentle winds blow through time
As nature reclaims her fields

We remember the courage that carried you
We honour the hearts that beat with strength.
And we leave you here, to rest in peace with a promise ne'er to
forget.

No more waiting
No more darkness
Only light...
And the quiet return to the arms of the earth that bore you.

The dawn is safe
And the journey is done
Your families and comrades bear witness to the call you
answered... and the life you lost.
Sleep well valiant soul
Until we meet again.

Address
Allocution

The Reverend Thomas Wilde CF

The Committal
L'Enterrement

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 six men into 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

The Exhortation
L'Exhortation

Read by Sergeant Jahvon Granger
4th 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.

Last Post

Sonnerie aux Morts

Silence

Reveille

Lament

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Sergeant Jahvon Granger

4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

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

The Laying of the Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

Prayers

Prière

Almighty God, protect all who serve in the Forces of The King; 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

Prière 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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen

Regimental Collect of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Récitation du Argyll et Sutherland Highlanders

Read by Lance Corporal Oscar Foy

4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

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

Regimental Collect of the Gordon Highlanders

Récitation du Gordon Highlanders

Read by Hldr David MacDonald

4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst bid thy disciples watch and pray, give thy sufficient grace to the Gordon Highlanders, that we may ever be watchful for the honour of our fathers, and may ever pray that our faith fail not, but that we may watch in all things and endure afflictions for thy sake, who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God world without end. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Séparation de Dernière Bénédiction

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



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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