



A Burial Service for

**Company Quarter Master Sergeant Charles Monro
2 Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders**

15:00 hours 5 July 2023

CWOC Aubers Ridge British Cemetery, France

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

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

CSM Charles Monro
9 August 1870 – 21 October 1914

Charles Monro was born in County Wicklow, Ireland to William Middemas Monro, a gardener / poultry farmer, and his wife Jane Shearer – both of whom were from Perthshire in Scotland. Charles' family moved back and forth between Ireland and Scotland in the late 19th century, and three of Charles' older siblings returned to Scotland to raise their own families.

Unfortunately we know very little about Charles' early life, or his army service. He joined the army on 5 December 1894, having previously been a clerk, but unfortunately his service record does not survive to tell us any more about his pre-war service. Nonetheless, he was already an experienced soldier with extensive service by the time the war broke out.

The 2nd Bn of Princess Louise's (Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders) were based at Fort George near Inverness prior to the outbreak of war. They received their orders to mobilise immediately, and by 8 August they had already reached Southampton. Following their arrival in Boulogne on 10 August their initial task was to form communication defence battalions as part of the 15th Infantry Brigade, and in this capacity they went into action near the Belgian border in late August. In mid-October they joined the 6th Division to take part in the Battle of Arranteries, and it was during this engagement, on 21 October 1914 that Charles Monro lost his life.

The Cemetery

Le Cimetière

The village of Aubers was briefly captured by troops of the British Expeditionary Force in October 1914. These gains, however, were lost within a few days and Aubers Ridge was not recaptured for a further three years. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Aubers Ridge British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and several smaller cemeteries. These graves now include that of Company Quartermaster Sergeant Charles Morris, who lost his life nearby here in the early stages of the war.

Introduction / Welcome

1. Introduction

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.

Bidding 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 Readings: John 14: 1-6, 27

Lectures des Écritures Saintes

Read by a representative of the British Embassy Paris

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

Thomas said to him, Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?

Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Reading – Before the Summer

By Ewan Alan Mackintosh (1915)

Lecture

Read by Captain Finn MacPherson,

2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

'When our men are marching lightly up and down,
'When the pipes are playing through the little town,
I see a thin line swaying through wind and mud and rain
And the broken regiments come back to rest again.

Now the pipes are playing, now the drums are beat,
Now the strong battalions are marching up the street,
But the pipes will not be playing and the bayonets will not shine
When the regiments I dream of come stumbling down the line.

Between the barbed trenches their silent dead will lie
Quiet with graves open staring at the summer sky.
There is a mist upon them so that I cannot see
The faces of my friends that walk the little town with me.

Lost we see a worse thing than it is to die,
Live ourselves and see our friends cold beneath the sky.
God grant we be lying there in wind and mud and rain
Before the broken regiments come stumbling back again.

Ewan Alan Mackintosh was KIA 21st November 1917, aged 24

Reading – The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak by Captain Archibald MacLellan

Lecture

Read by Sophie Eden

The young dead soldiers do not speak,
Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses:
who has not heard them?

They have a silence that speaks for them at night
and when the clock counts.
They say: We were young. We have died.
Remember us.

They say: We have done what we could
but until it is finished it is not done.
They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished
no one can know what our lives gave.

They say: Our deaths are not ours: they are yours,
they will mean what you make them.
They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for
peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say,
it is you who must say this.

We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.
We were young, they say. We have died; remember us.

Address
Allocution

The Reverend Andrew Thompson OF

Blessing of the Grave

Bénédiction de la Tombe

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb:
bless, we pray, this grave as the place where the bodies
of your servant Charles may rest in peace, through your Son,
who is the resurrection and the life; who died and is alive and
reigns with you now and for ever.

All Amen.

Comendation

God our creator and redeemer, by your power Christ
conquered death and returned to you in glory.
Confident of your victory and claiming his promises,
we entrust CSM Charles Monro into your keeping in the name
of Jesus our Lord, who, though he died, is now alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Comittal

L'Enterrement

We have entrusted our fallen comrades to God's mercy
and now we commit their bodies to the ground: earth to earth,
ashes to ashes, dust to dust in sure and certain hope of the
resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who
will transform our frail bodies that they may be conformed to
his glorious body, who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever.

All Amen.

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Read by Fusilier Christian Lawson

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.

All We will remember them.

The Last Post

Sonnette aux Morts

Played by Corporal Paul McEneaney

2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Silence

Lochaber No More

Played by Lance Corporal Donald Stewart

7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Rowville

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épithaphe de Kohima

Read by Fusilier Ryan Ritchie

2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

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

Laying of Wreaths

Mérite des Croix

Collect of The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

Prière du Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

Read by Fusilier Ruairidh Campbell

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

Prayer du Seigneur

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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 humankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and all those whom you love now and 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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