



A Burial Service for

**Private John Tame
2nd Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment**

**14:00 hours 8 May 2025
CWGC New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Stephen Cassells CF
Chaplain to 2nd Battalion The Rifles**

Private John Tame



Private John Tame was born in Windsor, Berkshire, in early 1895. He was the third eldest of seven children born to Edward Tame and his wife Alice. Edward died just months after the birth of their youngest child in 1906.

John's elder brothers, Alfred and William George Tame enlisted into the Army and served with 2nd Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment which was stationed in India at the outbreak of the First World War. The battalion returned to the United Kingdom and arrived on the Western Front on 5 November 1914. Lance Corporal Alfred Tame and Corporal William George Tame were killed on 9 May 1915 during the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Both brothers are still missing and are commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

John appears to have enlisted following the start of hostilities and joined 6th (Service) Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment. The battalion arrived on the Western Front on 25 July 1915 and was sent to the Somme region. Private Tame was wounded during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. It was most likely following this that he transferred to 2nd Battalion.

On the night of 15 to 16 August 1917 2nd Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment moved forward into assembly positions on Westhoek Ridge. At 04:45 hours on 16 August they attacked as part of the wider Battle of Langemarck. They crossed the ground east of the Hannebeke and captured this without difficulty. As the creeping barrage they were following advanced, they took most of the Iron Cross Redoubt and defensive positions north of it. The left company captured Anzac and the Green Line was reached in certain places. A line was formed northwest of Polygon Wood and ran through the northwestern corner of the Iron Cross Redoubt. However, the line was weak due to the casualties they had already suffered, and machine gun fire made it difficult to reorganise.

At 10:30 hours the Germans counterattacked from the direction of Polygon Wood. The attacking British troops rallied and managed to establish posts in old trenches west of the Hannebeke. The German attack stopped after the Iron Cross Redoubt line. At 15:30 hours another German attack commenced with one group coming in a north westerly direction and another from Nonne Bosschen Wood and the Zonnebeke Redoubt. The attack was slow and at 16:30 hours British artillery started to shell the ridge. The British battalions in the line around 2nd Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment were seen to be retiring and it became necessary for them to retire as well. A line was taken up in concrete dugouts near Westhoek and the various battalions in the area consolidated the line. No further attacks came. It was during the fighting that day that Private Tame went missing. He was 22 years old. He was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

In May 2018 the remains of a soldier of The Royal Berkshire Regiment were found during road works near Zonnebeke. Various artefacts were found with the soldier although few could be directly connected to him. Examination of the remains revealed that the soldier appeared to have been previously wounded around his left shoulder. DNA testing was carried out which identified this man as Private John Tame. Today we will remember Private Tame and his missing brothers, and his remains will be laid to rest with full military honours.

Close to a farm known by the troops as 'Irish Farm', this cemetery was used from August to November 1917, and April and May 1918, and at the war's end contained just 73 burials. After the Armistice more than 4,500 graves were brought in from the battlefields north-east of Ypres and from a number of small cemeteries to what is now known as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's New Irish Farm Cemetery. Casualties recovered from these battlefields today, including Private John Tame, are laid here to rest alongside their comrades.

Call to Worship

We are gathered here, in the presence of God,
to remember the life and service of Private John Tame,
of 2nd Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Private Tame gave his life in the service of his country,
lying unidentified and alone for a hundred years.

Today we honour his service and commit his remains to
almighty God, in Jesus' name.

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

Bidding Prayer

Almighty God, we come to you in Jesus' name,
who loved us and gave himself for us.

We thank you for his example of self-giving,
in that he willingly gave up his life for our freedom
and bless you for all who have served by his example
laying down their lives for the sake of others.

All We thank you for the life and service of Private Tame
who we come to commit to you now, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Read by Warrant Officer Class 2 Philip Davies
2nd Battalion The Rifles

Psalm 90 v 1-12 (ESV)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

You sweep them away as with a flood;
they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?
So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Read by Colour Serjeant Aaron Morton
2nd Battalion The Rifles

John Chapter 15 v 12-15 (ESV)

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Read by Reverend Richard Clement
Chaplain to St George's Memorial Church

Because I Love Him So

By Woodbine Willie

She could not follow where He went,
She could but watch Him go,
And bless Him, though her heart was rent
Because she loved Him so.

She stood once at a cottage door,
To watch His figure grow
Distant and dim, heart-sore, heart-sore,
Because she loved him so.

She had to turn from Calvary,
Turned when He bade her go,
Leaving her heart nailed to the Tree,
Because she loved Him so.

Mother of Jesus, Holy One,
My sorrows though dost know;
Bless Thou my son, my little one,
Because I love him so.

Address

The Committal

Almighty God we commit unto you the soul of our brother departed. We commit his remains to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection unto eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed, and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

All **Amen.**

The Exhortation

Read by Major Andrew Kuss
2nd 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

Played by Rifleman Zane Marshall
2nd Battalion The Rifles

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by a Rifleman of the Bearer Party

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

Laying of Wreaths

Prayers

Almighty and gracious, merciful God,
as we gather here today, in this place of remembrance,
surrounded by the witness of those who went before us,
We thank you for their courage and exploit.

We recognise that the life of Private Tame was precious
in your sight, as are the souls of all gathered here.

We ask that his memory will inspire each of us,
to live our lives with purpose and intent.
As his life continues to speak to us
of selfless-commitment for the sake of others,
enable us to live virtuous lives, for Jesus' sake.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Royal Berkshire Regiment

Read by Major Andrew Kuss

2nd Battalion The Rifles

O Eternal God, who didst summon thine ancient people before thee three times every year, and dost thrice a year rejoice thy church with the pledges of thy presence among men, grant, we beseech thee, that we, The Royal Berkshire Regiment, recalling on three days the valour of our fathers in the presence of their enemies, may every day and all our days remember thee, our creator, and rejoice in thy salvation, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

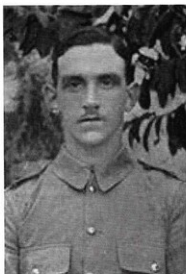
All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessing

"I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, write, from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours".

May the blessings of those who rest in you, abound to each one of us – through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

All **Amen.**



Lance Corporal Alfred Tame



Corporal William George Tame



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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