



A Burial Service for

**Private Robert Leonard Lock
12th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry**

**13:30 hours on Tuesday 30 June 2008
CWGC Warlencourt British Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Stephen Cassells CF
Chaplain to 2nd Battalion The Rifles
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Stephen Cassells CF**

Private Robert Leonard Lock



Private Robert Leonard Lock was born in Littleport, near Ely, Cambridgeshire in 1896. He was the youngest of three children born to James Leonard Lock and his wife Mariet. Before enlisting into the Army, he worked as a farm labourer. After enlisting, Private Lock was posted to 12th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry.

On 7 October 1918 12th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry attacked the sunken road southeast of Le Sars. At 13:00 hours D Company moved forwards and occupied a position known as the Tangle. They were accompanied by a tank. At 13:45 hours A and C Companies attacked enemy positions with B and D Companies in support. Although A Company was held up by machine-gun fire, D Company and 2 platoons of D Company reached the sunken road. The remaining platoons of D Company reinforced them and they consolidated their position, a chain of posts which were gradually linked up. B Company came up and advanced around 400 metres in front of the sunken road. Their new positions were heavily shelled that night. By the end of the day one Officer had been killed and another was missing and 31 other ranks had been killed and 66 wounded. It was during the fighting that day that Private Lock was killed. He was 20 years old.

In October 2022, the remains of a soldier of The Durham Light Infantry were found after a farmer had ploughed his field near Le Sars. The remains were found at the location of the Tangle. Anthropology estimated that the soldier was young. After further research by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre, the soldier was identified through DNA testing as being Private Robert Leonard Lock. Today, Private Lock will be laid to rest alongside his comrades with military honours and his sacrifice will be remembered.

From 1918, fierce fighting took place on the battlefields surrounding Villerscourt. The casualty being laid to rest today, Private Robert Leonard Lock, was recovered from these former

battlefields. Along with over 3,500 of his comrades, he is now laid to rest in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Millencourt British Cemetery, which was made in late 1919 when graves were brought in from the surrounding area. Over a third of the casualties buried here are unidentified.

Private Robert Leonard Lock est né à Littleport, près d'Ély, dans le Cambridgeshire, en 1896. Il était le plus jeune des trois enfants nés à James Leonard Lock et sa femme Harriet. Avant de s'engager dans l'armée, il travaillait comme ouvrier agricole. Après son enrôlement, Private Lock a été affecté au 12^e Bataillon du Durham Light Infantry.

Le 7 octobre 1916, le 12^e bataillon du Durham Light Infantry a attaqué la route encaissée au sud-est de Le Sars. À 13:00 heures, C Company a sauté et a occupé le Tangle. Ils ont été accompagnés par un char. À 13:45 heures, A et C Companies ont lancé une attaque sur les positions ennemies, appuyées par B et D Companies. Bien que A Company a été arrêté par des tirs de mitrailleuses, C Company et deux sections de D Company ont pris le chemin encaissé. Les sections restantes de la D Company ont vainc les renforcer et ils ont consolidé leur position, une chaîne de postes qui fut progressivement reliée. B Company est arrivé et a avancé d'environ 400 mètres devant la route encaissée. Leurs nouvelles positions ont été lourdement bombardées cette nuit-là. À la fin de la journée, un officier avait été tué et un autre était porté disparu : 31 soldats avaient été tués et 86 blessés. C'est au cours des combats de cette journée que Private Lock a été tué. Il avait 20 ans.

En octobre 2022, les restes d'un soldat du Durham Light Infantry ont été découverts après qu'un agriculteur a labouré son champ près de Le Sars. Les restes ont été retrouvés à l'emplacement du Tangle. Les experts en anthropologie ont estimé que le soldat était jeune. Après des recherches

approfondies menées par le Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre, le soldat a été identifié grâce à un test ADN comme étant Private Robert Leonard Lock. Aujourd'hui, Private Lock sera inhumé aux côtés de ses camarades avec les honneurs militaires et nous nous souviendrons de son sacrifice.

Call to Worship
Appl' & Adoration

We are gathered together in the presence of God, to remember the life and service of Private Robert Leonard Lock of 12th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry.

Private Lock gave his life in the service of his country, lying unidentified and alone for more than 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
Priest

Almighty God, we approach you in the name of Jesus Christ your son. He who loved us and gave himself for us.

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

All We bless you for the life and service of Private Lock whom we come to commit to you now, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Ecritures Saintes

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

Psalm 90 = 1-6 & 10-12 (PSA)

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.

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.

Reading

Lecture

Read by Lieutenant Freya Blandall

3rd Battalion The Rifles

My Last Request

Based on the poem by Bill Riley

A Veteran of The Durham Light Infantry

Gone is the life that once lay before me,
Faded like mist on a warm summer's noon.
Dead is the heart that once, strong and stalwart,
Pumped the blood to run red, sweet and warm.

Gone is the strength to march as the fittest,
No longer the eyes shine like diamonds so bright.
Purged is the soul that screamed out for vengeance,
As with the bayonet charged into the night.

Proud I was to be one of the many,
Being with them I was clothed in their light.
With countless hurts my fights are completed,
I'll march to glory with my Durham Light.

And as I walk through the vale of darkness
Eyes firmly fixed on a pinpoint of light,
I'll rejoice at the loud cries of welcome
From the friends I'd lost in the Durham Light.

So bury me now as becomes a good 'Durham'
With dignity, respect, and a modicum of pride
With bugle and flag, my badge and my band,
And six true comrades to march at my side.

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Commander Ret'd Steve Brown MBE

QC the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre

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.

Address

Allocution

The Committal

L'Enterrement

Almighty God we submit 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

L'Exhortation

Read by Sergeant Jack Duffy

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.**

Last Post

Sommeil aux Morts

Played by Corporal Philip Ingramella

The Band and Bugles of The Rifles

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Építaphe de Kohima

Read by a Rifleman of The Boer War Party

When you go home tell them of us and say:

"For your tomorrow, we gave our today."

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôt des Couronnes

Prayers

Prayers

Almighty and gracious, merciful God, as we are gathered here today, in this place of remembrance, surrounded by the witness of those who have gone before us, thankful to you for their courage and exploit,

We recognise that the life of Private Lock was precious in your sight, as each of us gathered is subject to your grace.

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

All Amen.

Collect of The Durham Light Infantry

Recitation du Durham Light Infantry

Read by Major Ret'd Chris Lawton MBE DL

The Durham Light Infantry Association

Almighty God, who required that thy servants be found faithful, grant, we pray Thee, that we, The Durham Light Infantry, who twice a year remember the great valour of those who went before us, may ever be ready as they to fight the good fight, and above all things to give obedience to thy call, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Prière du Seigneur

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

Séparation de Dernière Bénédiction

"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.**



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 1.1 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two World Wars.

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