



A Rededication Service for

Private George Hall

17th Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers

14:00 hours on Wednesday 12 November 2025
CWGC Vichte Military Cemetery, Belgium

Service conducted by The Reverend David Jeal OF
Chaplain to
The Royal Dragoon Guards

Private George Hall

Private George Hall was born on 6 July 1897 in Stratford, Essex. He was the youngest of four children born to George Hall and his wife Annie Maria. George's mother died when he was he was 11 years old and he and his sister Sarah were sent to live with their aunt Emily. In 1901 they were helping their aunt run the Deeds Arms pub in Kingwood Place, Stratford, which still survives to this day.

Private Hall was initially posted to 1st Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers and appears to have been sent to Gallipoli where the battalion was engaged until January 1918 when it was evacuated to Egypt. The battalion was transferred to the Western Front in March 1918 and heavily engaged in the Battle of the Somme that summer. At some stage Private Hall was transferred to 17th Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers.

At 04:00 hours on 26 October 1918 the headquarters of 17th Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers moved to a location northwest of Aveigsem. At 05:00 hours Z Company attacked in a northeasterly direction with 19th Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers and encountered strong opposition. The line advanced around 200 yards but was withdrawn to its original position at 12:00 hours. On 27 October the battalion experienced a hostile counter operation with heavy enemy artillery fire on their positions all day. They were later relieved by 19th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry and returned to billets at Knot. It was during this period of fighting that Private Hall was killed. He was 21 years old.

After the war, the remains of these soldiers were recovered from a joint grave and were buried together in Vichte Military Cemetery. Two of the men were identified as Private William Osphers and Private Alfred Miner of 17th Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers. The third man remained unidentified. As he was missing Private George Hall was commemorated on

the Tyne Cot Memorial. However, new research has shown that Private Hall is the third man buried here. The headstone over the grave has now been changed to reflect this. Today we will remember Private George Hall and his grave will be rededicated.

The first burials in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Ypres Military Cemetery were made in October 1918 by the burial officers of the 2nd and 3rd Divisions. After the Armistice, the cemetery was enlarged when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields. These included that of Private George Hall, who could not be identified at the time.

Call to Worship

We gather here today in this place of peace and remembrance to honour Private George Hall of the 17th Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers - a son, a soldier, and a comrade. More than a century ago, he answered his country's call and served with courage and devotion to duty.

Today, we remember his sacrifice, and we give thanks that his name and resting place are now known and honoured once more. As we stand among the graves of the fallen, we are reminded that the cost of peace is written on this ground. May our hearts be filled with gratitude, our spirits strengthened by remembrance, and our lives inspired by the example of those who gave their all for others.

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

Bidding Prayer

Eternal God, we remember with gratitude all who have given their lives in the service of others and in the pursuit of peace. We give thanks for their courage, their devotion to duty, and their steadfast faith in a better world. May their sacrifice remind us of the value of freedom and the responsibility it places upon each of us.

Grant us wisdom and compassion to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace among all people. May we honour their memory not only with our words, but by the way we live our lives seeking always what is right, and serving one another in love and respect.

All Amen.

Scripture Reading

Read by Warrent Officer Class 1 Matthew Hale-Smith
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

Romans Chapter 8 v 35-39 (NIV)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

**"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."**

Yes, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Reading

Read by Michiel Vanmarcke

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

A Stranger Died

By Karen Burg

Far away in time and place,
A stranger died to save me,
I did not know his name or face,
But I know just what he gave me,
He gave his life, a sacrifice,
That echoes down the years,
And I will think of him with pride,
And pay respect with tears,
He knew not what he did perhaps,
That his life would be cut short,
But still he went and did not come back,
His dreams all come to naught,
To many lives we owe a debt,
Remembrance Day, Let's life forget,
That for each of us alive today,
A stranger died, far away

Gospel Reading

Read by Lance Corporal Culum Warrheim
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

John Chapter 10 v 11-16 (NIV)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Address

The Act of Dedication

So let us now bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Private George Hall.

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb:
Bless and dedicate, we pray, this grave as the place
where the body of your servant George may rest in
peace, in the knowledge that he now abides in your glory
through the merits of your Son, who is the resurrection
and the life; who died and is alive and reigns with you
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Exhortation

Read by Lance Corporal Tom Armstrong
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

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

Played by Rifleman Tansel Matakibau
2nd Battalion The Rifles

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Lance Corporal Reece Rigley
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

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

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

Let us pray.

We lay these wreaths in gratitude and remembrance, symbols of our respect for Private George Hall and for all who gave their lives in the service of others. May the memory of their courage and sacrifice inspire us to work for peace, to show compassion to one another, and to build a world where understanding and justice prevail.

May this grave, now marked with his name, stand as a lasting reminder that every life given in war was a life loved, a story valued, and a sacrifice not forgotten. We give thanks for all who serve still today, and we pray for peace among all nations and peoples.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Lancashire Fusiliers

Read by Warrant Officer Class 1 Matthew Hale-Smith
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

O Lord God, for as much as nothing is too hard for thee, increase, we pray thee, the faith of The Lancashire Fusiliers, so that we may wear courage like a flower in the day of battle, and hearing his voice who hath said, all things are possible to him that believeth, may endure all things for the love of thee, through the same 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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace.
Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted,
support the weak, help the afflicted,
honour everyone, and love and serve the Lord
rejoicing always in the hope of peace.
And may the blessing of Almighty God
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
rest upon you,
and remain with you 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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