

The 16th (Irish) Division Memorial Guillemont, France

Thursday 3rd September 2009



Order of Divine Service

*'They went with song to the battle; they were young, straight of limb,
true of eye, steady and aglow. They were staunch to the end
against odds uncounted. They fell with their faces to the foe.
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.'*

**The Somme Association
&
Somme Remembrance Association**

Remarks

Dr Ian Adamson, OBE
Chairman The Somme Association

The Prayer

Dr Fraser Agnew

The Lesson

Mr Noel Kane

“THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE”

The Exhortation

Mr Brian Fitzsimons

Response: *“We Will Remember Them”*

The Last Post

Silence shall be observed for one minute

The Reveille

The Piper’s Lament

The Placing of Wreaths

Followed by the laying of wreaths at the French Memorial

Guests are now invited to enter the church for the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque to the recipients of the Victoria Cross, led by the principal guests and family members.

Welcome

Monsieur Philippe Drouin
Somme Remembrance Association

Biographical notes of the recipients read by:

Mrs Carol Walker
Director of the Somme Association

Citations read by:

Mr David Holland, great grandson of J V Holland, VC

Mr Peter Hughes, great nephew of T Hughes, VC

Mrs Barbara Potter, great niece of D Jones, VC

Unveiling of the Memorial Plaque

Monsieur Didier Samain
Marie of Guillemont

Closing

Dr Ian Adamson, OBE
Chairman of the Somme Association

The Somme Association would like to thank the families of the VC recipients, the Somme Remembrance Association, 38 (Irish) Brigade, the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, the North Irish Horse and the Marie and people of Guillemont.

VICTORIA CROSS CITATIONS

Lieutenant John Vincent Holland
Date of Act of Bravery: 3rd September 1916.

London Gazette, 26th October 1916,

“John Vincent Holland, Lieutenant, 3rd Battalion, Leinster Regiment, attached 7th Battalion. For most conspicuous bravery during a heavy engagement when, not content with bombing hostile dug-outs within the objective, he fearlessly led his bombers through our own artillery barrage and cleared a great part of the village in front. He started out with 26 bombers and finished up with only 5, after capturing some 50 prisoners. By this very gallant action he undoubtedly broke the spirit of the enemy, and thus saved us many casualties when the battalion made a further advance. He was far from well at the time, and later had to go to hospital.”



Private Thomas Hughes
Date of Act of Bravery: 3rd September 1916.

London Gazette, 26th October 1916,

“Thomas Hughes, No. 3/5027, Private, Connaught Rangers. For most conspicuous bravery and determination. He was wounded in an attack, but returned at once to the firing line after having his wounds dressed. Later, seeing a hostile machine gun, he dashed out in front of his company, shot the gunner, and single-handed, captured the gun. Though again wounded he brought back three or four prisoners”



Sergeant David Jones
Date of Act of Bravery: 3rd September 1916.

London Gazette, 26th October 1916,

“David Jones, No. 14951, Sergeant, 12th Battalion Liverpool Regiment. For most conspicuous bravery, to duty, and ability displayed in the handling of his platoon. The platoon to which he belonged was ordered to a forward position and during the advance came under heavy machine-gun fire, the officer being killed and the platoon suffering heavy losses. Sergeant Jones led forward the remainder, occupied the position, and held it for two days and two nights without food or water, until relieved. On the second day he drove back three counter-attacks, inflicting heavy losses. His coolness was most praiseworthy. It was due entirely to his resource and example that his men retained confidence and held their post.”

