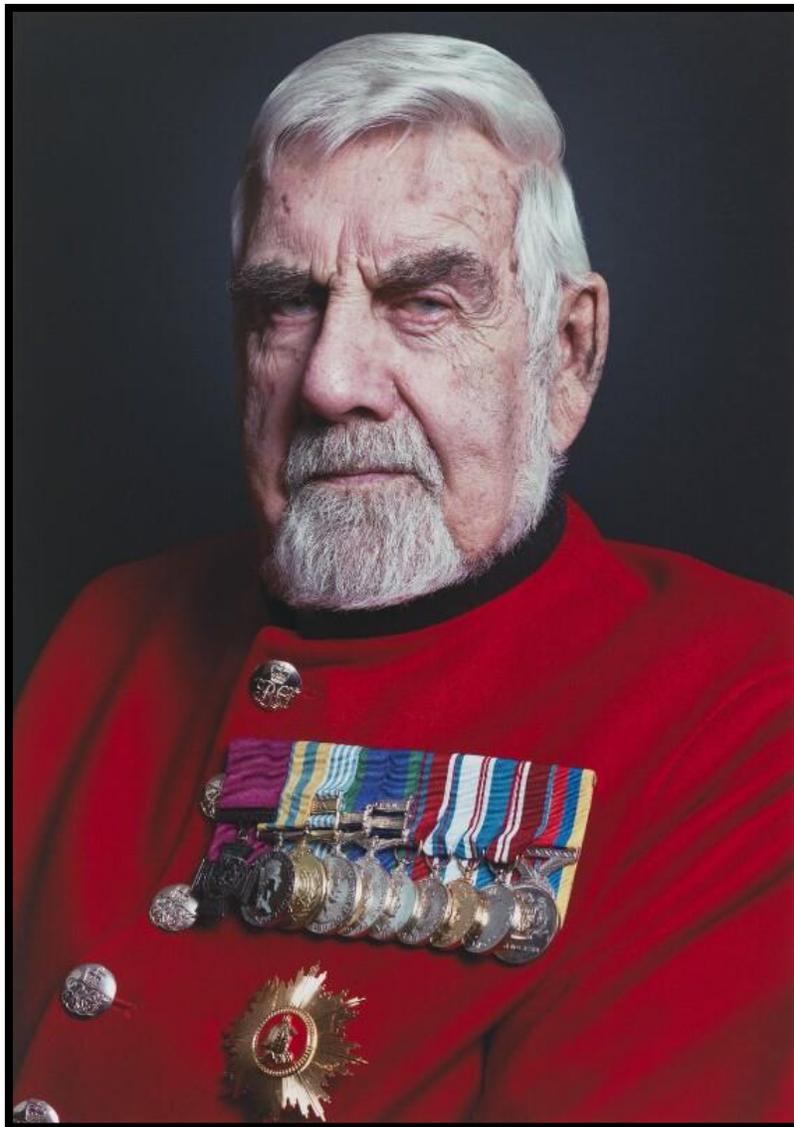




**THE CHAPEL of
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA**



William Speakman VC

21st September 1927 – 20th June 2018

Thursday 19th July 2018 14:00

TRH The Prince of Wales, President of The VC and GC Association,
and The Duchess of Cornwall are represented by
Major General Tim Toyne Sewell, DL, formerly C.O 1st Bn KOSB.
Stand as Captain of Invalids, Lt. Col. Jonny Lowe MBE escorts him to his seat

ORDER OF SERVICE

We receive the body of our brother Bill with confidence in God, the giver of life,
who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead.

*All stand as the Cortège enters the Chapel
and the choir sings:*

BURIAL SENTENCES

WILLIAM CROFT (1678 – 1727)

INTRODUCTION AND BIDDING

The Chaplain
The Reverend S.D Brookes

All **Heavenly Father,
in your Son Jesus Christ
you have given us a true faith
and a sure hope.
Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days,
that we may live as those who believe in
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
and the resurrection to eternal life;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All stand to sing

HYMN

**There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.**

**O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.**

READING *John 14:1-6*

Jesus said to his disciples,
'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going'
Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going,
so how can we know the way?'
Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.'

Sit as the Choir sings **PSALM 23.** *Dominus regit me.*
Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for
his Name's sake.
Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast
anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I
will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

FAMILY TRIBUTE

CAPTAIN OF INVALIDS TRIBUTE

HOMILY

The Choir sings

ANTHEM

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU
JOHN RUTTER (b. 1945)

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, to shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Please kneel or remain seated

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.**

COLLECT OF THE KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS

O Lord, without whom our labour is but lost and all our watching is in vain, grant that the King's Own Scottish Borderers may ever trust in thy true religion, and endure hardness as good soldiers of him who bore the cross, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

COLLECT OF THE VICTORIA CROSS AND GEORGE CROSS ASSOCIATION

We praise thy name O God, for the devoted sacrifice of those who selflessly laid down their lives for others, in hope of a better world and that we might live. Unto Thy holy keeping we commend their souls. We pray for Thy comfort and blessing on all those who still suffer from wounds and the damages of war; and pray that we, inspired by their example, may live more worthily together in the service of others and in the spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

O God, who by the overshadowing of an oak didst preserve our Royal Founder from the hands of his enemies and so lead him to an earthly throne, grant thy heavenly protection, we beseech thee, to thy servants in this Royal Hospital, that continuing in thy love, they may give thee true and loyal service, and so enduring to the end enter at the last into thine eternal kingdom in glory, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

All stand to sing

HYMN

**I vow to thee, my country,
all earthly things above
entire and whole and perfect,
the service of my love:
the love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar
the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters,
the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted
the final sacrifice.**

**And there's another country,
I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies,
we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart,
her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness,
and all her paths are peace.**

Please remain standing

COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

Let us commend Bill to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory and claiming his promises,
we entrust Bill to your mercy
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who died and is alive and reigns with you,
now and for ever.

Amen.

COMMITTAL

As a father is tender towards his children,
so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.
For he knows of what we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

We have entrusted our brother Bill to God's mercy,
and now, in preparation for burial,
we give his body to be cremated.
We look for the fullness of the resurrection
when Christ shall gather all his saints
to reign with him in glory forever.

Amen.

Those in uniform to stand to attention as

The Old Brigade is played.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at last;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Choir sings

NUNC DIMITTIS

George Dyson (1883-1964)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

The Chaplain leads the coffin from the Chapel followed by the family.

Lt. Col. Jonny Lowe MBE escorts Major General Tim Toyne Sewell, DL, representing TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to the North Front and the congregation follow.

MUSIC PLAYED AFTER THE SERVICE

Nimrod

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

There will be a retiring collection at the Chapel doors to be shared equally between the VC and GC Association and the Royal British Legion.

All are invited for light refreshments in the Chelsea Pensioners Club.

The London Gazette

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper

FRIDAY, 28 DECEMBER, 1951

The War Office, 28th December, 1951.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to:—

14471590 Private William SPEAKMAN, Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), attached to the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Korea.

From 0400 hours, 4th November, 1951, the defensive positions held by 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, were continuously subjected to heavy and accurate enemy shell and mortar fire. At 1545 hours, this fire became intense and continued thus for the next two hours, considerably damaging the defences and wounding a number of men.

At 1645 hours, the enemy in their hundreds advanced in wave upon wave against the King's Own Scottish Borderers' positions, and by 1745 hours, fierce hand to hand fighting was taking place on every position.

Private Speakman, a member of B Company, Headquarters, learning that the section holding the left shoulder of the Company's position had been seriously depleted by casualties, had had its N.C.Os. wounded and was being overrun, decided on his own initiative to drive the enemy off the position and keep them off it. To effect this he collected quickly a large pile of grenades and a party of six men. Then displaying complete disregard for his own personal safety he led his party in a series of grenade charges against the enemy; and continued doing so as each successive wave of enemy reached the crest of the hill. The force and determination of his charges broke up each successive enemy onslaught and resulted in an ever mounting pile of enemy dead.

Having led some ten charges, through withering enemy machine gun and mortar fire, Private Speakman was eventually severely wounded in the leg. Undaunted by his wounds, he continued to lead charge after charge against the enemy and it was only after a direct order from his superior officer that he agreed to pause for a first field dressing to be applied to his wounds. Having had his wounds bandaged, Private Speakman immediately rejoined his comrades and led them again and again forward in a series of grenade charges, up to the time of the withdrawal of his Company at 2100 hours.

At the critical moment of the withdrawal, amidst an inferno of enemy machine gun and mortar fire, as well as grenades, Private Speakman led a final charge to clear the crest of the hill and hold it, whilst the remainder of his Company withdrew. Encouraging his gallant, but by now sadly depleted party, he assailed the enemy with showers of grenades and kept them at bay sufficiently long for his Company to effect its withdrawal.

Under the stress and strain of this battle, Private Speakman's outstanding powers of leadership were revealed and he so dominated the situation, that he inspired his comrades to stand firm and fight the enemy to a standstill.

His great gallantry and utter contempt for his own personal safety were an inspiration to all his comrades. He was, by his heroic actions, personally responsible for causing enormous losses to the enemy, assisting his Company to maintain their position for some four hours and saving the lives of many of his comrades when they were forced to withdraw from their position.

Private Speakman's heroism under intense fire throughout the operation and when painfully wounded was beyond praise and is deserving of supreme recognition.

