

News story: Cornish soldier killed during World War 1 is finally laid to rest

Private (Pte) Arthur Burt who served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, has finally been laid to rest after he was killed during World War 1. Private Burt was buried last week (Wednesday 10 April) during a moving ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs, on the Somme in France.

A bearer party from 1 RIFLES carry Private Burt's coffin, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

The service, organised by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), part of Defence Business Services, was conducted by the Reverend Richard Begg CF, Chaplain to the 3rd Battalion, The Rifles.

A bugler and bearer party from 1 RIFLES carry Private Burt's to the graveside, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Nicola Nash, JCCC said:

Being able to discover the identity of an unknown soldier is hugely rewarding and I feel privileged to be here to see him finally laid to rest by members of the present-day regiment. His bravery and sacrifice will always be honoured and remembered.

The firing party from 1 RIFLES fire a salute to Private Burt, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Pte Burt was killed on 16 September 1916, during the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, which was part of the Battle of the Somme. He was found with several artefacts including a disc that was engraved with "Pte. A. Burt, 13201, 7th D.C.L.I.". Following this discovery, the JCCC were then able to trace the nephew of Pte Burt, Mr Philip Lean, who provided a DNA sample which confirmed the identity of Pte Burt after more than a century.

Mr Lean and 8 members of his family were able to attend the burial to pay their respects. Brigadier Rob Thomson from the British Embassy in Paris was also in attendance. Current members of the Rifles paid their own tribute by providing the bearer and firing party.

Mr Philip Lean, nephew of Private Burt, surrounded by his family, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Private Burt's family said:

Our lad from Mevagissey was afforded an amazing military send off. Being able to be there as a family was really special and it was a privilege to attend.

Private Burt enlisted in the army as soon as war broke out in September 1914, aged 27. He signed up at the Keep in Bodmin, which had been the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry headquarters since the 1880s. Arthur joined the 7th Battalion and was soon sent to France after receiving his training. He was praised for his gallant and brave conduct during the attack on Guillemont on 31 August 1916 and was recommended for the Military Medal.

Reverend Richard Begg CF said:

It was an honour to conduct the graveside service of Pte Arthur Burt in the Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeuufs. After nearly 103 years, since he fell on the Somme, we were able to continue a work started by the Chaplains who served in World War 1, the devotion and dignity to the care of those who served and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country.

Steve Arnold, CWGC Recovery Officer said:

It was a great honour to be able to recover Private Burt from the battlefield near Ginchy in 2018, over 100 years since his death. He is now at rest alongside 8 other casualties of his battalion who died at the same time. We will ensure that his grave, together with all of those who served and fell, is cared for in perpetuity.

A new headstone bearing Private Burt's name has been provided by the CWGC, who will now care for his final resting place in perpetuity.

The headstone of Private Burt, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Press release: Government announces end to unfair evictions

- New deal for renters to end unfair evictions – preventing private landlords from evicting tenants at short notice and without good reason
- Step-change to create open-ended tenancies for all private renters – bringing greater peace of mind to millions of tenants in the private rented sector
- Landlords to have more effective means of getting their property back when they genuinely need to do so

Private landlords will no longer be able to evict tenants from their homes at short notice and without good reason, in the biggest change to the private rental sector for a generation, Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP has announced (15 April 2019).

As part of a complete overhaul of the sector, the government has outlined plans to consult on new legislation to abolish Section 21 evictions – so called ‘no-fault’ evictions. This will bring an end to private landlords uprooting tenants from their homes with as little as 8 weeks’ notice after the fixed-term contract has come to an end.

This will effectively create open-ended tenancies, bringing greater peace of mind to millions of families who live in rented accommodation. Many tenants live with the worry of being evicted at short notice or continue to live in poor accommodation for fear they will be asked to leave if they complain about problems with their home.

It will give them the reassurance that they will not be suddenly turfed out of their home and reduces the risk of being faced with having nowhere else to go. And evidence shows that the end of tenancies through the Section 21 process is one of the biggest causes of family homelessness.

The private rented sector has grown rapidly over recent years, with more than 4 million people now living in privately rented accommodation – the vast majority of whom are responsible tenants who pay their rent on time and take good care of the property. Yet the housing market has not kept pace with the changes in society and leaves many tenants feeling insecure.

The proposed measures will provide greater certainty for tenants and make the housing market fit for the 21st century, whilst creating a more secure rental market for landlords in which to remain and invest.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

Everyone renting in the private sector has the right to feel secure in their home, settled in their community and able to plan for the future with confidence.

But millions of responsible tenants could still be uprooted by their landlord with little notice, and often little justification.

This is wrong – and today we’re acting by preventing these unfair evictions. Landlords will still be able to end tenancies where they have legitimate reasons to do so, but they will no longer be able to unexpectedly evict families with only 8 weeks’ notice.

This important step will not only protect tenants from unethical behaviour, but also give them the long-term certainty and the peace of mind they deserve.

Communities Secretary, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, said:

By abolishing these kinds of evictions, every single person living in the private rented sector will be empowered to make the right housing choice for themselves – not have it made for them. And this will be balanced by ensuring responsible landlords can get their property back where they have proper reason to do so.

We are making the biggest change to the private rental sector in a generation. We are creating homes, opportunities and thriving communities, where people can come together and put down roots, bound by a strong sense of belonging.

Everyone has a right to the opportunities they need to build a better life. For many, this means having the security and stability to make a place truly feel like home without the fear of being evicted at a moments' notice. We are building a fairer housing market that truly works for everyone.

The vast majority of landlords are responsible property owners who provide quality homes and services for their tenants.

Under the proposals, landlords will have to provide a concrete, evidenced reason already specified in law for bringing tenancies to an end a marked step-change from the current rules which allows landlords to evict tenants at any time after the fixed-term contract has come to an end, and without specifying a reason.

And to ensure responsible landlords have confidence they will be able to end tenancies where they have legitimate reason to do so, ministers will amend the Section 8 eviction process, so property owners are able to regain their home should they wish to sell it or move into it.

Court processes will also be expedited so landlords are able to swiftly and smoothly regain their property in the rare event of tenants falling into rent arrears or damaging the property – meaning landlords have the security of knowing disputes will be resolved quickly.

Ministers will also work with other types of housing providers outside of the private rented sector who use these powers and use the consultation to make sure the new system works effectively.

Today's announcement is the start of a process of engaging with landlords and tenants to amend these grounds in order to make the process work better for everyone.

The news comes just weeks before the Tenant Fees Act takes effect on 1 June, which will save tenants across England at least £240 million a year – up to £70 per household – by banning unfair letting fees and capping tenancy deposits at 5 weeks' rent.

The new deal for renters is part of a wider package of government reforms aimed at rebalancing the relationship between tenants and landlords to deliver a fairer, better quality and more affordable private rental market.

The government will shortly launch a new consultation on proposals to remove the ability of landlords to use 'no fault' evictions under Section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act.

The government will collaborate with and listen to tenants, landlords and others in the private rented sector to develop a new deal for renting.

The government has today published its response to its consultation on [Overcoming the barriers to longer tenancies in the private rented sector](#).

The government committed to consult on overcoming the barriers to longer tenancies in the private rented sector in the 2017 Autumn Budget. The consultation ran for 8 weeks and closed in August 2018.

In October 2017, the then Secretary of State committed to consult the Judiciary on whether to introduce a new specialist Housing Court.

We recently ran a [call for evidence](#) to better understand and improve the experience of people using courts and tribunal services in property cases, including considering the case for a specialist Housing Court.

This ran from 13 November 2018 to 22 January 2019. We are currently analysing the responses and will be publishing our response in due course.

The 2018 English Housing Survey found that in 2017 to 2018 there were an estimated 23.3 million households in England. Of those, 4.5 million – or 19% – of households are in the private rented sector.

The 2016 to 2017 English Housing Survey private rented sector report found 9% of renters had been in arrears in the last 12 months.

Ministers will also work with other types of housing providers outside of the private rented sector who use these powers and use the consultation to make sure the new system works for them.

[**Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Afghanistan – May 2019**](#)

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Alison Mary Blake

Married to: Col (Rtd) Peter A Henry

2016 to 2019 Dhaka, High Commissioner

2014 to 2015 FCO, Appeals Officer, Human Resources Directorate and also three months Full-Time language training (Bengali)

2011 to 2014 Islamabad, Deputy High Commissioner

2007 to 2011 FCO, Head, Conflict Group

2006 to 2007 Cabinet Office, Deputy Director, Defence & Overseas Secretariat

2001 to 2005 Washington DC, First Secretary (Foreign and Security Policy for OSCE area)

1999 to 2000 FCO, Deputy Head, Eastern Adriatic Department

1996 to 1999 UK Delegation to NATO, Brussels, First Secretary (Operations and Council Exercises)

1996 Joined FCO

1989 to 1995 Ministry of Defence, various roles including as Assistant Private Secretary to Secretary of State for Defence

1989 Joined Civil Service

Further information

Published 15 April 2019

Thank you for your feedback