

Festubert

The Battle of Festubert was a fierce, bloody, prolonged engagement on the Western Front during May 1915. Following ten days of fighting, the village of Festubert was captured from the Germans, after the Canadian Division alone had lost as many as 2,204 casualties during their important role in the 3 km. assault. Lieutenant Hartley Munro Thomas' poem "Festubert" describes a soldier's experience of the conflict.

This is the only song from the cycle that I have retained in its original setting for men's voices (TBB) with piano and snare drum. It represents a declaration by a group of surviving soldiers about the real horrors of trench conflict.

*Choirs are hereby granted permission to print the accompanying score of "Festubert" and to duplicate as many copies as they require for their own performances. Permission is also given to them to perform it, and those who choose to do so are asked to inform John Laing ahead of time, using my **contact page**.*