



**A Rededication Service for**

**Private Leonard George Holiday  
15<sup>th</sup> (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battalion  
The Hampshire Regiment**

**09:45 hours Tuesday 8 March 2022  
CWGC Vichte Military Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Nick Sharpe CF  
Chaplain to 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment**

### **Private Leonard George Holiday**

Private Leonard George Holiday was born in Drayton St Leonards in Oxfordshire in 1899. He was the eldest of four children born to a shepherd, George Holiday, and his wife, Ellen. Unfortunately, not much is known about his early life.

By October 1918 the static fighting associated with the Western Front, which had kept the British Army in Belgium within the Ypres Salient since 1914, had lifted, and allied forces were advancing. On 19 October 1918 the town of Kortrijk was liberated. During the days that followed 15<sup>th</sup> (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battalion The Hampshire Regiment, fought eastwards from village to village as the advance continued. It was during this fighting that Private Holiday was killed near the village of Kaphoek on 26 October 1918, just weeks before the end of the First World War. He was just 19 years of age.

Until now Private Holiday was recorded as missing as he had no known grave and he was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. However, new research has confirmed that he is buried in Vichte Military Cemetery. Today we will remember Private Holiday and his grave will be rededicated.

Plot I, Rows A and B and part of Row C were made in October 1918 by the burial officers of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Divisions. The remainder of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Vichte Military Cemetery was formed after the Armistice when graves, including that of Private Holiday, were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

### **Introduction**

We have come together as family, friends, representatives of Her Majesty The Queen and The Hampshire Regiment, to give thanks for the life of Private Leonard George Holiday who was killed in action on 26 October 1918. As we remember his life, devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God.

### **Bidding Prayer**

Almighty God, you judge us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything that you have made. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of paradise where there is no sound or noise, but one equal music; no dazzling or fear, but one equal light; no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading**

Read by Group Captain Justin Fowler  
Defence Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg

#### **Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1 - 8 & 14 (NIV)**

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.  
I know that everything God does will endure forever;  
nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God  
does it so that people will fear him.

**Reading**

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Toby Walch  
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

**I Went to See the Soldiers**

*By Kenny Martin*

I went to see the soldiers, row on row on row,  
And wondered about each so still, their badges all on  
show.

What brought them here, what life before  
Was like for each of them?

What made them angry, laugh, or cry,  
These soldiers, boys and men.

Some so young, some older still, a bond more close than  
brothers

These men have earned and shared a love,  
That's not like any other

They trained as one, they fought as one  
They shared their last together

That bond endures, that love is true  
And will be, now and ever.

I could not know, how could I guess, what choice each  
had made,

Of how they came to soldiering, what part each one had  
played?

But here they are and here they'll stay,  
Each one silent and in place,

Their headstones line up row on row  
They guard this hallowed place.

**Address**

## **The Act of Remembrance**

### **The Exhortation**

Read by Warrant Officer Class 1 Lee Payne  
Regimental Sergeant Major, 35 Engineer Regiment

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.**

## **The Last Post**

## **The Silence**

## **The Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

Read by Staff Sergeant Richard Maurins  
17 Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment

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

## **Laying of Wreaths**

## **Prayers**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict and ask that God may give us peace. For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God; may God give peace.

*All* **God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

*All* **God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends, comrades, and all who pray for their safe return; may God give peace.

*All* **God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatred of humanity; may God give peace.

*All* **God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership; political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace; may God give peace.

*All* **God give peace.**

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Collect of The Hampshire Regiment**

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Ret'd Colin Bulleid

Comrades' Association, The Royal Hampshire Regiment

O Christ, who wast tempted for us in the wilderness,  
lead, we pray thee, thy servants of The Hampshire  
Regiment, who have been undismayed in battle, through  
all the trials of this mortal life, until, entering thy heavenly  
kingdom where the desert shall rejoice and blossom as  
the rose, we may find rest in thee; who with the Father  
and the Holy Ghost reignest one God for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*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**

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

And the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, wherever they may be, this day and always.

*All* **Amen.**



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