



A Rededication Service for

Captain Clifford Nichols

5th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
attached to 164 Coy Machine Gun Corps

10.30 hours Wednesday 3 July 2024
CWGC Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium

Service conducted by Reverend Richard Mutter CF
Chaplain to 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh

The Cemetery

Bedford House Cemetery is situated in the grounds of Chateau Rosendal, a former country house that was used by field ambulances and brigade headquarters during the war. It was gradually destroyed by shelling and the grounds became covered by small cemeteries or these enclosures. The largest, Enclosure No. 4, was used from June 1916 to February 1918, and later enlarged after the Armistice. Like the previously unidentified grave of Captain Clifford Nichols, almost two thirds of the graves in this enclosure commemorate unknown casualties.



Captain Clifford Nichols **1890 – 1917**

Clifford Nichols was born in Harborne, Birmingham in 1890, one of four children born to Joseph Nichols and his wife Emily. Clifford was educated at Dudley Grammar School and King's Cathedral School, Worcester before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1912.

He enlisted in the army in November 1914 and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in December. He transferred to the 164th Machine Gun Company in 1917, serving with them in France and Flanders from January of that year. He took part in the Battle of Arras in the spring of 1917 and was killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele on 31 July 1917. He was recorded as missing at this time, and following the war he was commemorated on the Menin Gate memorial to the missing in Ypres.

Captain Nichols' remains were recovered from an unmarked field grave near Spree Farm, south of St Julien in 1923. At the time he remained unidentified, though the recovery team noted that his badges and buttons affiliated him with both the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Machine Gun Corps.

Today, drawing together all the information which wasn't accessible during or immediately after the war, we can say for certain that Captain Nichols is the previously unknown man buried at Bedford House Cemetery, and today we rededicate his grave accordingly.

Call to Worship:

We have come together in the name of Christ
To offer our praise and thanksgiving,
To hear and receive God's holy word,
To remember all of those who have suffered in conflict, war, and terror,
And to rededicate this grave
That, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
We may be worthy of their sacrifice.

Opening Prayer

Merciful Father,
Hear our prayers and comfort us;
Renew our trust in your Son,
Whom you raised from the dead;
Strengthen our faith
That Clifford and all who have died in the love of Christ
Will share in his resurrection;
Who lives and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.

Amen

Scripture Reading: Romans 8 v.35:39

Read by a representative of the British Embassy

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reading – The Soldier – by Rupert Brooke

Chosen by the family of Captain Nichols

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3 v.22-26, 31-33

Read by Steve Brown MBE, The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

For no one is cast off by the Lord forever.
Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.
For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

Address

The Reverend Richard Mutter

Act of Dedication

We rededicate this grave to Captain Clifford Nichols in the name of Christ who died and rose again; as a symbol of our remembering, as a sign of our thanksgiving, a token of recognition and expression of our love. We look forward with confidence to our reunion with him and all those whose dwelling is forever with Christ in the everlasting kingdom of the Father.

The Exhortation

Read by Colonel Nicholas Lock, late of The Royal Welsh

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.
We will remember them.

The Last Post

*Played by Sergeant Andrew Jones,
Regimental Band, 3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh*

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Colonel Nicholas Lock, late of The Royal Welsh

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

Laying of Wreaths

The Collect of The Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Read by Colonel Nicholas Lock, late of The Royal Welsh

Eternal God, whose strength raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, uphold, we pray thee the ancient valour of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, that we may ever endure hardness after His example, and may rise with Him to shine as the sun in thy Kingdom, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer

God of mercy, Lord of life
You promised eternal life to those who believe.
Remember for good this your servant Clifford,
Bring him/them and all who rest in Christ
Into the fullness of your kingdom
Where sins have been forgiven and death is no more.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre, is responsible for the research, identification and burial of all British casualties worldwide.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the graves, memorials, records and memory of the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two world wars.

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