



**A Rededication Service for**

**Captain William Miles Kington DSO  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers**

**14:00 hours Wednesday 19 June 2019  
Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by The Rev'd Ben Archibald CF  
Chaplain to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Welsh**

**Captain William Miles Kington DSO**



Captain William Miles Kington was born in Cheltenham on 26 April 1876. He was the son of Lieutenant Colonel William Miles Napier Kington and Harriet Sophia Kington, nee Baker. He was educated at Winchester College between 1889-1890, before attending Glenalmond College.

Having completed his training at Sandhurst, William joined 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers in September 1896. He was promoted to Lieutenant in January 1899. William served in South Africa during the Second Boer War, 1899-1902, and was most notably present at the Relief of Ladysmith. For his service in South Africa, he was awarded The Distinguished Service Order, the Queen's South Africa Medal with 5 Clasps, the King's South Africa Medal with 2 Clasps and was Mentioned in Despatches four times. Between February 1902 and May 1904, he served with the South African Constabulary.

In July 1908 William married Edith Mary Agatha Soames and their son William Beresford Kington was born on 9 April 1909. William was a well-known cricketer and was a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club, the I Zingari and the Free Foresters. On the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, William re-joined 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, departing at Zeebrugge on 7 October.

The Battalion's War diaries show that they arrived in Ypres on 14 October 1914. On 20 October, the day of Captain Kington's death, they had moved back into trenches that they had held on 16 and 17 October near Broodseinde. Captain Kington was killed in action having been hit by a shell. One of his soldiers was later quoted as saying "He was a very fine officer, and would crack a joke in the trenches which would set us all laughing our sides out. It made us all mad to avenge his death".

Captain Kington's body was recovered after the Great War and he was buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery as an unknown Captain of The Royal Welsh Fusiliers. As his grave was unidentified, he

was commemorated on the Menin Gate. However, new research has enabled his grave to be identified. Today we will remember Captain Kington and his grave will be rededicated.

Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world, is now the resting place of more than 11,900 servicemen from the First World War. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on a German pillbox captured by the 3rd Australian Division on 4 October 1917. After the Armistice remains were brought in from small burial grounds and the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck, including the previously unidentified grave of Captain W.M. Kington, DSO.

## **Introduction**

We have come together as family, friends, representatives of Her Majesty The Queen and The Royal Welsh, to give thanks for the life of Captain William Miles Kington DSO who was killed in action on 20 October 1914. 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 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 Sophie Jones

Great granddaughter of Captain Kington

### **In Flanders Fields**

By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

## **Gospel Reading**

Read by Captain David Hughes

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Welsh

### **John Chapter 15 v 9-13 (NIV)**

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

### **The Act of Remembrance**

Let us remember before the Father, and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we knew, and those whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.



## **The Exhortation**

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**

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

## **Laying of Wreaths**

## The 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.**

## **The Collect of The Royal Welch Fusiliers**

Read by Captain David Hughes

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 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.

*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,  
and 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.**



**H**E whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

— *Capt. William Miles Kington, D.S.O.*  
*Royal Welsh Fusiliers*



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

I join with my grateful people  
in sending you this memorial  
of a brave life given for others  
in the Great War.

*George R. I.*



ARMY

© Crown Copyright/JCCC – 2019