



A Rededication Service for

**Second Lieutenant Piers Richard Edgumbe
12th Royal Lancers**

**Friday 27th May 2022 at 13:00 hours
CWGC Esquelbecq Military Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by
The Reverend John Power
Chaplain to The Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeths' Own)
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend John Power**

Piers Richard Edgcumbe was born on the 22 October 1914 to Kenelm William Edward and Lilian Agnes at Hatfield Place in Hertfordshire. Piers was a member of the Officers Training Corps at both Eton College and Cambridge University. Following his degree in Engineering he followed his father's profession and became an Electrical Engineer. Piers was commissioned into the 12th Royal Lancers on 15 April 1939.

87192 2nd Lieutenant Edgcumbe was in an armoured vehicle tasked with a dangerous role to conduct a reconnaissance mission and scout out the enemy's position before reporting back to his headquarters. This role was undertaken during the chaotic retreat of 400,000 allied soldiers towards the beaches of Dunkirk. Edgcumbe's armoured vehicle was blown up and both he and his colleague were killed on 27 May 1940.



Second Lieutenant Piers Richard Edgcumbe



1939-1945 Star and War Medal



Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have come together as family, friends, representatives of Her Majesty The Queen and the 12th Royal Lancers, to give thanks for the life of Second Lieutenant Piers Richard Edgcumbe, who was killed in action on 27th May 1940. 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.

Amen.

Reading

Lecture

Read by members of the Edgcumbe Family

To my Grandson.

Piers! Thou art welcome as the Solar ray
That gilds the eastern fringe of darkest night,
And turns the sable gloom to golden day.
Herald of Peace art thou! Born to our hearts' delight.

We watch'd and waited through the fleeting years,
In anxious hope that thou would'st seal our joy;
When lo! Through parting clouds the sun appears,
To bring, mid War's alarms, a strong-limbed British boy!

Long may'st thou live, in Honour and in Worth,
Staunch as thy forebears--steadfast as thy Sire--
A true and noble Champion, from thy birth
Of great and worthy deeds--a man whom all admire.

I shall not live to see thee plough thy way
Through troubled seas, to fortune and to fame:
But with prophetic gaze I view the day
When Piers, the beam of love, adds lustre to his name.

Give love and help to them that gave thee life--
To them that watch'd thy sleep, and gave thee aid
When first thy footsteps trod the paths of strife--
Remember 'tis by love that parents are repaid--

Though clouds may cast deep shadows on thy way,
A loving God will light thee to thy grave
With Love, and Hope, and Peace--all these we pray--
For Christ, who loves Mankind, did die, thy soul to save!

January 1915.

Richard Edgcumbe.



PIERS RICHARD EDGCUMBE (A.E.C., C.J.R., 1928—1933).

Piers Edgcumbe came to Eton from Sunningdale in May 1928. Blessed with considerable gifts both intellectual and athletic, he was in Sixth Form and Captain of his house in the autumn of 1933, had his House Colours for four years, and for three years rowed in the Boats. After continuing his education at Trinity, Cambridge, and in America, in 1938 he entered his father's electrical engineering works at Hendon. Early in 1939 he joined the Supplementary Reserve of Officers to the 12th Royal Lancers, and in February 1940 was sent to France on a Special Mission. Of his work there his Commanding Officer wrote: "I have seldom met an officer who was so cool and brave under fire: he was adored by his men who would have followed him anywhere." On May 27 he was killed instantaneously in action against a heavy German tank.

It is impossible in a short memorial notice to give, to those who did not know him, any impression of his modesty, his charm of manner, his lovable nature, or his consideration for all whether old or young. Those who did know him will feel, as one of them wrote, that "something shining and very dear has left us." Of him it may truly be said that "whatsoever things are true and noble, whatsoever things are pure and generous, honourable and of good report," these things with his whole heart he constantly pursued.

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Matthew 20:20-29 (NKFV)

Read by Colonel Howard Wilkinson, Military Attaché, British Embassy, Paris

But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.

Reading

Lecture

The Paradoxes of Servant Leadership by Brewer

Read by Lieutenant Anna McDermott

Strong enough to be weak
Successful enough to fail
Busy enough to make time
Wise enough to say "I don't know"
Serious enough to laugh
Rich enough to be poor
Right enough to say "I'm wrong"
Compassionate enough to discipline
Planned enough to be spontaneous
Controlled enough to be flexible
Knowledgeable enough to ask questions
Loving enough to be angry
Great enough to be anonymous
Responsible enough to play
Assured enough to be rejected

Victorious enough to lose
Industrious enough to relax
Leading enough to serve

Address Padre

Allocution

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by a member of the Royal Lancers

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

Sonnerie aux Morts

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Lance Corporal Ashely Godwin

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

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

Prayer*Prière*

Lord, God of the nations, we easily forget those who are the victims of war. Forgive the wrath of the nations, the desire to build empires and to seek domination over others. May your mercy be upon all who have suffered the ravages of war; soothe their sorrows and heal their memories. Restrain the impulse to seek revenge, and by your grace may we find forgiveness in our hearts. Strengthen our wills to do good and not harm, to care and not to destroy, and bring good out of evil. We make this prayer in the name of the one who endured the cross and was victorious over sin and death, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.**The Regimental Collect of The Royal Lancers***Prière pour les Royal Lancers*

Eternal God, we Thy servants of the Royal Lancers, pray that we may ever give loyal, obedient and selfless service; to you, our Heavenly Father, to our anointed Sovereign and to our country. Strengthen us with courage, so that we may finally pass through death into everlasting glory. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord

Amen.

The Founder's Prayer

Text by Henry VI, Founder of Eton College 1440

Lord Jesus Christ,
Who created, redeemed,
And preordained me to be this that I am,
You know what you wish to do with me;
Do with me in accordance with your will, with mercy.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Prière du Seigneur

**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 Celtic Prayer

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.

Amen.

**Piers Richard Edgcumbe's family remembered.
In the name of PEACE**

His uncles:

Cyril and Gerald Arkwright. Both brothers died in the Boer War. (Cyril was in the 5th Royal Lancers, hence Piers' own choice of Regiment.)

His brothers-in-law:

Both closely in touch with Piers while fighting in France.

Denis Gibbs, of the Queen's Royal Regiment.

Conolly McCausland, of the Irish Guards.

His nephew:

Marcus McCausland, of the Ulster Defence Regiment, died in service to our country.

A special thought now for Piers' beloved parents:

Lilian and Kenelm Edgcumbe.

For his adored sisters:

Hilaria, Katherine and Margaret.

And for all those beloved ones who are no longer with us, but who remain, strongly and forever, in our hearts and who will be, in Spirit, especially here with us today.

Thank you, Piers, for instilling your influence of LOVE into our lives.



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Esquelbecq Military Cemetery was begun in April 1918 during the early stages of the German offensive in Flanders. The cemetery was used again during the Second World War, mainly for the burial of those killed during the German advance of May 1940 and the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force to Dunkirk. Among them was Second Lieutenant Piers Richard Edgcumbe, who could not at the time be identified.



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty and 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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