



**A Rededication Service for**

**Second Lieutenant Ernest Lockett Cole  
8<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment**

**14:30 hours Wednesday 22 June 2022  
CWGC Owillers Military Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by Reverend Thomas Wilde CF  
Chaplain to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment  
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par  
le Révérend Thomas Wilde CF**

**Second Lieutenant Ernest Lockett Cole**



Second Lieutenant Ernest Lockett Cole was born in 1887 in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. He was one of six children born to James Henry Cole and his wife Ada. He worked as a clerk before the war. In 1915 he married Mary Constance Gardner. Their son, also named Ernest Lockett Cole, was born on 19 March 1917, nearly six months after his death.

Ernest joined 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's Liverpool Regiment in 1905 and in 1909 transferred to 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. He reached the rank of serjeant, but left in 1913. On 16 November 1915 Ernest was Commissioned into The Northamptonshire Regiment and joined 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Having been attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Second Lieutenant Cole arrived on the Western Front on 6 September 1916. A few weeks later on 27 September 1916, C Company of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment took part in an attack on the Flers Line in support of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The King's Royal Rifle Corps. The attack was unsuccessful and Second Lieutenant Cole was killed during the fighting.

After the war the remains of Second Lieutenant Cole were moved into Ovillers Military Cemetery. He was buried as an unknown Second Lieutenant of The Northamptonshire Regiment. It was noted that the initials 'EC' were marked on this man's clothing. As he was missing, Second Lieutenant Cole was commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. However, new research has shown that this is the grave of Second Lieutenant Cole. Today we will remember him and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Ovillers Military Cemetery was created as a battle cemetery behind a dressing station and was in use until March 1917. The cemetery was greatly increased after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields of Pozieres, Ovillers, La Boisselle and Contalmaison. It is from this area

that Second Lieutenant Ernest Lockett Cole, unidentified at the time, was brought in for burial.

Second Lieutenant Ernest Lockett Cole est né à Barrow-in-Furness, en Cumbria, en 1887. Il été un des six enfants nés à James Henry Cole et sa femme Ada. En 1915, il a épousé Mary Constance Gardner. Leur fils, Ernest Lockett Cole, est né le 19 mars, 1917, presque six mois après la mort de Second Lieutenant Cole.

En 1905, Ernest s'est joint au 5<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du King's Liverpool Regiment et en 1909, il a transféré au 4<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. Il a parti en 1913. Le 16 novembre, 1915, Ernest a obtenu une commission comme Second Lieutenant au Northamptonshire Regiment et s'est joint le 8<sup>e</sup> Bataillon. Après avoir été adjoint au 1<sup>e</sup> Bataillon, il est arrivé sur le Front Occidental le 6 septembre, 1916.

Trois semaines plus tard, le 27 septembre, 1916, C Company du 1<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du Northamptonshire Regiment a participé à une attaque sur le 'Flanders Line' en soutien 2<sup>e</sup> Bataillon du King's Royal Rifle Corps. L'attaque n'est pas une réussite et Second Lieutenant Cole a été tué au cours des combats ce jour-là.

Après la guerre ses restes ont été enterré à Ovillers Military Cemetery comme un Second Lieutenant inconnu du Northamptonshire Regiment. Il a été observé que les initiales 'EC' ont été marquées sur ses vêtements.

Le nom de Second Lieutenant Cole est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Thiepval. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Second Lieutenant Cole et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

### **Call to Worship**

*Appel à Adoration*

John Chapter 11 v 25-26

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

We have come together to bless the final resting place of Second Lieutenant Ernest Lockett Cole and to honour him this day with family and friends gathered here.

As Christians, we believe that those who die in Christ share eternal life with him. Therefore, in faith and hope we offer our prayers of trust and thanksgiving to God. Facing the certainty of our own death and judgement we yet proclaim that Christ is indeed risen, and that all who believe in him will rise in him.

### **Bidding Prayer**

*Prière*

Heavenly Father, in your son Jesus Christ, you have given us a true faith and sure hope: Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days, that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to eternal life through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading**

*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by a representative of the British Embassy Paris

### **Isaiah Chapter 40 v 28-31 (NIV)**

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;

but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

**Gospel Reading***Lecture de l'Évangile*

Read by Second Lieutenant Jack Rice

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment**John Chapter 15 v 9-17 (ESV)**

Jesus said, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

## **Reading**

*Lecture*

Read by a member of the Cole family

### **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**  
*Allocution*

**The Act of Dedication**  
*l'Acte de Dédicace*

We remember with thanksgiving at God's throne of grace all those who have died during operational service. We remember this day especially Second Lieutenant Ernest Lockett Cole. Merciful God, you have made us all and given your Son for our redemption. We once again commend our brother to your perfect mercy and wisdom and rededicate his final resting place into your care. For in you alone we put our trust.

### **The Exhortation**

*L'Exhortation*

Read by Second Lieutenant Jack Rice  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian 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**

*Sonnerie aux Morts*

### **The Silence**

### **The Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

*L'Épitaphe de Kohima*

Read by Captain Thomas Westlake  
5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifles

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

### **Laying of Wreaths**

*Dépôts des Gerbes*

**A Prayer For the Armed Forces**

*Prière pour les Forces Armées*

O Lord God, we commend to thy gracious care and keeping the men and women of the Armed Services, especially those now serving in conflicts around the world. We beseech thee to protect them from all danger to body and soul; to give them a loyal, courageous and disciplined spirit; to instil in them the love of justice and liberty, and to grant that they may be called to serve only for the establishment of peace throughout the world; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Collect of The Northamptonshire Regiment**

*Récitation du Northamptonshire Regiment*

Read by Maj Ret'd Peter Williamson MBE

Chairman of the trustees of the Essex Regiment Museum

O Christ, who hast built thy church as on a rock upon him who confessed thy godhead give thy grace, we pray thee, to The Northamptonshire Regiment, that, as we have won the praise of men for steadiness in battle, so we may rather choose the praise of God by standing fast for thee, who livest with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

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

*Prière du Seigneur*

*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**

*Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction*

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and all those whom you love now and always.

*All* **Amen.**





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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