



A Burial Service for

Lance Corporal Frederick Thomas Perkins

11th Battalion The Essex Regiment

10:30 hours Thursday 7 November 2019

Loos British Cemetery, France

**Service conducted by the Reverend Paul Whitehead CF
Chaplain to 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment**

**Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Paul Whitehead CF**

Lance Corporal Frederick Thomas Perkins



Lance Corporal Frederick Thomas Perkins was born in Great Waltham, Essex, in 1891. He was the eldest of the seven children born to James Richard Perkins and Elizabeth Anne Poulter. He worked for the TD Ridley and Sons Ltd Hartford End Brewery. On 27 September 1913 Frederick married Florence Annie Barker at the Church of St John the Evangelist in Ford End. Their son, Philip Jethro Perkins, was born the following year. Frederick joined 4th Battalion The Essex Regiment and is thought to have transferred to 11th Battalion in September 1916 when he left for the Western Front.

The War Diaries of 11th Battalion The Essex Regiment show that on 22 April 1917, they took part in an attack north of Lens. The assaulting companies left the front line in Novel Alley, assaulting on a front of 350 yards. C Company who were in reserve, moved up into Novel Alley as B and D Companies moved off and A Company remained in reserve.

B Company reached their objective but encountered opposition. D Company also reached their objective and attacked along Nash Alley. Severe fighting followed and when their supply of bombs had run out they were forced to retire. A platoon from C Company and 3 platoons of A Company were brought into action. At 16:00 hrs a heavy enemy bombardment of the area commenced causing severe casualties, around 10 officers and 250 other ranks. It was during this action that Lance Corporal Perkins went missing.

In January 2018 the remains of a soldier of The Essex Regiment were found during ordnance clearance work at the site of a new hospital to the north of Lens. Research was carried out by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre and The Essex Regiment Museum to establish the identity of this soldier. The location of the find pointed to this soldier having served with 11th Battalion The Essex Regiment and having been killed on 22 April or between 24 June and 9 July 1917.

The soldier was found with a spoon engraved '4 Ex' and '3899' and a fragment of a note pad marked '389', indicating that they had previously been a member of 4th Battalion The Essex Regiment and served under that regimental number. After much searching through records, the Will of Lance Corporal Perkins was discovered. It was this document which confirmed the spoon had belonged to him. DNA testing was then carried out which confirmed that this soldier was indeed Lance Corporal Perkins.

More than 100 years after his death, we will today remember Lance Corporal Frederick Thomas Perkins and he will be laid to rest in the presence of his family.

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission's Loos British Cemetery was begun by the Canadian Corps in July 1917 for casualties from the Battle for Hill 70. The remainder of the cemetery was formed after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from smaller cemeteries and the surrounding battlefields. Sadly, almost two thirds of those buried here remain unidentified. Lance Corporal Frederick Thomas Perkins was recovered nearby and will now be laid to rest alongside other men from his regiment.

Lance Corporal Frederick Thomas Perkins est né en 1891 à Great Waltham, Essex. Il été le plus aine des sept enfants de James Richard Perkins et Elizabeth Anne Poulter. Il travaillait dans la brasserie de TD Ridley and Sons Ltd à Hartford End. Le 27 septembre 1913 Frederick a épousé Florence Annie Barker à l'église de St John l'Evangéliste a Ford End. Leur fils, Philip Jethro Perkins, est né l'année suivante. Frederick est devenu un membre de 4^e Bataillon, The Essex Regiment et il est estimé qu'il a transféré à 11^e Bataillon en septembre 1916 avant son départ pour le front occidental.

Les Journaux de Guerre de 11e Bataillon, The Essex Regiment indiquent que le 22 avril 1917, ils ont pris part à une attaque au nord de Lens. Les troupes attaquantes ont quitté la première ligne à Novel Alley. Le Company C qui été en réserve, ont déplacés dans Novel Alley après que le Companys B et D ont commencé l'attaque, le Company A été en réserve.

Le Company B a s'atteint ses objectifs mais il a rencontré l'opposition. Le Company D a s'atteint ses objectives aussi et ils ont attaqués le long de Nash Alley. Des combats violents ont suivi et quand qu'ils n'y avaient plus de grenades, ils étaient forcés de prendre leur retraite. Un peloton de Company C et trois pelotons de Company A ont étaient mise en action. A 16:00 heures un lourd bombardement ennemi a commencé dans la région, causant plusieurs victimes, environ 10 Officiers et 250 des rangs subalternes. C'était au cours de cette attaque que Lance Corporal Perkins est disparu.

En janvier 2018 les restes d'un soldat du Essex Regiment ont été trouvés au cours des opérations d'enlèvement de munitions au site d'un nouveau l'hôpital à Lens. Des recherches ont été menées par le Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre et le musée du Essex Regiment pour tentir établir l'identité de ce soldat. La localisation où les restes ont été trouvés indiqué que ce soldat été un membre de 11e Bataillon, The Essex Regiment et qu'il est mort le 22 avril ou entre le 24 juin et 9 juillet 1917.

Ce soldat a été trouvé avec une cuillère gravé '4 Ex' et '3899' et un fragment d'un carnet estampillé '389' qui indiquent que ce soldat avait servi auparavant avec 4e Bataillon, the Essex Regiment avec ce matricule régimentaire. Après avoir fait des recherches dans des archives, le testament du Lance Corporal Perkins a été découvert. C'était ce document-là qui a confirmé que la cuillère lui ayant appartenu. Un test ADN a été effectuée qui ont confirmé que ce soldat est en fait Lance Corporal Perkins.

Plus de 100 ans après son décès, aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Lance Corporal Frederick Thomas Perkins et il sera inhumé en présence de sa famille.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have gathered here today to remember Lance Corporal Frederick Thomas Perkins who was caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War and who received commendation and award for his courage, loyalty and determination in the face of impossible odds. We remember those who were killed in action, or by disease, the bereaved, the lost, the families which were shattered, the wounded, maimed and injured, those who held in silence unspeakable memories of warfare.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Eternal God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:

Kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Lieutenant Piers Darby

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

Matthew Chapter 5 v 3-10 (NIV)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

Verses taken from Psalm 91

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers. Under his wings you will take refuge. His faithfulness is your shield and rampart. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day; nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes, and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall overtake you; no plague shall come near your dwelling. For he will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, so that you won't dash your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the viper. You will trample the young lion and the serpent underfoot. "Because he has set his love on me, therefore I will deliver him. I will set him on high, because he has known my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him, and honour him. I will satisfy him with long life, and show him my salvation."

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Lecture

Read by Lieutenant Piers Darby

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

We Shall Keep the Faith (1918)

by Moina Michael

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.
We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.
And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Address

Allocution

The Collect of The Essex Regiment

Récitation de la Essex Regiment

Read by Major (Ret'd) Peter Williamson

The Essex Regiment Museum

O Lord, our stony rock and our defence, hear us, we pray thee, thy servants of The Essex Regiment, and ever bear us as on eagles' wings in the faith and truth of him who is our shield and buckler, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayer

Prière

God our Creator,
we fail to seek your justice,
and swerve from the way of righteousness:
look with compassion upon those facing danger, disaster,
and devastation.

Guide us all along the path of life, and make us valiant
for truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Commendation and Committal

Enterrement

Volley of Shots

Salve d'Honneur

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

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

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

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

Strengthen our hearts, and hands, and minds, O Lord, to work together for peace; to see you in one another; and to seek your kingdom above all things; that your will may be seen to be done and your kingdom come, through Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and King of kings.

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

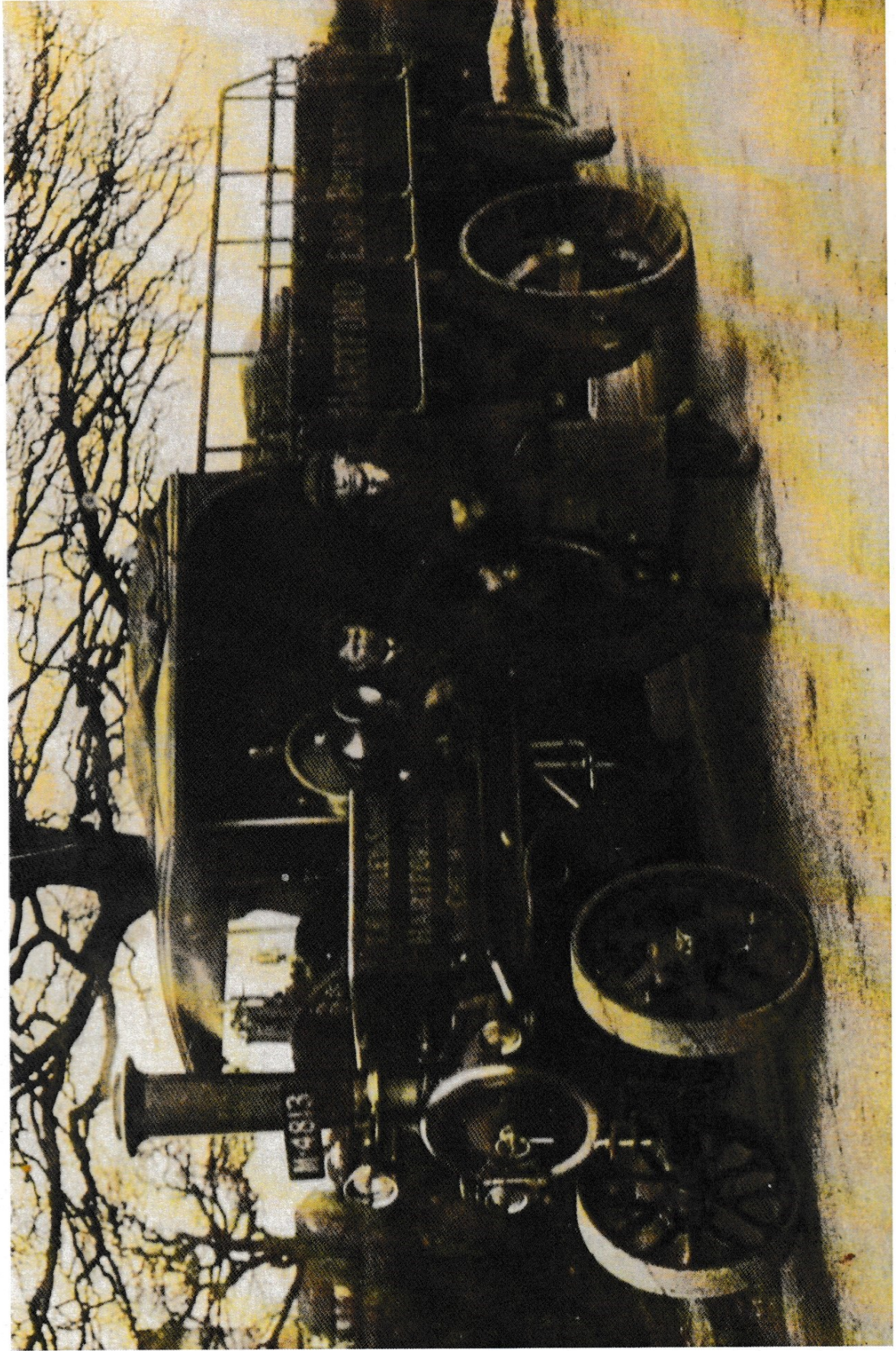
Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction

God grant to the living grace, the departed rest,
the church, The Queen, governments, rulers
and all the world peace and concord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**







Lance Corporal Perkins (right) was an employee at the TD Ridley and Sons Ltd Hartford End Brewery.



ARMY

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