



**A Rededication Service for
Lance Corporal Leonard Thomas Courtney**

4th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment

**14:30 hours Tuesday 9 October 2018
Stasegem Communal Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Tim Flowers CF
Chaplain 4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment**

Lance Corporal Leonard Thomas Courtney

Lance Corporal Leonard Thomas Courtney was born in 1895 in Barnstable, Devon. He was the eldest of the six children of Thomas Courtney and Caroline Amelia Easterbrook. Before joining the Army he worked as a designer for Brannam Pottery. Initially assigned to 1/7th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment he later transferred to 4th Battalion. He was 23 when he was killed in action on 20 October 1918, just three weeks before the end of the First World War.

On 19 October 1918 the 88th Brigade advanced across the Lys Canal before on 20 October, attacking to the north. 4th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment were in reserve. The Battalion were tasked with mopping up the southern area of Harelbeke before moving to Stasegem to help clear the village. Lance Corporal Leonard Thomas Courtney was killed during the course of this action. For nearly a hundred years his final resting place has remained unknown and he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. However, he is now known to be buried in this cemetery. Today we will remember Lance Corporal Courtney and his grave will be rededicated.

23 casualties from several different Regiments who died in the vicinity of Stasegem during October and November 1918 were buried in the Stasegem Communal Cemetery by the 29th Division Burial Officers. Although they were able to name twenty of them, three remained unidentified.

Call to Worship

We have come to this place to rededicate the final resting place of Lance Corporal Leonard Thomas Courtney who served with The Worcestershire Regiment, whose life was taken during the Great War, and whose remains were reinterred here.

Today, in this place, we accord this man the dignity and respect that he is due and commend him to the mercy and grace of God our redeemer and judge, and in the hope and life given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us.

All May the peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

Bidding Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God who calls those who follow Him to live lives of justice, mercy and humility; Hallow this place and those who stand here before you today and we reflect upon man's humanity and your great gift of life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Jan Courtney
Great Niece of Lance Corporal Courtney

Ecclesiastes 3 v 1-8 (ESV)

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones
together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Reading

Read by a Representative from the British Embassy

In Flanders Fields

by Lieutenant-Colonel 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.

Address

The Collect of The Worcestershire Regiment

Captain Benedict Griffiths

Regimental Adjutant, The Mercian Regiment

O God, our help and strength, who hast built us upon the
rock of Christ our foundation, uphold, we pray thee, thy
servants of The Worcestershire Regiment in every trial by
sea or by land, that, trusting in thy everlasting strength, we
may be steadfast and unmoveable, and may hold fast our
hope firm unto the end, in the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Exhortation

Captain Terence Twining MBE
Adjutant, 16 Medical Regiment, RAMC

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

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Captain Terence Twining MBE
Adjutant, 16 Medical Regiment, RAMC

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

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving all those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time of war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. By your grace, we dedicate ourselves anew to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your name.

All **Amen.**

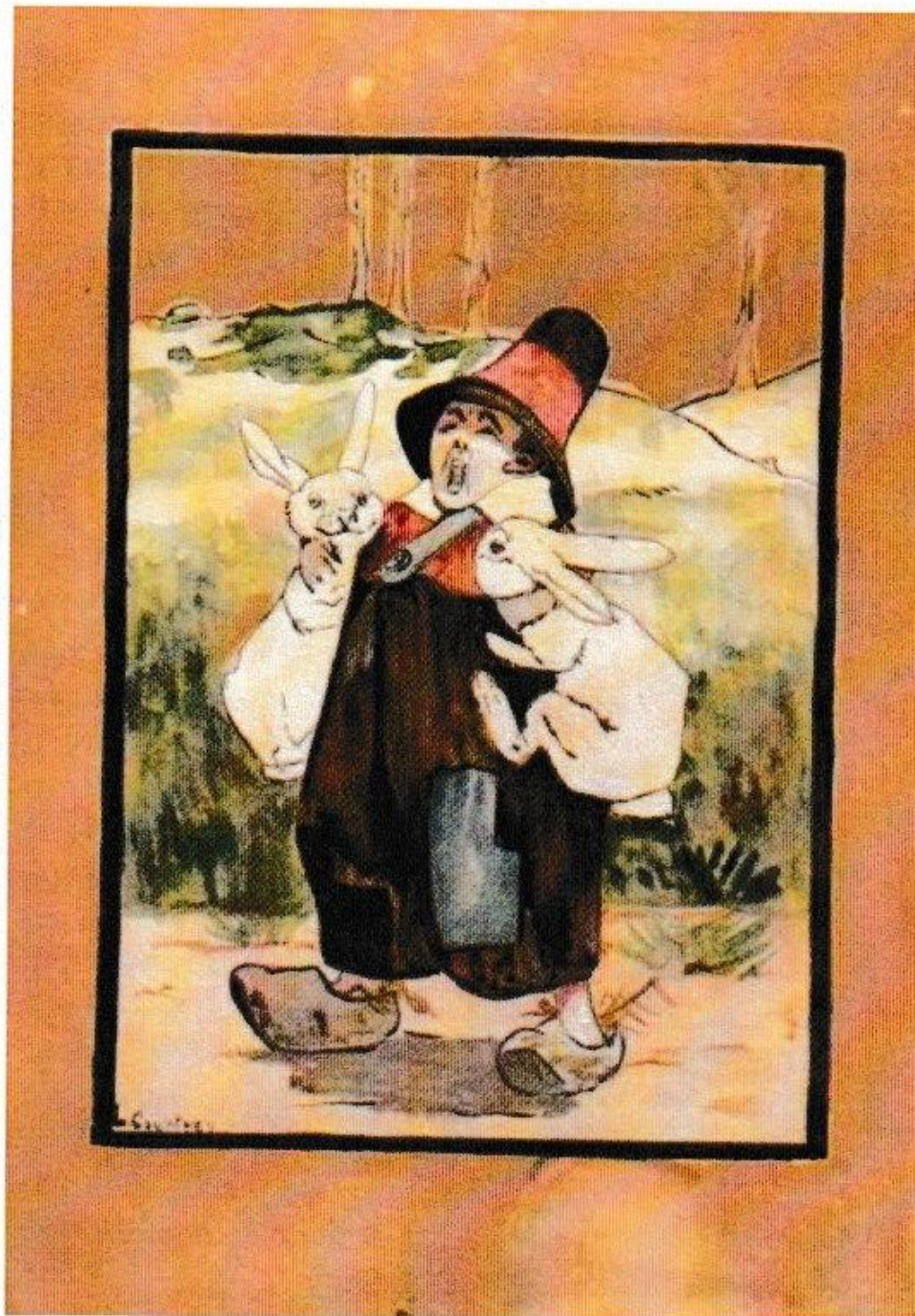
The Lord's Prayer

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

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.**



A painting by Leonard Courtney



ARMY

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