



A Rededication Service for

Captain Cecil Thomas Tuff

1st Battalion

The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)

10.30 hours on Tuesday 14th May 2019

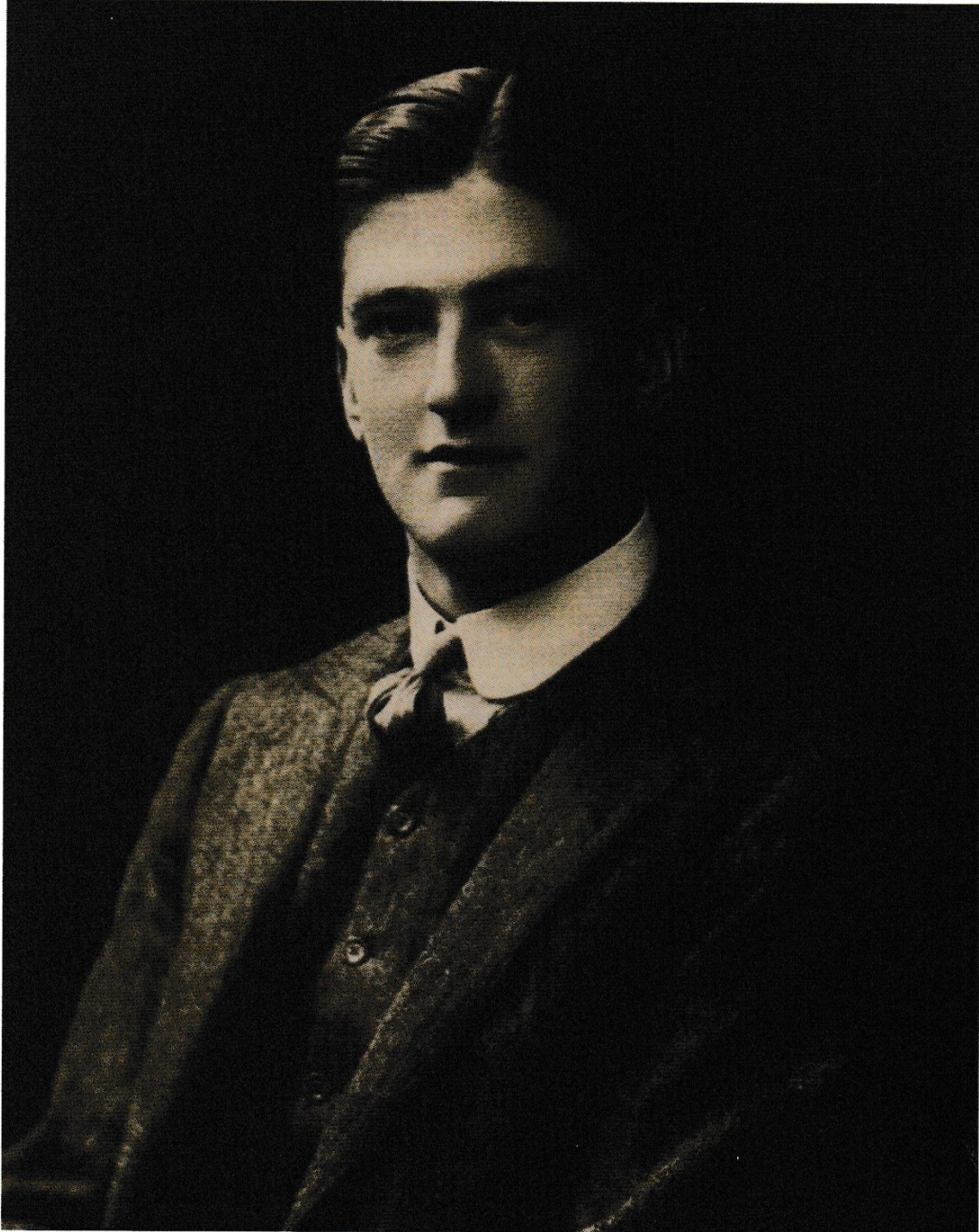
Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, Belgium

Service conducted by

The Reverend Ian Kemp CF, Chaplain 2nd Battalion

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Captain Cecil Thomas Tuff



Cecil Thomas Tuff was born on 16 August 1885 in Rochester, Kent. He was the third of four sons born to Mary Ann Gill and Charles Tuff. He was educated at Abbey School in Beckenham before studying at Malvern College between 1899 and 1904. The Malvernian Magazine of June 1915 tells us that he played football for the school, was part of the shooting team and was a Lieutenant in the Officer Training Corps. He is described as 'a boy of strong sturdy character'. He was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 3rd Battalion The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on 25 March 1905 before being promoted to Lieutenant on 21 May 1906. Having resigned his Commission on 30 October 1910, Cecil worked as a farmer and was resident at St Mary's Hoo, near Rochester.

On 6 August 1914, two days after the outbreak of the First World War, Cecil was recommissioned and on 26 September 1914 he was promoted to Captain and is listed as belonging to 3rd Battalion The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). On 30 October 1914 he was attached to 1st Battalion, who had already been deployed to the Western Front.

Captain Tuff's brother, Second Lieutenant Frank Noel Tuff, died of wounds on 5 November 1915, in Malta. His two other brothers, Charles and Bertram, both served during, and survived, the Great War.

On 18 April 1915, the day of Captain Tuff's death, the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) was located at Hill 60 near Ypres. Hill 60 had been held by the Germans since 10 December 1914 and was of strategic significance as it overlooked the town, affording the Germans observational advantage. On 17 April 1915 five mines were exploded under Hill 60. This was followed by an attack by British forces which retook the hill. The following four days saw repeated counter attacks as the Germans attempted to regain the high ground. They were unsuccessful and on 22 April 1915,

the first day of the Second Battle of Ypres, the fighting on Hill 60 subsided.

1st Battalion The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) took part in the attack on 17 April. They were involved in heavy fighting, fending off several counter attacks and enduring regular shelling from the enemy. It was during these attacks that Captain Tuff was killed. Evacuation of the wounded was very difficult and Captain Tuff's body remained on Hill 60 until after the Great War, when he was buried in Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery as an unknown Captain of The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) and he was commemorated on the Menin Gate. However, new research has enabled his grave to be identified. Today we will remember Captain Tuff and his grave will be rededicated.

The 'Oosttaverne Line' German positions were captured on the first day of the Battle of Messines in June 1917 and two cemeteries were made on the site. After the Armistice the cemeteries were enlarged and became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery. Amongst the graves brought in to the cemetery from the surrounding battlefields were those of The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) casualties from the action at Hill 60 in 1915, including Captain Cecil Thomas Tuff.

Call to Worship

We come together this day to glorify God who sustains the world; to remember with thanksgiving Captain Cecil Tuff who lived and died in the service of our country; and to ask for God's help and blessing that we may be worthy of his sacrifice every day of our life.

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

Bidding Prayer

Father of all mercies: grant that our remembrance this day may be consecrated for practical service and the world made better for our children's children.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Read by a representative of the British Embassy

Isaiah Chapter 2 v 3-4 (NIV)

Many peoples will come and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."

Gospel Reading

Read by Geoffrey Tuff

Great Nephew of Captain Tuff

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.”

Reading

Read by Prunella Scarlett LVO

Great Niece of Captain Tuff

Men of Kent

William Wordsworth

VANGUARD of Liberty, ye men of Kent,
Ye children of a Soil that doth advance
Her haughty brow against the coast of France,
Now is the time to prove your hardiment!
To France be words of invitation sent!
They from their fields can see the countenance
Of your fierce war, may ken the glittering lance
And hear you shouting forth your brave intent.
Left single, in bold parley, ye, of yore,
Did from the Norman win a gallant wreath;
Confirmed the charters that were yours before; --
No parleying now! In Britain is one breath;
We all are with you now from shore to shore: --
Ye men of Kent, 'tis victory or death!

Address

The Collect of The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)

Read by Major Jay Smith

1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Oh God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has taught us by his Holy Apostle that the fruits of righteousness are to thy glory, may it please thee so to lead The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) that by well doing we may glorify thee both in our bodies and in our spirits, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Act of Dedication

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgiving for Captain Cecil Tuff, for all that he was and for all that he accomplished. Fulfil in him the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with him, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

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

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

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

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

Lord God, in the darkness of this world you brought hope
in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ who conquered
death. We pray that you will conquer the darkness that is
within so that we may dwell forever in your glorious light.

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.**

Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and humanity: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

All **Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all your peoples, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always.
Amen.**

The Blessing

May God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**



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