



A Rededication Service for

Second Lieutenant Frank Wood
1st Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers

Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 11.30am
CWGC Vichte Military Cemetery, Belgium

Service conducted by
Reverend Andy Nicolls CF

Frank Wood was born in 1889 in Royton, Oldham, Lancashire. His parents were William Wood and Jane Harrison. Frank appears as a baby on the 1891 Census, living in Higginshaw Lane, Oldham, with his parents and his siblings, Mary, Martha, Harrison and John.

By the time of the 1911 Census, there are only Frank and his brother, John, still living at home with their parents. Frank was 21 years old and unmarried. His occupation was listed as Shop Assistant – Pawnbroker.

Frank's older brother, John, married Eleanor Brigham later in 1911 and they had a son, Stanley (born 1912). He subsequently married Ellen Nape and had 4 children; Chris, who is with us today, Rosalind, Penelope and Victoria. Chris has chosen the personal inscription for his great uncle's headstone on behalf of his family.

As a matter of interest, Frank's brother, John, also served in the Great War and survived. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

About the Service

The service has been organised by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre and will be attended by regimental representatives and local dignitaries. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission will be providing the headstone.

About the Cemetery

The first burials in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Vichte Military Cemetery were made in October 1918 by the burial officers of the 9th and 31st Divisions. They make up Plot I, Rows A and B and part of Row C. After the Armistice, the cemetery was enlarged with the addition of graves from the surrounding battlefields, including the grave of Second Lieutenant Wood.

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

We have come together, family, friends, representatives of His Majesty the King and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, to give thanks for the life of Second Lieutenant Frank Wood, who was killed in action on 30 September 1918. 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 heaven;
through our saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In Flanders Fields – written by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
between the crosses row on row
that mark our place; and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
scarce heard among 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.

John 6 - Selected verses

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty....Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

The Lonely Isle

Written by J R R Tolkien (Lieutenant in the Lancashire Fusiliers) on his way to the Western Front.

O glimmering island set sea-girdled and alone
A gleam of white rock through a sunny haze.
O all ye hoary caverns ringing with the moan
of long green waters in the southern bays:
Ye murmurous never-ceasing voices of the tide.
Ye plumed foams wherein the shore and spirits ride:
Ye white birds flying from the whispering coast
and wailing conclaves of the silver shore,
sea voiced, sea winged, lamentable host
who cry about unharboured beaches evermore.
Who sadly whistling skim these waters grey

and wheel about my lonely outward way.
For me, forever they forbidden marge appears
a gleam of white rock over sundering seas.
And they are crowned in glory through a mist of tears:
Thy shores all full of music and thy lands of ease.
Old haunts of many children robed in flowers
until the sun pace down his arch of hours.
When in the silence fairies with a wistful heart
dance to soft airs their harps and viols weave.
Down the great wastes and in gloom apart
I long for thee and thy fair citadel.
Where echoing through the lighted elms at eve
in a high inland tower there peals a bell:
O lonely, sparkling isle, farewell!

Revelation 21:1-4; 22:4-5

I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished,
and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
made ready like a bride for her husband.

I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne:
"Now God has his dwelling with mankind!
He will dwell among them and they shall be his people,
and God himself will be with them."

He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There shall be an end to death,
and to mourning and crying and pain,
for the old order has passed away.

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be there,
and his servants shall worship him;

they shall see him face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. There shall be no more night, nor will they need the light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will give them light; and they shall reign for ever.

Address: Reverend Andy Nicolls CF

You have done all you can on a physical level, and now must enter sacred waiting. The hardest most integral step is turning all over to the grace of life and the coming transformative powers born from the steps you have already taken.

Written by Sarah Blondin

The Act of Remembrance

Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them
and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for your servant Frank Wood
and for all that you did through him.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping:
those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we
knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived
and died in the service of humanity.

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

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

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

Wreath Laying

The Prayers

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may give us peace:
for the service men and women
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief
and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatred of humanity;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and religious;
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

The Collect of the Lancashire Fusiliers

O Lord God, for as much as nothing is too hard for thee,
increase, we pray thee, the faith of the Lancashire Fusiliers,
so that we may wear courage like a flower in the day of battle,
and hearing his voice who hath said,
"all things are possible to him that believeth",
may endure all things for the love of thee,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Soldier's Prayer by Sgt J E Blue

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands,
protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform
for us in our time of need,
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they
shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40: 31

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; Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, for ever and ever.
Amen.



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