



A Rededication Service for

**Serjeant Arthur Harry Morton
9th Battalion The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry**

**10:30 hours Wednesday 22 June 2022
CWGC Cojeul British Cemetery, France**

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

Serjeant Arthur Harry Morton



Serjeant Arthur Harry Morton was born in 1897 in Guildford, Surrey. He was one of four children born to Arthur Henry Morton and his wife Jessie. He enlisted into The East Surrey Regiment on 5 March 1915 and arrived on the Western Front on 31 August 1915. He worked as a stretcher bearer until he was gassed in June 1916. He was invalided home and when sent back to France was transferred to The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

On 9 April 1917, the first day of the Battle of Arras, 9th Battalion The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry took part in an assault on the Hindenburg Line around the Henin-Heninel Road. The battalion left their jumping off position at 15:52 hours in two waves. They were successful at getting through the first line of German wire but were held up at the second line. The attack stalled as they were fired on with rifle and machine gun fire.

The battalion established itself in shell holes within the German wire but were unable to reorganise in daylight as German snipers were very active. At dusk companies of 10th Battalion The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry were seen advancing to occupy the road in front of the enemy's positions. Members of 9th Battalion were then organised and started digging in on the left of 10th Battalion. At 04:00 hours on 10 April they were ordered to withdraw. It was during this attack that Serjeant Morton was killed aged just 19.

Serjeant Morton was buried in Cojeul British Cemetery but his grave was recorded as that of an unknown serjeant of The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who was killed on 9 April 1917. As he was missing, Serjeant Morton was commemorated on the Arras Memorial. However, new research has shown that this is in fact the grave of Serjeant Morton. Today we will remember him, and his grave will be rededicated.

The village of St. Martin-sur-Cojeul was captured by the Allies in April 1917, during the advance in which Serjeant Arthur Harry Morton was killed. The area was lost in March 1918 and retaken in August that year. Serjeant Morton's grave is among the original burials in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Cojeul British Cemetery, which was used by fighting units until October 1918. The cemetery contains 349 burials and commemorations of the First World War, including special memorials for 31 graves destroyed by shell fire.

Serjeant Arthur Harry Morton est né à Guildford, Surrey, en 1897. Il été un des quatre enfants nés à Arthur Henry Morton et sa femme Jessie. Le 5 mars, 1915, il s'est engagé dans le East Surrey Regiment et il est arrivé sur le Front Occidental le 31 août, 1915. Il a travaillé comme brancardier jusqu'à ce qu'il soit gazé. Il été invalidité et renvoyer au Royaume-Uni. Quand il a retourné en France il a été transféré au King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Le 9 avril, 1917, le premier jour de la bataille d'Arras, 9^e Bataillon du King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry a pris part à une attaque sur le Hindenburg Line à côte de la route entre Henin et Heninel. Ils ont quitté leur positions vers 15 :52 heures en deux vagues. Ils sont traversés la première ligne de défense allemande, mais l'attaque fut interrompue lorsqu'ils ont atteint la deuxième ligne. Le bataillon s'abritait dans des cratères d'obus. Le soir, 10^e Bataillon du King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, a avancé, et 9^e Bataillon a creusé sur leurs gauche. Vers 04 :00 heures le 10 avril, 9^e Bataillon été relévé. C'était au cours de cette attaque que Serjeant Morton a été tué. Il avait juste 19 ans.

Ses restes ont été enterré à Cojeul British Cemetery comme un serjeant inconnu du King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Arras. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Serjeant Morton 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 Serjeant Arthur Harry Morton and to honour him this day. 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

Psalm 121 (NIV)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Gospel Reading*Lecture de l'Évangile*

Read by Captain Thomas Westlake

5th Battalion The Rifles**John Chapter 14 v 1-6 (NIV)**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Reading

Lecture

Read by Second Lieutenant Jack Rice
2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

The Soldier

By Rupert Brook

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England. There shall be
In that rich dust a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by the suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

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 Serjeant Arthur Harry Morton. 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 Captain Thomas Westlake
5th Battalion The Rifles

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 Second Lieutenant Jack Rice
2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

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.**

Collect of The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

Récitation du King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

Read by Captain Thomas Westlake

5th Battalion The Rifles

O God, who wilt not give thy glory to another, grant, we pray thee, that The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who will not lightly yield to any enemy, may yield to none in giving glory to thee, for the sake of him who endured the cross and is glorified for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 de 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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