



A Rededication Service for

**Captain Eric Wilson Edwards**

6<sup>th</sup> Battalion

The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)

**10.30 hours on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, France**

Service conducted by

The Reverend Ian Kemp CF, Chaplain 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Captain Eric Wilson Edwards was born on 1 June 1891 in Lee, Kent. He was the eldest of the two sons of William Edwards and Mary Wilson. He was educated at Blackheath Proprietary School and in November 1914 joined the Officer Training Corps at the University of London. He was a partner in the firm Braikenridge & Edwards Solicitors. In January 1916 he was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). In April 1917 he was promoted to Lieutenant before becoming a Temporary Captain in October that year. In April 1916 he served in Ireland during the Easter Uprising.

On 30 November 1917, the day of his death, Captain Edwards was serving with 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). The Battalion War Diaries show that on that day they were ordered to concentrate at Vaucelette Farm to consolidate a defensive position at Heudicourt, which the enemy had broken through. Upon reaching the farm, they dug in, but were unable to stop the advance. It was during this attack that Captain Edwards went missing. After the Great War, Captain Edwards was buried in Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery as an unknown Captain. He was commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial. However, new research has enabled his grave to be identified. Today we will remember Captain Edwards and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, designed by Sir Herbert Baker, was begun in November 1917, taken over by the Germans in the spring of 1918, and used again by Commonwealth forces in September and October 1918. The original burials are now in Plot III. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves, including the unidentified grave of Captain Eric Wilson Edwards, were brought in from other small cemeteries and the battlefield of Cambrai.



Captain Eric Wilson Edwards est né le 1 juin, 1891 à Lee, Kent. Il été le plus aine des deux fils de William Edwards et Mary Wilson. Il a fait ses études Blackheath Proprietary School et en novembre 1914 il est entré au 'Officer Training Corps' de l'Université de Londres. Il été un associé du cabinet d'avocats Braikenridge & Edwards Solicitors. En janvier 1916 il est devenu un officier commissionné dans le Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). En avril 1917 il fut Lieutenant avant de devenir un Captain temporaire en octobre de la même année.

Le 30 novembre, 1917, le jour de son décès, Captain Edwards servait avec 6e Bataillon du Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Les Journaux de Guerre de 6e Bataillon indiquent que ce jour-là ils ont été ordonnés de concentrer à Vaucelette Farm et de consolider une position défensive que l'ennemie a traversé. En arrivant à la ferme, ils se retranché, mais ils ont été incapables d'arrêter l'avance. C'était au cours de cette attaque que Captain Edwards est disparu. Après la Grande Guerre il a été enterré à Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery comme un Captain inconnu. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Cambrai. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Captain Edwards et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

## **Call to Worship**

*Appel à Adoration*

We come together this day to glorify God who sustains the world; to remember with thanksgiving Captain Eric Edwards 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**

*Prière*

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.**

## **Gospel Reading**

*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by Michael Lowe

### **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**

### *Lecture*

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Joe Craven  
The British Embassy Paris

## **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.



## **Scripture Reading**

*Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by Major Jay Smith

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

### **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.”

## **Address**

*Allocution*

**The Collect of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)**

*Récitation de Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)*

Read by Major Jay Smith

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

O Lamb of God, in whom we behold the saviour of the world, in whom we triumph even in adversities, keep, we pray thee, thy servants of The Queen's Royal Regiment ever mindful in all duty by sea and by land of thy valour of old unto death, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God world without end.

*All* **Amen.**

**Act of Dedication**

*Acte de Dévouement*

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 Eric Edwards, 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**

*L'Éxhortation*

Read by Gary Woodruff

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

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*

Read by Gary Woodruff

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

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*

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**

*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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **Commitment**

### *Dévouement*

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**

### *Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction*

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;

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



ARMY

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