



A Rededication Service for
Captain Vivian Hastings Clay
2nd Battalion The (Duke of Edinburgh's)
Wiltshire Regiment

15:30 hours Tuesday 21 June 2022
CWGC Warlencourt 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

Captain Vivian Hastings Clay



Captain Vivian Hastings Clay was born on 18 October 1892 in Fovant, Wiltshire. He was one of three children born to Challoner Clay and his wife Annie. He graduated from University College Durham in 1914 with a degree in Ecclesiastical Studies. Vivian was Commissioned into The Wiltshire Regiment on 15 April 1915 and embarked for the Western Front in September 1915. He was promoted to Captain in August 1916.

On 18 October 1916, 2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment took part in an attack east of Le Sars. Their objectives were Gird Trench and Gird Support Trench. They were successful in taking the first German line and were ordered to consolidate. It was whilst consolidating this line that Captain Clay was killed. It was his 24th Birthday.

Captain Clay is reported to have been walking about on the top of the trench encouraging his men to consolidate their position when he was shot. One of his men stated 'after setting a splendid example in grenade throwing, he endeavoured to persuade his men to dig a communications trench to our lines. They were most reluctant, so he and I went out into the open in the hope that they would follow. Almost immediately he was struck in the back.'

After the war, Captain Clay's remains were recovered and buried in Warlencourt British Cemetery as an unknown Captain of The Wiltshire Regiment. As he was missing, Captain Clay was commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. However, new research has shown that this is in fact the grave of Captain Clay. Today we will remember him and his grave will be rededicated.

Captain Vivian Hastings Clay was among the early casualties of the fierce fighting which took place on the battlefields of Warlencourt and Le Sars from 1916. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Warlencourt British Cemetery was created in late 1919 when graves, including that of Captain

Clay, were brought in from small cemeteries and the surrounding battlefields. The cemetery now contains 3,505 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. Sadly, over a third remain unidentified.

Captain Vivian Hastings Clay est né à Fovant, Wiltshire, le 18 octobre, 1892. Il été un des trois enfants nés à Challoner Clay et sa femme Annie. Juste avant le début de la Première Guerre Mondiale, il a obtenu un diplôme en les études ecclésiastiques de University College Durham. Le 15 avril, 1915, il a obtenu une commission comme Second Lieutenant dans le Wiltshire Regiment. Il est arrivé sur le Front Occidental en septembre 1915 et est devenu un Captain en août 1916.

Le 18 octobre, 1916, 2^e Bataillon du Wiltshire Regiment a pris part d'une attaque à l'est du le Sars. Leurs objectifs étaient 'Gird Trench' et 'Gird Support Trench'. Ils ont pris la ligne allemande et ils ont été ordonnés de consolider. C'était au cours de cette consolidation que Captain Clay a été tué. C'était son 24^e anniversaire. Il a été rapporté que Captain Clay s'est levé au dessus la tranchée et qu'il été en train de s'encourager ses hommes lorsqu'il a été atteint.

Après la guerre ses restes ont été recouperé et enterré à Warlencourt British Cemetery comme un Captain inconnu du Wiltshire Regiment. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Thiepval. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Captain Clay 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 Captain Vivian Hastings Clay 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 27 v 1-6 (NIV)

The LORD is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.
Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Second Lieutenant Jack Rice

2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

Revelation Chapter 21 v 1-4 (NIV)

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Reading

Lecture

Read By Captain Thomas Westlake

5th Battalion The Rifles

If

By Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

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 Captain Vivian Hastings Clay. 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.**

The Collect of The Wiltshire Regiment

Récitation de Wiltshire Régiment

Read by Captain Thomas Westlake

5th Battalion The Rifles

O God, who hast taught us that we are members one of another, and that the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee, grant to us, thy servants of The Wiltshire Regiment, that, as our brotherhood has often been proved in time of battle, so at all times and in all places we may give honour to whom honour is due and bear one another's burdens, for the sake of 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.**



Tablet commemorating Captain Clay in St George's Church, Fovant.



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.

© Crown Copyright/JCCC – 2022