



A Funeral Service for

**Private Henry Albert Victor Wallington
Private Frank Mead
and
One Unknown Soldier**

23rd Battalion (County of London) Regiment

Killed in action on 3 December 1917

**Hermies Hill British Cemetery
France**

Wednesday 12 June 2019 at 10:30 hours

**Service Conducted by
The Reverend Martin Wainwright CF**



History of 23rd (County of London) Battalion during the First World War

The 23rd (County of London) Battalion was serving as part of the 6th London Brigade, 2nd London Division. The division had just arrived for their annual summer camp on Salisbury Plain when war was declared in August 1914. They were recalled immediately to their home base and mobilised for war service. They proceeded to France on 16 March 1915, landing at Le Havre, being only the second Territorial Force Division to arrive in theatre. On 11 May 1915, the formation was renamed the 142nd Brigade, 47th (2nd London) Division.

During 1915 they saw action in the Battle of Aubers Ridge, the Battle of Festubert, the Battle of Loos and the subsequent actions of the Hohenzollern Redoubt. In 1916, they fought during the German attack on Vimy Ridge and during the Battle of the Somme. In 1917, they also fought in Belgium during the Battle of Messines, the Third Battle of Ypres and the Cambrai operations. In 1918 they were in action on the Somme and the Final Advance in Artois including making the official entry into Lille.

At the Armistice, the forward units of the Division had reached Franes-lez-Buissenal. They marched back to Tournai and on 26th November 1918 moved on to the Bethune area where demobilisation began with the front parties returning to England in the first week of January 1919.

Battle of Cambrai

At dawn on 20 November 1917, the British Third Army launched an attack towards Cambrai. The assault utilised the largest number of tanks yet assembled. The attack began with significant gains on the opening day through a combination of effective artillery fire, infantry tactics and tanks. British forces made advances of around 5 miles, taking a number of villages. However, by the end of the first day, over half the tanks were out of action.

As the battle continued, British progress slowed amidst intense fighting. By 28 November the British had reached a position on the crest of Broulon Ridge, where they held a salient. Two days later, German forces launched a counter-offensive, utilising extensive artillery fire and infantry tactics that made use of infiltrating 'storm' troops. After more intense fighting, British forces retreated from their salient position, only leaving them with the gains they had made around the villages of Havrincourt, Ribécourt and Flesquières. In early December, the battle was brought to a close with over 80,000 men from both sides either wounded, missing or killed.

Fighting units started burials at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hermies Hill British Cemetery in November 1917, continuing until March 1918 with further graves added in September. After the Armistice, additional graves were brought in from small cemeteries and the battlefields around Hermies. It is in this vicinity that Private Wallington, Private Mead and the Unknown soldier of the 23rd Battalion, London Regiment died. They can now be laid to rest with other casualties from their battalion.

Welcome
Invitation á la Prière

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
And the love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with you all.

We are gathered here today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past.

Today we remember with thanksgiving Private Henry Albert Victor Wallington, Private Frank Mead and this Unknown Soldier whom, alongside so many others, answered the call of their country, served with honour and gave their lives in the service of their nation.

We will shortly commit their bodies to be buried. In so doing let us commit ourselves anew to remember their courage. For by so doing we honour their memory and we reflect upon that sacrifice.

Let us offer ourselves also to God's service, that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven and that His kingdom of justice and peace be established everywhere.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Let us recall the presence of God, the Father of all mankind, maker and sustainer of all that is, whose purposes are good, whose love is never withheld and whose mercy never passes away. We call to mind His faithfulness in times of darkness and despair.

We remember before Him our brothers and sisters whose names are known only to God, and all who have served in the Armed Forces of our nation; who counted service to others greater than service of self, and who gave their lives in battle.

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in His resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Ecritures Saintes

Ecclesiastes 3, 1 – 8 (King James Version)

To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted:
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up:
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance:
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones
together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing:
A time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away:
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak:
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Ecritures Saintes

John 14, 1 – 6 (King James Version)

Let not your heart be troubled:
ye believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I
would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and
receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.
Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest;
and how can we know the way?
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no
man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Address

Allocution

The Reverend Martin Wainwright

The Soldier

Un poème de Rupert Brook, récité par la famille Mead

Read by Paul Mead (Great Nephew of Pte Frank Mead)

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.

Rupert Brook

Heredity

Un poème de Thomas Hardy, récité par la famille Wallington

Read by Margot Bains (Niece of Pte Henry Wallington)

I am the family face;
Flesh perishes, I live on,
Projecting trait and trace
Through time to times anon,
And leaping from place to place
Over oblivion.

The years-heired feature that can
In curve and voice and eye
Despise the human span
Of durance – that is I;
The eternal thing in man,
That heeds no call to die.

Thomas Hardy

Interment

Mise en terre

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.*

Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field
when the wind goes over it; it is gone
and its place will know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures
for ever and ever...

We have entrusted these three men in to the hands of God. We therefore commit their bodies to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust having our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of our heavenly Father, and in the victory of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who died, was buried and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for evermore.
Amen

Firing Party

Salve d'Honneur

The Exhortation

L'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.
We will remember them.

The Last Post

Sonnerie aux morts

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Lecture de l'Epitaphe de Kohima

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

The Laying of the Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes et Couronnes

Prayers

Prières

Almighty God, protect all who serve in the Forces of The Queen; strengthen us in danger and temptation, give us courage and loyalty, that we may remain true to the highest traditions of our profession; and keep us steadfast when faced with the perils of action in war; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Almighty God, who has revealed your only Son as the resurrection and the life; raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness that, when we depart from this life, we may rest in Him, and at the last may receive the blessing; Well done good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord. Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our mediator and redeemer.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer
Prière du Seigneur

**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**

Regimental Collect of the East Surrey Regiment

Récitation du Régiment

O God, who dost prove and try thy people as gold is tried in the fire, grant, we beseech thee, of thy mercy, that thy servants, the East Surrey Regiment, who have been tried by water and by fire and proved in many a day of battle, may never be confounded, forasmuch as we trust in thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Regimental Collect of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Récitation du Régiment

Almighty God, the strength of those who put their trust in thee and the hope of those who serve and follow thee; grant to the members of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment such a measure of thy grace that in both peace and war they may win thy favour, and with courage and loyalty faithfully serve their Queen and country, upholding those noble traditions of which they are the proud inheritors. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Dismissal

Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening falls,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at last;
through Christ our Lord.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you
and all those you love and for whom you pray,
this day and always.

Amen



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