



A Rededication Service for

**Captain Frederick Arthur John Robertson Brooke
Royal Army Medical Corps**

**10:00 hours Wednesday 6 September 2023
CWGC La Ville-aux-Bois British Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Tim Clarke-Wood CF
Chaplain to 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland**
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Tim Clarke-Wood CF

Captain Frederick Arthur John Robertson Brooke



Captain Frederick Arthur John Robertson Brooke was born in Caxton, Cambridgeshire, on 31 March 1863. He was one of five children born to Thomas George Brooke and his wife Annie Adelaide. He was educated at Epsom College before studying medicine at the London Hospital. After a break in his studies, Frederick qualified as a doctor in November 1894.

On 16 October 1895, Frederick married Constance Blanche Moore in Duffield, Derbyshire. The couple had seven children, Cecil, Olive, Nora, Margaret, Sylvia, Dorothy and Lancelot. Their son Second Lieutenant Cecil Rupert Brooke was killed on 24 April 1917 whilst serving with 8th Battalion The Gordon Highlanders and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Frederick was Commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps on 10 July 1915 and initially took charge of wards at Sidmouth Barracks. He went on to serve onboard HMS Britannic, the sister ship of the Titanic, which had been requisitioned as a hospital ship after the outbreak of the First World War. The ship was ultimately sunk after hitting a German mine on 21 November 1916 in the Aegean Sea. Captain Brooke went on to serve at Thornhill Camp near Winchester and at a convalescent hospital in France before becoming the Medical Officer of 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment.

The War Diaries of 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment show that at 21:15 hours on 26 May 1918, they took up positions in front of Guyencourt. At 01:00 hours on 27 May, the first day of the Third Battle of the Aisne, the enemy began a heavy gas bombardment which lasted until 05:00 hours. At that point they began to attack the forward battalion line held by 8th Division.

At 07:00 hours 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment were ordered to move forward to cover the retirement of frontline troops, before at 10:15 hours, moving forward again to hold the line in front of Bouffignereux. The enemy constantly shelled the

Battalion HQ and gun fire swept across the roads and tracks leading to it. The Regimental Aid Post, from which Captain Brooke would have operated, was located in a small quarry close to the Battalion HQ. At 17:40 hours the enemy attacked again, and 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment were forced to retreat. They split into small parties as they retired and fought small rear-guard actions. Captain Brooke was killed during the fighting that day.

After the war Captain Brooke's body was recovered and he was buried as an unknown Officer of Royal Army Medical Corps in La Ville-aux-Bois British Cemetery. As he was missing, he was commemorated on the Soissons Memorial to the missing. However, new research has shown that this grave belongs to Captain Brooke and the headstone has now been changed. Today we will remember Captain Brooke and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's La Ville-aux-Bois British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when isolated graves from a wide area, including that of Captain Brooke, were brought in from the battlefields and smaller cemeteries. Sadly, almost three-quarters of the Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war commemorated here remain unidentified.

Captain Frederick Arthur John Robertson Brooke est né le 31 mars, 1863 à Caxton, Cambridgeshire. Il été un des cinq enfants nés à Thomas George Brooke et sa femme Annie Adelaide. Il fait ses études à Epsom College avant d'étudier la médecine à London Hospital. Après une interruption de ses études, il obtient le titre de médecin en novembre 1894.

Le 16 octobre, 1895, frederick a épousé Constance Blanche Moore à Duffield, Derbyshire. Le couple a eu sept enfants, Cecil, Olive, Nora, Margaret, Sylvia, Dorothy and Lancelot. Leur fils Second Lieutenant Cecil Rupert Brooke a été tué le 24

avril, 1917, en servant avec 8^e Bataillon du Gordon Highlanders et il est commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Arras.

Le 10 juillet, 1915, Frederick a obtenu une commission avec le Royal Army Medical Corps et a d'abord pris en charge les services hospitaliers de la caserne de Sidmouth. Il a ensuite servi à bord du HMS Britannic, le navire jumeau du Titanic, qui avait été réquisitionné comme navire-hôpital après le début de la Première Guerre mondiale. Le navire a finalement été coulé après avoir heurté une mine allemande le 21 novembre 1916 dans la mer Égée. Captain Brooke a ensuite servi au camp de Thornhill, près de Winchester, et dans un hôpital de convalescence en France, avant de devenir médecin militaire du 1^{er} Bataillon du Wiltshire Regiment.

Les journaux de guerre du 1^{er} Bataillon du Wiltshire Regiment montrent que le 26 mai, 1918, ils ont pris les positions à Guyencourt. Vers 01:00 heures le 27 mai, le premier jour de la Troisième Bataille de l'Aisne, l'ennemi a commencé un lourd bombardement au gaz qui dura jusqu'à 05:00 heures. À ce moment-là, ils commencèrent à attaquer la ligne de bataillon avancée tenue par la 8e division.

Vers 07:00 heures, le 1^{er} Bataillon du Wiltshire Regiment reçoit l'ordre d'avancer pour couvrir la retraite des troupes de première ligne, avant de repartir vers 10:15 heures pour tenir la ligne devant Bouffignereux. L'ennemi bombarde constamment le QG du bataillon et des tirs d'artillerie balaient les routes et les pistes qui y mènent. Le poste de secours du régiment, à partir duquel Captain Brooke aurait opéré, était situé dans une petite carrière près du QG du bataillon. Vers 17:40 heures, l'ennemi a attaqué à nouveau et le 1^{er} Bataillon du Wiltshire Regiment fut contraint de battre en retraite. Ils se divisent en petits groupes au fur et à mesure qu'ils se retirent et mènent de petites actions d'arrière-garde. Captain Brooke fut tué au cours des combats ce jour-là.

Après la guerre les restes de Captain Brooke ont été recouperé et enterré à La Ville-aux-Bois British Cemetery comme un officier inconnu du Royal Army Medical Corps. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Soissons. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Captain Brooke et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

The Gathering

Appel à Adoration

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." John Chapter 11 v 25 & 26

We have come together to rededicate the final resting place of Captain Frederick Arthur John Robertson Brooke and to honour him this day with family and friends gathered here.

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.

All **Amen.**

Opening 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

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1-8 (KJV)

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.

Reading

Lecture

Read by Diana Brooke

Granddaughter of Captain Brooke

Cecil

A poem for the beloved son of Frederick and Constance Brooke, written by his uncle Tom Balleny Brooke

In the smoke and clash of Battle, in the hurricane of strife
The sickle reaps midst friend and foe and wins from
death a life.

A stainless life of Beauty, a stainless life laid down
Has won ne'er fading glory and God's most glorious
Crown.

For The Gordons follow their leader, a Boy with calm
sweet face

Not a trace of fear, not a tremor, as thro' that Hell they
race

But a clarion note has sounded, and the Boy has heard
its call

His men rush on as he wished it, with a check as they
see him fall

But the sickle so true had its work to do and the Boy his
Crown to wear

And the Pearly Gates lay open wide, and the Boy rests
safely there.

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Lucy Horlick

Great granddaughter of Captain Brooke

John Chapter 14 v 1-6 (KJV)

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 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

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians Chapter 16 v 13&14

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 Frederick Brooke. 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.

All **Amen.**

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Read by Staff Sergeant Jade Mitchinson

202 (Midlands) Field Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps

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

Played by Drummer Adam Grant

4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The Silence

Flowers of the Forest

Played by Piper Fearghas Russell
4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Staff Sergeant Jade Mitchinson
202 (Midlands) Field Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps

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

Eternal God, we pray for ourselves as we pray for
Captain Brooke. We stand where earth and heaven
meet, where life is brought to death, and death is made
the gate to glory. Deliver us from fear and doubt,
from despair and unbelief and bring us to the light of your
presence. Grant us that peace which the world cannot
give, so that we may trust in you and find our life in you.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Saviour in
life and death, who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

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 Collect of the Royal Army Medical Corps

Récitation du Royal Army Medical Corps

Read by Warrant Officer Class 2 Adam Gregory
256 (City of London) Field Hospital, Royal Army Medical
Corps

O God, whose blessed son was made perfect through suffering, give thy grace, we beseech thee, to thy servants of the Royal Army Medical Corps, that, by loyalty in hard service after the example of Saint Luke the beloved physician, we may be found faithful in ministering to those that need, for his sake who went about doing good, the same thy son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Blessing*Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction*

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth, and all humankind, 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.**

Amazing Grace

Played by Piper Fearghas Russell

4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



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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