



A Rededication Service for

**Corporal Robert Owen Davies
10th Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers**

**10:00 hours Tuesday 18 June 2019
London Cemetery and Extension, France**

**Service conducted by The Rev'd Ben Archibald CF
Chaplain to 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh**

Corporal Robert Owen Davies



Corporal Robert Owen Davies was born on 29 March 1889 in Llandrillo, Wales. He was one of the ten children born to Robert Davies and Margaret Thomas. He was a steel smelter by trade and worked at the Irlam Steel Works in Salford. On 27 March 1915 Robert married Margaret Elizabeth Hughes in Wrexham. At that time, he was serving with 3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

By 20 July 1916 Corporal Davies was a member of 10th Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was on the Western Front. The battalion's War Diaries show that on 19 July 1916 they were ordered to attack in Delville Wood. The battalion moved into Delville Wood where they encountered rifle and machine gun fire. At 03:45 hours on 20 July 1916 the attack commenced despite the heavy resistance already experienced and was ultimately unsuccessful. It was during this attack that Corporal Davies was killed. His body remained in Delville Wood until 1935 when he was recovered and buried in London Cemetery and Extension as an unknown Corporal of The Royal Welsh Fusiliers. As his grave was unidentified, he was commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. However, new research has enabled his grave to be identified. Today we will remember Corporal Davies and his grave will be rededicated.

The burials in the original London Cemetery took place in September 1916. After the war the cemetery was extended when graves, including that of Corporal Robert Owen Davies, were brought in from the surrounding battlefields. Now known as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's London Cemetery and Extension, it is the third largest cemetery on the Somme with 3,873 First World War burials, 3,114 of them unidentified.

Corporal Robert Owen Davies est né le 29 mars, 1889 à Llandrillo, au Pays de Galles. Il été un des dix enfants né à Robert Davies et Margaret Thomas. Il fut travaillé dans l'industrie de l'acier et il a été à l'emploi chez Irlam Steel Works, à Salford. Le 27 mars, 1915, Robert a épousé Margaret Elizabeth Hughes à Wrexham. A cette époque, il servait avec 3^e Bataillon The Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Le 20 juillet, 1916 Corporal Davies a été membre du 10^e Bataillon The Royal Welsh Fusiliers et il été sur le Front Occidental. Les Journaux de Guerre de 10^e Bataillon indiquent que le 19 juillet, ils ont été ordonnés d'attaque à Delville Wood. Le bataillon s'est mis en marche vers Delville Wood où ils ont rencontré par les tirs fusils et des tirs mitrailleuses. A 03:45 heures le 20 juillet, l'attaque avait commencé malgré la résistance affrontée déjà atteint et elle été enfin infructueuse. C'était au cours de cette attaque que Corporal Davies a été tué. Ses restes ont été trouvé en 1935 et il a été enterré à London Cemetery and Extension comme un Corporal inconnu de The Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 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 Corporal Davies et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Introduction

Appel à Adoration

We have come together as family, friends, representatives of Her Majesty The Queen and The Royal Welsh, to give thanks for the life of Corporal Robert Owen Davies who was killed in action on 20 July 1916. As we remember his life, devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Almighty God, you judge us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything that you have made. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of paradise where there is no sound or noise, but one equal music; no dazzling or fear, but one equal light; no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Colonel Martin David MC

British Embassy Paris

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1 - 8 & 14 (NIV)

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

I know that everything God does will endure forever;
nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God
does it so that people will fear him.

Reading

Lecture

Read by Captain David Hughes
1st Battalion The Royal Welsh

War

By Hedd Wyn

Why must I live in this grim age
When, to a far horizon, God
Has ebbed away, and man, with rage
Now wields the sceptre and the rod?

Man raised his sword, once God had gone,
To slay his brother, and the roar
Of battlefields now casts upon
Our homes the shadow of the war.

The harps to which we sang are hung
On willow boughs, and their refrain
Drowned by the anguish of the young
Whose blood is mingled with the rain.

Gospel Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Andy Murray

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.

The Act of Remembrance

Acte de Dévouement

Let us remember before the Father, and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we knew, and those whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

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

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

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

The Prayers

Les Prières

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict and ask that God may give us peace. For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God; may God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends, comrades, and all who pray for their safe return; may God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatred of humanity; may God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership: political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace; may God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

The Collect of The Royal Welch Fusiliers

Récitation de Royal Welch Fusiliers

Read by Captain David Hughes

1st Battalion The Royal Welsh

Eternal God, whose strength raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, uphold, we pray thee, the ancient valour of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, that we may ever endure hardness after his example, and may rise with him to shine as the sun in thy kingdom, through the same 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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessing

Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace this day, and always.

And the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, wherever they may be, this day and always.

All **Amen.**



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