



A Rededication Service for

**Second Lieutenant Wilfred John Massey Lynch
3rd (Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards**

**14:30 hours Thursday 23 March 2023
CWGC Crucifix Corner Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Daniel Njuguna CF
Chaplain to 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Daniel Njuguna CF**

Second Lieutenant Wilfred John Massey Lynch



Second Lieutenant Wilfred John Massey Lynch was born in West Derby, a suburb of Liverpool, in 1893. He was one of five sons born to Thomas Massey Lynch and his wife Lisle. He was educated at Stoneyhurst College in Lancashire, then worked with the Bank of Liverpool for two years. He left to train as a farmer at Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire, where he met and married Gwendoline Harris in 1914. They moved to south east Australia to set up a fruit farm. Their daughter, Lisle, was born on 22 January 1915. They returned to England in 1916 due to the war, and on 17 February 1917, Wilfred was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into 6th Reserve Cavalry Regiment. He arrived on the Western Front on 29 April 1917 and on 25 June 1917 reported for duty with 3rd Dragoon Guards. Wilfred was wounded with shell shock on 10 January 1918, and re-joined his regiment on 29 January 1918.

Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch was killed on 4 April 1918 in the latter stages of Operation Michael, the first phase of the German Spring Offensive. The Germans attacked with the aim of forcing the British Fourth Army back towards Amiens and the First French Army away from its ally. Seizing this ground would allow the Germans to move heavy howitzers in range of Amiens, where vital railway junctions were key to the resupply of Allied forces. The final aim of the German plan was to take the city itself.

At 07:00 hours on 4 April 1918, 3rd Dragoon Guards were sent to operate on the right flank of 43rd Brigade north of the Villers-Bretonneux to Warfusee Road as the 14th Division was being forced back. At 09:15 hours they carried out reconnaissance and filled in any gaps they found in the line. A new line was dug, and the situation stabilised. They remained around this location throughout the day as the enemy attacked. It was during this fighting that Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch lost his life. He was 25 years old. The German attack ultimately failed to take the ground needed to launch their attack on

Amiens and Operation Michael was ended on 5 April 1918 with the strategic city still in Allied hands.

After the war Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch's body was recovered and he was buried as an unknown Officer of 3rd Dragoon Guards in Crucifix Corner Cemetery, in Villers-Bretonneux. As he was missing, he was commemorated on the Pozières Memorial to the missing. However, new research has shown that this grave belongs to Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch and the headstone has now been changed. Today we remember Second Lieutenant Wilfred John Massey Lynch and his grave will be rededicated.

In August 1918, the Canadian Corps conducted the first burials at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Crucifix Corner Cemetery. Originally consisting only of burials in Plot I, Rows A-D, and French burials in Plot II, the cemetery was greatly enlarged after the Armistice with the concentration of casualties from the battlefields between the Somme and the Luce. It is in this area that Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch was found.

Second Lieutenant Wilfred John Massey Lynch est né à West Derby, Liverpool, en 1893. Il été un des cinq fils nés à Thomas Massey Lynch et sa femme Lisle. Il fait ses études à Stoneyhurst College dans le Lancashire, il a puis travaillé avec la Banque de Liverpool pendant deux années. Il est parti pour suivre une formation d'agriculteur à Ross-on-Wye dans le Herefordshire ou il a rencontré et épousé Gwendoline Harris en 1914. Ils se sont installés dans le sud-est de l'Australie pour créer une ferme fruitière. Leur fille, Lisle, est né le 22 janvier, 1915. Ils sont retournés au Royaume-Uni en 1916 à cause de la guerre et le 17 fevrier, 1917, Wilfred a obtenu une commission comme Second Lieutenant dans le 6^e Reserve Cavalry Regiment. Il est arrivé sur le Front Occidental en le 29 avril, 1917 et le 25 juin, 1917, il s'est présenté au service avec 3^e Dragoon Guards. Wilfred a été blessé par un traumatisme

dû au bombardement, le 10 janvier, 1918, et a rejoint son régiment le 29 janvier, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch a été tué le 4 avril, 1918, dans les dernières étapes de l'opération Michael, la première phase de l'offensive allemande du Printemps. Les Allemands attaquent dans le but de forcer la Quatrième armée britannique à reculer vers Amiens et la Première armée française à s'éloigner de son allié. S'emparer de ce terrain permettrait aux Allemands de déplacer des obusiers lourds à portée d'Amiens, où des nœuds ferroviaires vitaux étaient essentiels au réapprovisionnement des forces alliées. L'objectif final du plan allemand était de prendre la ville elle-même.

À 07 :00 heures, le 4 avril, 1918, 3^e Dragoon Guards est envoyé pour opérer sur le flanc droit de la 43^e Brigade au nord de la route de Villers-Bretonneux à Warfusee, alors que la 14^e Division est repoussée. À 09 :15 heures ils ont effectué des reconnaissances et ils ont comblé les lacunes de la ligne. Une nouvelle ligne a été creusé et la situation s'est stabilisée. Ils sont restés à cet endroit durant toute la journée pendant que l'ennemi a attaqué. C'était au cours des combats ce jour-là que Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch a perdu sa vie. Il avait 25 ans. L'attaque allemande n'a finalement pas réussi à prendre le terrain nécessaire pour lancer une attaque sur Amiens et l'opération Michael s'est terminée le 5 avril, 1918 avec la ville stratégique toujours aux mains des alliés.

Après la guerre les restes de Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch ont été recouperé et enterré à Crucifix Corner Cemetery à Villers-Bretonneux comme un officier inconnu du 3^e Dragoon Guards. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Pozières. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We look not to the things that are seen
but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient
but the things that are unseen are eternal.

We meet this day to remember before God
Lieutenant Wilfred John Massey Lynch who lived and
died in the service of his country and the peace of the
world; and to rededicate his grave.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life: hear our prayers for your servant
Wilfred whom we remember this day.
Fulfill in him the purpose of your love
and bring us, with him, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Colonel Campbell Close

On behalf of the British Embassy Paris

1 Corinthians Chapter 15 v 51-5 (NIV)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reading

Lecture

Read by Captain Alexander Gale
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

The Harvest

By Sydney Phillipson

In Picardy, In Picardy,
The barns are full of garnered grain
Heroically harvested.
Full piteous it is to see
On many a battle wasted plain
The harvest of our youthful dead.

In Picardy, In Picardy
The Reaper came whilst still the corn
Was all unripe: he heeded not
His scythe swept on relentlessly
And youths whose promise was new born
Fell with its sweep and they were not.

In Picardy, In Picardy,
Their youth was early harvested,
The goodly promise unfulfilled
Be yours their kinsmen then to see
The beauty of the youthful dead
Nor let your love for them be chilled.

In Picardy, In Picardy
The ground is rich with Britain's own
Who gave their utmost; not in vain
If only times to come may see
A juster world than they have known
More frank of love, more free from pain.

Gospel Reading*Lecture de l'Évangile*

Read by Second Lieutenant Richard Langley

1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment**John Chapter 6 v 37-40 (NIV)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

Address*Allocution*

The Act of Dedication

l'Acte de Dédicace

We rededicate this grave to
Lieutenant Wilfred John Massey Lynch
in the name of Christ who died and rose again;
as a symbol of our remembering,
as a sign of our thanksgiving,
a token of recognition
and expression of our love.
We look forward with confidence to our reunion
with him and all those whose dwelling is forever with
Christ in the everlasting kingdom of the Father.

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by Lance Corporal James Beckett
1st Battalion The Mercian 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

Played by Lance Corporal Colin Streetin
5th Battalion The Rifles

The Silence

Flowers of the Forest

Played by Lance Corporal Christopher Macdonnel
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Lance Corporal James Beckett
1st Battalion The Mercian 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

We thank you, O God, for the life and example of Wilfred.
Look upon his loved ones with mercy and shine your light
on them. Grant that inspired by his selfless commitment
we may never grow tired of doing good or count the cost
of our labour.

All **Amen.**

Prayer

Prière

Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end.

John Donne

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Récitation du Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Read by Captain Alexander Gale

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Almighty God, whose blessed Son, Jesus Christ, gave us the perfect pattern of service, give us grace that we, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, may be second to none in following his example, swifter than eagles to overtake his enemies and serve thee in thine everlasting 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessing
Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction

The Lord God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard us, save us, and bring us to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Amazing Grace
Played by Lance Corporal Christopher Macdonell
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards



Second Lieutenant Massey Lynch (far left) with his father and his surviving brothers circa 1916.



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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