



A Rededication Service for

**Second Lieutenant Norman Frederic Surry
16th Battalion The King's Royal Rifle Corps**

and

**Private George Skilbeck
Royal Army Medical Corps**

**11:30 hours Wednesday 10 October 2018
Montay-Neuvilly Road Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Tim Flowers CF
Chaplain 4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment**

*Déroulement de la cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Tim Flowers*

For nearly a hundred years the final resting places of Private George Skilbeck and Second Lieutenant Norman Frederic Surry have remained unknown and both men are commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. However, it is now known that they are buried in this cemetery. Today we will remember their sacrifice and their graves will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Montay-Neuvilly Road Cemetery was made by the 23rd Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery, on 26 and 27 October 1918. Originally containing 111 graves, it was increased after the Armistice when scattered graves were brought in from the battlefields and small burial grounds to the west, north and east of Montay. There are now 470 Commonwealth burials and commemorations for men who mostly fell in October and November 1918.

Second Lieutenant Norman Frederic Surry



Second Lieutenant Norman Frederic Surry was born on 4 April 1893 in Poplar, London. He was the eldest child of Frederic Robert Surry and Eliza Alice Surry, née Ockenham. In 1909 he emigrated to Canada along with his father and brother. He worked as a bank clerk before enlisting into 31st Battalion (Alberta) of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 17 November 1914. He saw service with Canadian forces on the Western Front before being wounded on 13 April 1916. He was Commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant in The King's Royal Rifle Corps on 26 April 1917. On 27 November 1917 he married Vera Clare Harris and their daughter, Madeline Frances Surry, was born on 6 September 1918, just five weeks before the death of her father on 12 October 1918.

The War Diary of 16th Battalion The King's Royal Rifle Corps shows that at the time of Second Lieutenant Surry's death the Battalion had been located east of Troisvilles. They were ordered to capture German positions on the Le Cateau/Solesmes railway line. At 0100 hrs the Battalion marched north east of Troisvilles to their assembly point west of the River Selle. By 08:00 hrs they had taken the enemy positions and Second Lieutenant Surry had been killed.

Second Lieutenant Norman Frederic Surry est né le 4 avril 1893 à Poplar, dans Londres. Il fut le plus aîné des deux fils du Frederic Robert Surry and Eliza Alice Surry, née Ockenham Ockenham. Il émigre au Canada en 1909 avec son père et son frère. Il travaillait en tant que commis de banque avant de s'engager dans le 31st Battalion (Alberta) du Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force le 17 novembre 1914. Il a servi avec les forces canadiennes sur le front ouest avant qu'il eût été blessé en avril 1916 et démobilisé en avril 1917. Il est devenu officier commissionné au rang de Second Lieutenant dans le King's Royal Rifle Corps le 26 avril 1917 et il se marie Vera Clare Harris le 27 novembre la même année. Leur fille Madeline Frances Surry est née le 6 septembre 1918, cinq semaines avant son père est mort le 12 octobre 1918.

Les Journaux de Guerre du 16th Battalion The King's Royal Rifle Corps indiquent que le jour que Second Lieutenant Surry est mort ils étaient situés de l'est de Troisvilles. L'on avait donné l'ordre de capturant les positions allemandes sur la ligne ferroviaire le Cateau/Solesmes. Vers 0100 heures le bataillon a marché du nord est de Troisvilles à leur point de rassemblement à l'ouest de la Rivière Selle. Avant 0800 heures ils avaient prisé les positions ennemies et Second Lieutenant Surry ont été tué.

Private George Skilbeck

Private George Skilbeck was 34 years old when he was killed on 11 October 1918. Born in Liverpool in 1884, he was the fifth child of Thomas Skilbeck and Mary Skilbeck (née Atkin). In December 1908 he married Annie Beatrice Joyce. Their son, Norman Bransby Skilbeck, was born in September the following year. A postman by profession, he enlisted into the Royal Army Medical Corps in November 1915 and on 12 September 1916 was deployed overseas. On the day of his death Private Skilbeck was serving on the Western Front with 53rd Field Ambulance, RAMC. War Diaries suggest that Private Skilbeck was killed between the front line at Neuville and the village of Inchy.

Private George Skilbeck avait 34 ans quand il est mort le 11 octobre 1918. Né à Liverpool en 1884, il fut le cinquième enfant de Thomas Skilbeck et Mary Skilbeck (née Atkin). En décembre 1908 il se marie Annie Beatrice Joyce. Leur fils Norman Bransby Skilbeck est né en septembre de l'année suivante. Il fut engagé en tant que facteur, avant de s'engager dans le Royal Army Medical Corps en novembre 1915 et le 12 septembre 1916 il fut déployé à l'étranger. Le jour de sa mort Private Skilbeck il servait sur le front ouest avec le 53rd Field Ambulance, RAMC. Les Journaux de Guerre indiquent que Private Skilbeck est tué entre la première ligne à Neuville et le village d'Inchy.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have come to this place to rededicate the final resting places of Second Lieutenant Norman Frederic Surry who served with the King's Royal Rifles Corps, and Private George Skilbeck of the Royal Army Medical Corps, whose lives were taken during the Great War, and whose remains were reinterred here.

Today, in this place, we accord these men the dignity and respect that they are due and commend them to the mercy and grace of God our redeemer and judge, and in the hope and life given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us.

All May the peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Let us pray.

Almighty God who calls those who follow Him to live lives of justice, mercy and humility;
Hallow this place and those who stand here before you today and we reflect upon man's humanity and your great gift of life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Colonel Christopher Borneman

Military Attaché British Embassy Paris

Revelation 21 v 1-6 (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.'" He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life".

Reading

Lecture

Read by a Representative from The Rifles

The Soldier

By Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth 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 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 friend; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under and English heaven.

Address

Allocution

The Collect of the Royal Army Medical Corps

Récitation du Régiment

Lance Corporal Liam Brewster

16 Medical Regiment, RAMC

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 Collect of The King's Royal Rifle Corps

Récitation du Régiment

Mr Richard Frost MBE

Hon Secretary, King's Royal Rifle Corps Association

O eternal God, in whom we live and move, quicken, we pray thee, thy servants of the King's Royal Rifle Corps in thy way, and give us boldness to seek thy grace in every time of need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Captain Terence Twining MBE

Adjutant, 16 Medical Regiment, RAMC

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

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Captain Terence Twining MBE

Adjutant, 16 Medical Regiment, RAMC

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts de Gerbes

Prayer

Prière

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving all those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time of war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. By your grace, we dedicate ourselves anew to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your name.

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

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.**



ARMY

© Crown Copyright/JCCC – 2018