



A Rededication Service for

Second Lieutenant Henry George Pike RAF

Wednesday 29 June 2022 at 09:30 hours

CWGC Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery, Belgium

**Service Conducted by
Reverend (Captain Leader) Adrian Ross RAF**

Henry George Pike was born on the 29 May 1895 in East Battersea, Wandsworth to Henry George and Louisa. His father was a carpenter. After school Henry was employed as a motor mechanic for 3 years until April 1916 when he enlisted into the Seaforth Highlanders, an infantry regiment of the British Army. During his time in the infantry, he became a Lewis Gun instructor indicating he was an experienced soldier in a front-line position. He was awarded the British War and Victory medals during his infantry service and his overseas service would have entitled him to wear an overseas blue chevron. In 1917 he applied for a commission in The Royal Flying Corps, described on his record of service as being 5ft 9 and having perfect vision, his appointment as a 2nd Lt was published in the London Gazette in August 1918 into the newly formed RAF. 1604875 2nd Lt Pike was deployed with the 65 Sqn. He was flying Sopwith Camel D2482 when, on 30 August he didn't return to the aerodrome, and was presumed missing. No 65 squadron was based at Bray Dunes and flew escort missions for DH6 aircraft who were operating against targets at Bruges, Orlend and Zeebrugge.

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery was begun in April 1915 and used by troops holding this sector, particularly the 46th (North Midland) Division and the 1st Dorsets, until April 1918. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Ypres and from surrounding smaller cemeteries. Among them was Second Lieutenant Henry George Pike, who could not be identified at the time.

Order of Service

Conducted by

**Reverend (Squadron Leader) Adrian Rice RAF
Chaplain Royal Centre for Defence Medicine**

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 and remember with thanksgiving these brave men whom, alongside so many others, answered the call of their country, served with honour and gave their lives in service. We have come together, to give thanks for the life of Second Lieutenant Henry George Rice who died on 30 August 1918, and to dedicate this place to his memory.

Opening Prayer

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

Reading

To *Any Mother* – Anthony Richardson

Read by Clive Montellier OBE Hd JCOC & MOD Medial Office

Weep not, my lady, though no more
He shall pass in by your door,
Though the garden gate is wide
And his footmarks scarce have dried,
Where he trod his merry way
On his last leave's final day!

So he went, as once he came,
Calling you by that dear name,
As a schoolboy back from class,
Buoyant as the clouds that pass –
He was like a schoolboy, then
Off to that harsh school of men!

Weep not, lady! Did you teach
What the persons try to preach –
That a man's life only means
What the sugar spirit gleams,
That at twenty he may see
What's still hid at eighty-three!

This he knew: it was no end!
Suddenly to meet his Friend!
Suddenly to meet those others,
These, his comrades – those, his brothers!
This is truth. This thing, I know –
No such moments merits woe!

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 1, 1 – 8 (King James Version)

Read by Major Mark Venturino US Air Force Exchange Officer,
XII(F) Squadron, RAF

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.

Address

The Act of Remembrance

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

The Exhortation

Read by Sergeant Jack Ryder XI(F) Sqn RAF

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

Played by SAC Jack Wilson, Trumpeter of the Central Band of
the Royal Air Force

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Corporal Michael Langlands XI(F) Sqn RAF

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

Laying of Wreaths

The Prayers

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the life of Henry and for the grace and mercy that he has received from you. For all that was good in his lives and for the treasured memories he left behind. We give thanks for his courage, devotion to duty and sacrifice.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty Father, your love enfolds us in both life and death; we thank you for all the men and women who have served in the Royal Air Force and her allies, especially for those who gave their lives or health, for their families and all who have supported them.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Royal Air Force

Read by Group Captain John Dickson
Defence Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg

Almighty God, who has promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength and mount with wings, as eagles; we commend to thy fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Uphold and support them in their endeavour, that they may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and a sure defence to our homeland, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In praise, thanksgiving, remembrance and hope, we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in the words that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

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,
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

May God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to The Queen, Commonwealth
and all people, peace and concord.
And to us and all his servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.





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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