



A Rededication Service for

**Lieutenant Wilfrid Ashton Piercy
1/17th (City of London) Battalion
The London Regiment (Poplar and Stepney Rifles)**

**10:30 hours Tuesday 5 April 2022
CWGC Arras Road Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by
The Reverend Richard Terrado-Reardon CF
Chaplain to The London Regiment
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidée par
le Révérend Richard Terrado-Reardon CF**

Lieutenant Wilfrid Ashton Piercy



Lieutenant Wilfrid Ashton Piercy was born in Tai Ping Tong Canton, China, on 21 May 1880. He was the eldest of four children born to George and Annie Maria Piercy. His father was a Wesleyan Minister and the founder of Wesleyan Missions in China. When Wilfrid was still a young child the family returned to London. After studying in both London and France, he qualified as a school master.

On 29 March 1912, Wilfrid joined 1/17th (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment (Poplar and Stepney Rifles). He was promoted to Lieutenant on 4 December 1913. As a Territorial Officer, on the outbreak of war Wilfrid volunteered for overseas service. He arrived on the Western Front on 9 March 1915.

On 25 September 1915, the first day of the Battle of Loos, 1/17th Battalion The London Regiment were in reserve. As the battle progressed they moved forward into the attack. On 26 September 1915, the day of Lieutenant Piercy's death, the battalion was holding positions to the south of Loos-en-Gohelle. At 17:00 hours 141st Brigade were ordered to retire and Lieutenant Piercy was killed by machine gunfire whilst 'steadying and rallying the men.' He was buried near where he fell. His death was lamented by a superior Officer who described him as 'most brave and fearless.' The Padre praised his 'courage and coolness under most trying circumstances.'

In 1927 Lieutenant Piercy's body was reburied in Arras Road Cemetery as an unknown Lieutenant of 1/17th Battalion The London Regiment. Lieutenant Piercy was recorded as missing and was commemorated on the Loos Memorial. However, new research has shown that this is in fact the grave of Lieutenant Piercy. Today we will remember him and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Arras Road Cemetery was begun by the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade soon after 9 April 1917, and until the Armistice contained the graves of 71 Canadian casualties who fell between April-June 1917. After the Armistice, it was enlarged by the addition of graves from a wide area, mainly North and East of Arras, among them is the grave of Lieutenant Wilfrid Ashton Piercy.

Lieutenant Wilfrid Ashton Piercy est né à Tai Ping Tong, Canton, en Chine, le 21 mai, 1880. Il été l'enfant aîné des quatre enfants de George et Annie Maria Piercy. Son père était un pasteur wesleyenne et le fondateur de la mission wesleyenne en Chine. Lorsqu'il était enfant, sa famille repartit à Londres. Après avoir complété les études à Londres et en France il est devenu maître d'école.

Le 29 mars, 1912, Wilfrid s'est joint 1/17^e (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment (Poplar and Stepney Rifles.) Il fut Lieutenant le 4 décembre, 1913. Comme un réserviste, après l'éclatement de la guerre, Wilfrid est porté volontaire pour le service outre-mer. Il est arrivé sur le Front Occidental le 9 mars, 1915.

Le 25 septembre, 1915, le premier jour de la bataille de Loos, 1/17^e Battalion The London Regiment été en réserve. Alors que la bataille a progressé, ils se joignirent les combats. Le 26 septembre, 1915, la date du décès de Lieutenant Piercy, ils étaient situés au sud de Loos-en-Gohelle. Vers 17 :00 heures 141^e Brigade l'on avait donné l'ordre de retraite. Lieutenant Piercy a été tué par le tir des mitrailleuses.

En 1927, ses restes ont été enterré à Arras Road Cemetery comme un Lieutenant inconnu du 1/17^e Battalion The London Regiment. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Loos. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Lieutenat Piercy et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have come together as family, friends, representatives of Her Majesty The Queen and The London Regiment, to give thanks for the life of Lieutenant Wilfrid Ashton Piercy, who was killed in action on 26 September 1915. 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 a representative of the British Embassy Paris

Revelation Chapter 21 v 1-7 (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. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Steven Lowe TD VR
Commanding Officer, The London Regiment

John Chapter 14 v 1-6 (NIV)

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

Reading*Lecture*

Read by Geoff Maughan

Great Great Nephew of Lieutenant Piercy

Morning Hymn

By Charles Wesley

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Day-spring from on high, be near:
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee,
Joyless is the day's return,
Till thy mercy's beams I see;
Till thy inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin, and grief,
Fill me, Radiancy Divine,
Scatter all my unbelief,
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Address*Allocution*

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Steven Lowe TD VR
Commanding Officer, The London 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

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Steven Lowe TD VR
Commanding Officer, The London Regiment

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

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôts des Gerbes

Prayers

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.**

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Prière pour les Forces Armées

Almighty God,
Stretch forth your mighty arm
To strengthen and protect the armed forces:
Grant that meeting danger with courage
And all occasions with discipline and loyalty,
They may truly serve the cause of justice and peace;
To honour your holy name,
Through 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 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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