



**A Rededication Service for**

**Second Lieutenant Osmund Bartle Wordsworth  
21<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Company**

**11:00 hours Tuesday 21 June 2022  
CWGC H.A.C. Cemetery, Écoust-Saint-Mein, France**

**Service conducted by Reverend Thomas Wilde CF  
Chaplain to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment  
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par  
le Révérend Thomas Wilde CF**

**Second Lieutenant Osmund Bartle Wordsworth**



Second Lieutenant Osmund Bartle Wordsworth was born on 17 May 1887 in Glaston, Rutland. He was the Great Great Nephew of the poet William Wordsworth. He was one of nine children born to the Reverend Christopher Wordsworth and his wife Mary. Osmund was educated at Winchester College before attending Trinity College Cambridge. He emigrated to Canada to teach and became a published author.

In May 1915, Osmund returned to the United Kingdom, travelling onboard the ill fated liner the Lusitania with his sister Ruth. Six days into the voyage, on 7 May 1915, the ship was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland. Osmund is reported to have given his life belt to another passenger as the ship was sinking. Nonetheless, he and Ruth survived the disaster which cost the lives of 1,198 passengers and crew.

On 11 June 1915, Osmund was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and was posted to 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. In April 1916 he transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and was posted to 21<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Company. On 31 August 1916 he arrived on the Western Front.

On 2 April 1917, the village of Henin-sur-Cojeul was recaptured by British forces as they pursued the enemy back to the Hindenburg Line. The attack on the village was carried out by 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade. It was during this attack that Second Lieutenant Wordsworth was killed. He saw a gun crew was struggling to get into position and went out himself to assist them. He was shot through the chest. He was buried in Henin-sur-Cojeul but his remains were not recovered after the Great War. As he was missing, Second Lieutenant Wordsworth was commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

In 2012 the remains of an Officer wearing buttons of The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, were recovered by an archaeologist in Henin-sur-Cojeul. After initial

research and unsuccessful DNA testing, he was buried in H.A.C. Cemetery in September 2015 as an unknown Officer of The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, JCCC began to reinvestigate old cases where DNA was taken but no match had been found prior to the burial of the soldier. This further research led to the identification of this unknown Officer as Second Lieutenant Wordsworth. Today we will remember Second Lieutenant Wordsworth and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's H.A.C. Cemetery was begun by the 7<sup>th</sup> Division in April 1917, and originally contained 120 graves in Plot 1. After the Armistice graves were brought in from the battlefields of Bullecourt and Ecoust and from a number of smaller burial grounds.

Second Lieutenant Osmund Bartle Wordsworth est né le 17 mai, 1887, à Glaston, Rutland. Il été le petit-neveu du poète anglais William Wordsworth. Osmund été un des neuf enfants nés à le Reverend Christopher Wordsworth et sa femme Mary. Il est scolarisé à Winchester College, avant d'étudier à Trinity College Cambridge. Il émigre au Canada et où il devint professeur et auteur publié.

En mai, 1915, Osmund est retourné au Royaume-Uni sur le navire Lusitania avec sa souer Ruth. Le 7 mai, 1915, le Lusitania a été torpillé des côtes d'Irlande. Il est rapporte qu'Osmund a donné sa veste de sauvetage à un autre passager alors que le navire été en train de naufrage. Néanmoins, Osmund et Ruth ont survécu la catastrophe qui coûta la vie à 1198 de passagers et membres de l'équipage.

Le 11 juin, 1915, Osmund a obtenu une commission comme Second Lieutenant au Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry et il a été affecté à 9<sup>e</sup> Bataillon. En avril, 1916, il a

transféré a 21<sup>e</sup> Machine Gun Company. Il est arrivé sur le Front Occidental le 31 août, 1916.

Le 2 avril, 1917, le village d'Henin-sur-Cojeul a été récupérée par les forces britanniques. L'attaque menée contre le village a été effectuée par 21<sup>e</sup> Infantry Brigade. C'était au cours de cette attaque que Second Lieutenant Wordsworth a été tué. Il a vu qu'une équipage mitrailleuse avait des difficultés et il est allé pour les aider. Il a été touché à la poitrine. Il a été enterré à Henin-sur-Cojeul mais après la guerre ses restes n'ont pas été récupérés. Son nom est ainsi commémoré sur le monument commémoratif des disparus à Arras.

En 2012, les restes d'un officier ont été retrouvé par un archéologue à Henin-sur-Cojeul. Il a porté les boutons du Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Après la recherche initiale et les tests ADN, il été enterré en septembre 2015 comme un officier inconnu du Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Durant la pandémie de Covid-19, JCCC a effectué les recherches supplémentaires. Cela a conduit à l'identification de Second Lieutenant Wordsworth comme l'officier trouvé en 2012. Aujourd'hui nous nous souviendrons de Second Lieutenant Wordsworth et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

**Call to Worship**  
*Appel à Adoration*

John Chapter 11 v 25-26

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

We have come together to bless the final resting place of Second Lieutenant Osmund Bartle Wordsworth and to honour him this day with family and friends gathered here.

As Christians, we believe that those who die in Christ share eternal life with him. Therefore, in faith and hope we offer our prayers of trust and thanksgiving to God. Facing the certainty of our own death and judgement we yet proclaim that Christ is indeed risen, and that all who believe in him will rise in him.

**Bidding Prayer**  
*Prière*

Heavenly Father, in your son Jesus Christ, you have given us a true faith and sure hope: Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days, that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to eternal life through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading***Lecture des Écritures Saintes*

Read by Colonel Howard Wilkinson

Military Attaché, British Embassy Paris

**Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1-8 (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.

**Gospel Reading**

*Lecture de l'Évangile*

Read by Second Lieutenant Jack Rice  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian 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."



## **Reading**

### *Lecture*

Read by Captain Thomas Westlake

5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifles

## **Extracts From 'Character of the Happy Warrior'**

By William Wordsworth

Who is the happy Warrior? Who is he  
That every man in arms should wish to be?  
—It is the generous Spirit, who, when brought  
Among the tasks of real life, hath wrought  
Upon the plan that pleased his boyish thought:  
Whose high endeavours are an inward light  
That makes the path before him always bright;  
Who, with a natural instinct to discern  
What knowledge can perform, is diligent to learn;  
Abides by this resolve, and stops not there,  
But makes his moral being his prime care;  
Who, doomed to go in company with Pain,  
And Fear, and Bloodshed, miserable train!  
Turns his necessity to glorious gain;  
In face of these doth exercise a power  
Which is our human nature's highest dower.

But who, if he be called upon to face  
Some awful moment to which Heaven has joined  
Great issues, good or bad for human kind,  
Is happy as a Lover; and attired  
With sudden brightness, like a Man inspired;  
And, through the heat of conflict, keeps the law  
In calmness made, and sees what he foresaw;  
Or if an unexpected call succeed,  
Come when it will, is equal to the need.

Whom neither shape or danger can dismay,  
Nor thought of tender happiness betray;

Who, not content that former worth stand fast,  
Looks forward, persevering to the last,  
From well to better, daily self-surpass:  
Who, whether praise of him must walk the earth  
For ever, and to noble deeds give birth,  
Or he must fall, to sleep without his fame,  
And leave a dead unprofitable name—  
Finds comfort in himself and in his cause;  
And, while the mortal mist is gathering, draws  
His breath in confidence of Heaven's applause:  
This is the happy Warrior; this is he  
That every man in arms should wish to be.

### **Address**

*Allocution*

### **The Act of Dedication**

*l'Acte de Dédicace*

We remember with thanksgiving at God's throne of grace all those who have died during operational service. We remember this day especially Second Lieutenant Osmund Bartle Wordsworth. Merciful God, you have made us all and given your Son for our redemption. We once again commend our brother to your perfect mercy and wisdom and rededicate his final resting place into your care. For in you alone we put our trust.

### **The Exhortation**

*L'Éxhortation*

Read by Captain Thomas Westlake

5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifles

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 Second Lieutenant Jack Rice

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

### **Laying of Wreaths**

*Dépôts des Gerbes*

**Collect for Peace**

*Prière pour la Paix*

Almighty God,  
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace  
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth  
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**Prayer for the Armed Forces**

*Prière pour les Forces Armées*

Read by Captain Thomas Westlake

5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifles

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*

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.**



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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