



A Rededication Service for

Lieutenant Charles Stewart Cautherley
1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment

10.30 hours Thursday 21 March 2024
CWGC Poelcapelle British Cemetery, Belgium

Service conducted by Reverend Thomas Sander CF
Chaplain to the Household Cavalry

The Cemetery

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Poelcapelle British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and several smaller cemeteries. There are over 7,400 Commonwealth service personnel of the First World War buried in the cemetery, of whom more than 6,000 remain unidentified. This includes the previously unidentified grave of Lieutenant Charles Cautherley.

Lieutenant Charles Stewart Cautherley

1881 – 26 April 1918

Charles Stewart Cautherley was born in Far Headingley, Yorkshire in 1881, to parents Charles and Mary. He had one older sister – Louisa.

He served with Honourable Artillery Company between 1909 and 1915, after which he was gazetted as an officer in the Hertfordshire Regiment in October 1915. He joined the 1st battalion in April 1916 and in September 1916 was reported as suffering from slight shell shock, although he returned to the battalion soon afterwards.

Lieutenant Cautherley spent time in the First Army Provosts, returning to the battalion on 10 April 1918 and was killed two weeks later in a defensive battle in the Voormezele area. His burial was not recorded, and following the war he was listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the missing.

In 1923 the remains of an unnamed officer of the Hertfordshire Regiment were recovered from a field burial around 400 metres south of Voormezele – the partial identification being made from his uniform and buttons. The remains were reburied at Poelcapelle British Cemetery. Now research has shown conclusively that these are in fact the remains of Lt. Charles Stewart Cautherley, and today we commemorate him accordingly.

Welcome / Call to worship: 1 Corinthians Chapter 16 v13-14

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous;
be strong.

Do everything in love.

We meet this day to remember before God, Charles Stewart
Cautherley, who lived and died in the service of his country,
and to rededicate his grave.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life: hear our prayers for your servant
Charles whom we remember this day.

Fulfil in him the purpose of your love
and bring us, with him, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading: The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak

By Captain Archibald MacLeish

Read by Colour Sergeant Andrew Evans

The Royal Anglian Regiment

The young dead soldiers do not speak.
Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses:
who has not heard them?

They have a silence that speaks for them at night
and when the clock counts.

They say: We were young. We have died.
Remember us.

They say: We have done what we could
but until it is finished it is not done.

They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished
no one can know what our lives gave.

They say: Our deaths are not ours: they are yours,
they will mean what you make them.

They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace
and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say,
it is you who must say this.

We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.
We were young, they say. We have died; remember us.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 46

Read by Sergeant Aron Walker, The Royal Anglian Regiment

God is our hope and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof rage and swell,
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God, the
holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.

God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed;
God shall help her, and that right early.

Be still then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Reading: I went to see the soldiers - by Kenny Martin

Read by Deborah Morgan, JCCC

I went to see the soldiers, row on row on row,
And wondered about each so still, their badges all on show.
What brought them here, what life before
Was like for each of them?
What made them angry, laugh, or cry,
These soldiers, boys and men.

Some so young, some older still, a bond more close than brothers
These men have earned and shared a love, that's not like any others
They trained as one, they fought as one
They shared their last together
That bond endures, that love is true
And will be, now and ever.

I could not know, how could I guess, what choices each had made,
Of how they came to soldiering, what part each one had played?
But here they are and here they'll stay,
Each one silent and in place,
Their headstones line up row on row
They guard this hallowed place.

Address

The Reverend Thomas Sander CF

The Act of Dedication

We rededicate this grave to Lieutenant Charles Stewart Cautherley 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

*Read by Colour Sergeant Andrew Evans,
The Royal Anglian 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.
We will remember them.

The Last Post

*Played by Lance Corporal Edward Watts,
The Band and Bugles of The Rifles*

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Sergeant Aron Walker, The Royal Anglian Regiment

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

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

Read by Captain Jordan Whiteman, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

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,

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (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

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty & 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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