



A Rededication Service for

Company Sergeant Major (CSM) William Henry Bax

2nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Killed in Action 24 March 1918

CWGC Delsaux Farm Cemetery, Beugny, France
at midday on 23 March 2022

Conducted by the Reverend Andrew Grant (CF)

William Henry Bax was born around October 1888 in Deal, Kent. He married Charlotte Beatrice Bailey in May 1909 and they had 4 children, Reginald (1909), Norman (1911), Violet (1914) and Victor (1916). We're delighted to have some of his family here today, as well as the researcher who identified his grave.

A brief history of the 2nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

The Regiment raised 18 battalions during the Great War and was awarded 59 Battle Honours and two Victoria Crosses, losing nearly 6,000 men during the course of the war. CSM Bax's battalion (2nd) landed at Boulogne in August 1914 and was engaged in multiple actions on the Western Front, including (1914) the Battles of Mons, the Marne, the Aisne and the First Ypres; 1915 - the Winter Operations, the Battle of Festubert and the Battle of Loos; 1916 – the Battle of Delville Wood and the Battle of the Ancre; 1917 the 1st and 2nd Battle of the Scarpe, Battle of Arleux and the Battle of Cambrai; 1918 – the Battle of St Quentin, 1st and 2nd Battle of Bapaume, 1st Battle of Arras, Battle of Albert, Canal du Nord, Cambrai and the Selle.

The Cemetery

In March 1918 the Germans captured Beugny and created Beugny Military Cemetery No.18 at the crossroads, with Company Serjeant Major Bax among those they buried there. The cemetery was extended by Allied forces after they recaptured the village in October 1918, for those who died at 29th and 46th Casualty Clearing Stations. It became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Delsaux Farm Cemetery, incorporating the burials made by the Germans as Plot I, Row J, Plot II, Row A and Plot III, Rows B, C and D. It now also includes graves brought in from the surrounding battlefields.

Welcome and Opening

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." *John 11: 25 & 26*

We have come together to rededicate the final resting place of CSM William Henry Bax and to honour him this day.

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.

Prayer

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 heaven;
through our saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Scripture Readings

The Suffering Servant

The reading is from Isaiah 53: 1 – 10.

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of the people, he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

The Bread of Life

The reading is from John 6; 35 – 40.

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe me. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them all at the last day.

The Act of Remembrance

We remember with thanksgiving at God's throne of grace all those who have died during operational service. We remember this day especially CSM William Henry Bax.

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.
Amen.

For the Fallen....Laurence Binyon

'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

The Silence

The Reveille

The Kohima Epitaph

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

The Padre shall lead in prayer

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we thank you that in all things God works for the good of those who love him and who have been called according to his purpose.

We thank you for the hope of eternal life that you offer to all those who trust in you through the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you that nothing can separate you from your children – neither in life nor in death. Hear our prayers as we thank you for those who sacrificed their all so that we might enjoy the freedoms for which they died. And we thank you especially for the Lord Jesus Christ who gave his life so that those who trust in him might enjoy the freedoms of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Wreath Laying

The Prayers

For those facing armed conflict today

God of infinite mercy, we trust in your good purposes of peace for all your children. We pray for those who at this time face danger in the defence of justice. Watch over those in peril; support those who are anxious for loved ones; gather into your eternal purpose those who will pay the ultimate sacrifice. Remove from the hearts of all people the passions that keep alive the spirit of war, and in your goodness restore peace among us; for the sake of the Prince of peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord in your mercy;

Hear our prayer

For faith by which to live

How generous is your goodness, O God, how great is your salvation, how faithful is your love? Help us to trust in you in trial, to praise you in deliverance and to rejoice before you with overflowing hearts. Lord in your mercy;

Hear our prayer

The Collect of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Lord Jesus Christ, who has taught us by thy holy apostle that the powers that be are ordained of God, add, we pray thee, to the old and true fellowship of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry the spirit of discipline and self-control, that we may ever be brave in danger and patient in suffering, after thy example, who art with the Father and the holy ghost, one God, world without end.

Amen.

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.
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

Closing blessing

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.
Amen.



ARMY

The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) researches, approves and organises commemorative funeral and rededication services for casualties in cemeteries (including nominated CWGC cemeteries) within the country of the casualty's death.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the first and second world wars and ensure they will never be forgotten.

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