



A Rededication Service for

**Captain Arthur Lea Harris
1/4th Battalion The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment**

**10:30 hours Wednesday 14 September 2022
CWGC Aeroplane Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Martin Pritchard CF
Chaplain to 4th Battalion
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment**



Arthur Leo Harris.

Captain Arthur Lea Harris was born on 2 May 1886 in Blackburn, Lancashire. He was one of two children born to the Reverend Seymour Frederick Harris and his wife Mary Elinor. Arthur attended Marlborough College between 1899 and July 1904, before studying law. In 1909 he qualified as a solicitor and in 1911 became a partner in the firm Houghton, Myers and Reverley in Preston. On 15 April 1912, Arthur married Winifred Arminson. Their daughter, Mary Elinor Joyce, was born on 11 April 1913. Arthur was the secretary of the Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Club for whom he also played. He is also recorded as having been a keen tennis player, actor and was a prominent figure in the Preston Boy Scouts.

On 26 August 1914, shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, Arthur was Commissioned into The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. He arrived on the Western Front in April 1915 and worked as a Transport Officer before being invalided home due to a knee injury. Having recovered, he returned to the front and was promoted to Captain on 8 June 1917.

On 31 July 1917, the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres, Captain Harris was in command of A Company of 1/4th Battalion The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The battalion took part in the 55th (West Lancashire) Division attack. 165th Infantry Brigade were to capture the Frezenberg Line before 164th Infantry Brigade, to which 1/4th Battalion The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment belonged, advanced. At 10:10 hours 164th Infantry Brigade formed up under a protective barrage. Whilst forming up, enemy snipers were very active, and it is recorded that Captain Harris was hit.

After the war, Captain Harris' remains were recovered and buried in Aeroplane Cemetery as an unknown captain of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. As he was missing, Captain Harris was commemorated on the Menin Gate. However, new research has shown that this is in fact his grave. Today we will remember Captain Harris and his grave will be rededicated.

Originally named New Cemetery, Frezenberg, the site of Aeroplane Cemetery was in No Man's Land until 31 July 1917 when the 15th (Scottish) Division, with the 55th (West Lancashire) Division, took nearby Verlorenhoek and Frezenberg. The cemetery was begun the following month but was soon renamed, from the wreck of an aeroplane which lay near the present position of the Cross of Sacrifice.

Plots II to VIII, and part of Plot I, of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Aeroplane Cemetery were formed after the Armistice when casualties, including Captain Harris, were brought in from small burial grounds and the surrounding battlefields. There are now 1,105 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 636 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate eight casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Call to Worship

Peace to you from God who is our Father. Peace from Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace from the Holy Spirit who gives us life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

We gather this morning as family and as representatives of Her Majesty The Queen to give thanks for the life of Captain Arthur Lea Harris, born on the 2 May 1886 and killed in action on 31 July 1917. As we remember his life of devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God.

Bidding Prayer

Jesus said, 'In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world.' John 16.33

We are met this day to glorify God who sustains the world; To remember with thanksgiving those who lived and died in the service of our country; and to ask for God's help and blessing that we may be worthy of their sacrifice each day of our life.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

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

Numbers Chapter 21 v 4-9 (NIV)

They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Reading

Read by Second Lieutenant Hayder Al-Azzawi
8th Battalion The Rifles

If

By Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,

If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Gospel Reading

Read by Major Andrew Holsgrove

4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

John Chapter 3 v 13-17 (NIV)

No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Address

The Act of Dedication

We remember with thanksgiving at God's throne of grace all those who have died during operational service. We remember this day especially Captain Arthur Lea Harris. 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

Read by Second Lieutenant Hayder Al-Azzawi
8th 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

Played by Lance Corporal Stephen Elliott
8th Battalion The Rifles

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Second Lieutenant Hayder Al-Azzawi
8th Battalion The Rifles

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

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

God of our joys and sorrows, comfort the exiled, console
the oppressed and bring us in joy to our true home,
where your faithful servants sing your praise.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

Read by Major Andrew Holsgrove
4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

O Lord Jesus Christ, faithful and true, grant, we pray
Thee, that as The Loyal Regiment is loyal to our
Sovereign on earth, so we may, in loyalty to Thee, our
heavenly king, be faithful unto death for Thy truth's sake,
who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God
world without end.

All **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,
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 Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all
people, 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.

All **Amen.**



**Captain A. L. HARRIS,
Loyal North Lancashire Regt.**



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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