



A Rededication Service for

Second Lieutenant Thomas William Brogan

2nd Battalion Royal Marine Light Infantry

13.30 hours Thursday 23 October 2025
CWGC Poelcapelle British Cemetery, Belgium

Service conducted by Reverend John Money
Staff Chaplain : Commando Force



Second Lieutenant Thomas William Brogan

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26 March 1886 – 26 October 1917

Thomas William Brogan was born in Tolworth, Surrey in 1886 to parents John Brogan and Emma Hays. He was the middle of three children, two years younger than his brother Arthur and eight years older than his sister Irene.

Thomas enlisted into the Royal Marines on 24 September 1914 and was initially assigned to the Chatham Division. At this point he stood at 5 feet 8 inches tall, and had a fresh complexion with grey eyes and light brown hair. He had a scar on the right side of his forehead.

During his three years with the Royal Marines he served as a Private with the Royal Marine Cyclist Company at Gallipoli from May – August 1915, before being invalided home with dysentery. He returned to the Chatham Division of the Royal Marines from October 1915 onwards, before joining 3rd Bn Royal Marines at Mudros (Greece) from December 1916 – March 1917. At the beginning of March 1917 he returned to the UK to receive his commission to the officer class. His final embarkation was on a ship bound for France in June 1917. By this time he had achieved the rank of Second Lieutenant within the 2nd Bn of the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

At the beginning of October the 2nd Battalion began to move into Belgium, arriving in the Nouvessau Monde area on 5th October. The next couple of weeks comprised training and parading before orders were received to move up towards Irish Farm – which they reached on 26 October.

The 26 October 1917 was the first day of the Second Battle of Passchendaele – an engagement which lasted until 10 November 1917. At 5.40am on the 26 October the 2nd Battalion RMLI attacked the enemy position opposite their own front lines alongside other battalions making up the 188th Infantry Brigade. Thomas Brogan was one of seven officers of the 2nd Bn killed on this day, alongside 381 men of the other ranks. Contemporary news reports tell us that Brogan died leading a platoon of men in the attack.

Welcome / Call to worship:

We meet in this place, in the presence of God, to remember, with thanksgiving and sorrow, those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

We will pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror. And we will commit ourselves to work, in penitence and faith, for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

Particularly today, we will remember the sacrifice made by Second Lieutenant Thomas William Brogan, all those years ago in the Second Battle of Passchendaele, as we rededicate his final resting place.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and Ever-living God, we remember this day those who have fought for the freedom we are enjoying and who have suffered injury, whether that be physical or mental, and also those who have paid the ultimate price and have laid down their lives, for family, friend, stranger and country. Today we thank you for them, men, women, boys and girls, of many ages, of many nationalities, each one created in your likeness, each one a child of God.

So, as we stand here today forgive us for our forgetful natures,
Forgive us when we forget what others have done for us,
Forgive us when we become self-centred,
Forgive us when we underestimate the cost others have paid on our behalf and we have become complacent.
Help us to follow the example your Son has set,
To welcome the stranger,
To feed the hungry
To give water to the thirsty
To care for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Reading: Psalm 23

Read by Clare Goodall, great-niece of Thomas Arden

The Lord is my shepherd; There is nothing I shall want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me: all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3 : 1-8

Read by a representative of the British Embassy

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.

Address

The Reverend John Money

The Act of Dedication

We rededicate this grave to Second Lieutenant Thomas William Brogan 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 WO2 Steven Randall, Royal Marines Commando

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 Ross Buxton,
The Band of the Royal Marines*

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by WO2 Steven Randall, Royal Marines Commando

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

Laying of Wreaths

Collect of the Royal Marines

Read by WO2 Steven Randall, Royal Marines Command

O Eternal Lord God, who through many generations has united and inspired the members of our Corps, grant your blessing, we beseech you, on Royal Marines serving all round the Globe. Bestow your crown of righteousness upon all our efforts and endeavours, and may our laurels be those of gallantry and honour, loyalty and courage. We ask these things in the name of him whose courage never failed, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

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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