



A Rededication Service for

Lance Corporal Lionel Weller Sandell

10th Battalion Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment

15.00 hours Tuesday 28 April 2026

CWGC Zandvoorde British Cemetery, Belgium

**Service conducted by Reverend Vikki Day CF
Chaplain to 22 & 28 Royal Engineers**



Lance Corporal Lionel Weller 'Solly' Sandell

*Our soldier led, faithful, true, and bold,
Fought as the saints Solly fought of old,
And won, with them, the victor's crown of gold!*

"This is the verse chosen by Solly's family to memorialise him in the local newspaper"

Lance Corporal Lionel Moller 'Bolly' Sandell

14 April 1899 – 29 September 1918

Lionel Moller Sandell – known to his family as Bolly – was born in Worthing, Sussex in 1899, the eldest of three children, and the only son of Herbert Moller Sandell, a builder, and his wife Edith Marian Corless. Lionel seems to have had a loving and supportive family life, splitting time between his parent's home with his sisters, and his grandparents' home – they lived just a short walk away, and Lionel's aunt Kate – a school teacher – also lived there.

Lionel first attempted to join the war effort during the early wave of patriotism that swept Britain in 1914. Many young men signed up during this period seeking adventure and travel – and a break from their ordinary lives, and he wasn't alone in attempting to join up underage. Bolly presented himself at the recruiting office on 8 November 1914 – he was just 15 years old.

Despite his young age he successfully managed to enlist in the 294 (Horse Service) Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment under Service No. 2654. He told the recruiters he was 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old – he was measured at 55 5 inches tall with 'good physical development', and could well have appeared older than his 14 years. The recruiters and medical staff evidently believed that he was old enough and fit enough to serve and recorded his 'apparent age' as 17 years and 7 months. He was sent into training. At this point the minimum age to be sent for overseas service was supposed to be 19 years old, so Bolly was taken on with time for a proper amount of training before he would be sent to the front.

On the 4 September 1915 he was posted to the 72 Provisional Battalion to continue his training. He had completed nearly 15 months of horse service, and was likely preparing to go overseas when his father intervened – sending a letter dated 18 February 1916 which sought to re-claim his underage son.

"Dear Sir,

I want to claim my son Lionel Walter Sandell, age 18 years last birthday No 2654 D Company of the 72nd Provisional Battalion for which purpose I enclose his birth certificate. Would you kindly send me any forms that may be necessary to be filled in or any other information that will be useful to me for this purpose apologising for troubling you and hoping for an early reply."

Following this intervention, Lionel was discharged on 28 February 1916. The reason for his discharge was given as "having made a mis-statement as to age on enlistment". On his discharge papers Lionel was described as being 18 years and 10 months old, his height was 5ft 7 inches, and he had a fair complexion, blue eyes, and light brown hair. He was returning to live with his father in Worthing.

Lionel re-enlisted with the East Surrey Regiment at Worthing in May 1917 when he was 19 years & 1 month old, having spent some time working as a chauffeur / mechanic in the intervening year.

His initial period of service was at home with the Army Service Corps, Motor Transport Battalion under service no. M0221607. In June 1917 he was posted to 4 Battalion, East Surrey Regiment under service no. 34214. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 7 November 1917 and attended the Brigade School of Musketry, undertaking a Lewis Gun Course, and eventually attaining the standard of 1st Class Gunner.

Lionel finally embarked for France on 30 March 1918, posted to 1 Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. On 2 April 1918 he was transferred to the 10 Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment, and he arrived with them on 6 April 1918. He suffered from poor health whilst in France – likely due to the conditions in the trenches – and was hospitalised several times for conditions including influenza and trench fever.

On 30 May 1918 there was an incident when Lionel failed to follow the correct procedure for cleaning his Lewis Gun, and inadvertently injured a comrade. This was brought to a military tribunal on 6 August 1918.

and Lionel was deprived of his Lance Corporal stripes for misconduct – neglect of military discipline. He was evidently too good a leader to be kept down though as the demotion did not last long - on 5 September 1918 – just a few weeks before his death – he was re-appointed Lance Corporal.

On the morning of the 20 September 1918 the 10 Battalion formed up to attack along the eastern side of the Ypres-Comines canal. The war diary records that this was their first experience of open warfare that year, and that their final objective was a location east of Houthem and 500 yards north of the railway station at Comines. The morning was fine, but ground fog hid the attack from the enemy and allowed the 10 Battalion to overcome several machine gun posts with little loss. The day was initially successful with the battalion reaching their objective with only six casualties, however later in the day they were compelled to withdraw to Houthem. The total casualties by the end of the day were:

- Officers – 7 wounded,
- Other ranks – 35 killed, 90 wounded and 20 missing.

Lionel was one of those killed. In the chaos of the withdrawal, any records which might have been made of his death or burial were lost, and following the war his name was placed on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing at Ypres. Recently research has revealed that Lionel was in fact been buried at Zandvoorde, and today we rededicate his grave accordingly.

Welcome

"I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38,39)

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

On this significant day, we remember the sacrifice made by Lance Corporal Lionel Walter Sandell, all those years ago in action, as we rededicate his final resting place, and reclaim his identity and his humanity, as a beloved child of God.

In rededicating this grave we commit ourselves anew to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives in world wars and conflicts past and present have been given and taken away.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything 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.
Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke Ch. 12 v. 8-7

Read by Reverend Richard Clement, St. George's Memorial Church, York

Jesus told them, 'Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.'

Reading: We Shall Keep the Faith by Moina Michael, 1915

Chosen by Jolly's family and read by Sue Lee – Jolly's great-niece.

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.
We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.
And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Address

The Reverend Mikki Coy-Cliff

The Act of Dedication

We now rededicate this grave as the final resting place of
Lance Corporal Lionel Weller Sandell in the name of Christ, who died
and rose again.

This place stands as a sign of our remembrance, our thanksgiving,
and our love.

Lord, grant that your servant Lionel may rest in peace,
in the sure knowledge that he now abides in your glory,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Exhortation

Read by Colonel Mark Massey, The Princess of Wales's Royal 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.

Last Post

*Played by Captain Richard Matheson,
The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment*

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Colonel Mark Nooney, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

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

Laying of Wreaths

The Collect of The Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment
Read by Mr Roger Davies, The Queen's Regimental Association
Middlesex Branch, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

O God, the father of our lord Jesus Christ, who has taught us by his holy apostle that the fruits of righteousness are to thy glory, may it please thee to so lead the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment that by well doing we may glorify thee both in our bodies and in our spirits, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers

God of mercy, Lord of life
You promised eternal life to those who believe.
Remember for good this your servant
Lance Corporal Lionel Walker Sandell as we also remember him.

Bring all who rest in Christ
into the fullness of your kingdom
where sins have been forgiven
and death is no more.

Lord, as we remember with sadness the horrors of war,
help us to work for a better understanding between races and nations.
Open our eyes to see our own part in discord and aggression between
peoples,
Forgive us our pride and division,
And remove in us a search for peace so that trust may replace
suspicions,
Friendship replace fear,
And your spirit of reconciliation be known among us 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,
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 unity,
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting.

Go out into the world in peace: be brave and strong;
hold fast to what is good; do not repay evil with evil;
encourage the discouraged, support the weak,
help those who suffer, honour everyone,
and love and serve the Lord with joy,
trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with 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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