



A Rededication Service for

**Second Lieutenant Alan Thompson Watt Boswell RAF
and
Second Lieutenant Robert Percy Gundill RAF**

Wednesday 29 June 2022 at 11:15 hours

CWGC Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetery, Belgium

**Service conducted by
Reverend (Squadron Leader) Adrian Klos RAF**

Alan Thompson Watt Boswell was born on 3 May 1890 in Woolwich, he had 4 siblings (3 brothers and 1 sister). He attended Cardiff High School and then the University College of South Wales where he gained his degree in chemistry having won a scholarship to attend. Alan was a very talented athlete and represented Wales in hockey and football and his County at cricket and rugby. Alan was employed as a School Master when he enlisted into the Welsh Regiment in December 1914. His father's employment was recorded as a storekeeper although he had previously served as a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery seeing active overseas service. Alan was quickly promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Following his discharge from the Army he was granted a commission into The Royal Flying Corps in September 1917. Second Lieutenant Boswell served with 105 and 109 Squadron's before joining 108 squadron in July 1918 as a Pilot. He had a total of 81 flying hours by October 1918. His younger brother Percy was also killed in action in Gallipoli during 1915.

Robert Percy Gundill was born on 3 January 1897 in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, he had 8 siblings (6 brothers and 2 sisters). He attended Kings School in Pontefract and his father; Henry was a liquorice manufacturer as was Robert before he enlisted into the West Yorkshire Regiment in December 1914. Private Gundill served overseas, including in Egypt before being commissioned into The Northumberland Fusiliers on 25 April 1917. Second Lieutenant Gundill then applied to transfer to the Royal Flying Corps and was appointed as an Observer on 6 July 1918 and posted to 108 Sqn. Gundill's nephew, Lieutenant Peter Gundill joined the West Yorkshire Regiment and was killed in action on 5 June 1942 in Libya.

Second Lieutenants Boswell and Gundill were flying as a tandem crew in DH9 D1080 on a bombing raid in the locale of Menin when they went missing on 2 October 1918. The Officer Commanding No. 108 Squadron RAF stated that they had left the aerodrome at 1207 hours and were last seen flying at 3,000 feet, west of the objective. When they failed to return it was documented they may have lost their way in the clouds before being shot down.



2nd Lt Boswell shown in the back row, 3rd from the right.

Order of Service

Conducted by

**Rev'd (Sqn Ldr) Adrian Klos RAF
Chaplain Royal Centre for Defence Medicine**

Welcome and Introduction

We have come together, family, friends, and the Royal Air Force, to give thanks for the lives of Second Lieutenants Alan Thompson Watt Boswell and Robert Percy Gundill who died together on 2 October 1918, and to dedicate this place to their memory. As we remember their lives, devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend to God's sure keeping all those who died in service of their country.

Opening 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

Reading

Triumphant Threnody from The Few by Edward Shanks

Read by Squadron Leader Mark Graham XI(F) Sqn RAF

This was their kingdom, the air, and they bore them like kings,
And they were the shield for us all who dwelt under their wings.
Brief had their lives been until then, nor much longer endured,
But just for so long as the need, till the end was assured,
This they gave up as a ransom, that we might go free,
Richness of days not yet lived, all the fullness to be,
The joy of life's long slow achievement, the race and the prize,
The peace of the ultimate evening, before the light dies –
All this they burnt up in a moment, the young men, the kings,
Who guarded this land in that hour by the might of their wings.
No gift have we now we may give them that weighs what they
gave,
But the clouds of our skies shall entwine them the wreath for
their grave.

Reading

John 15:12-17 (NIV)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Reading

High Flight - by John Gillespie Magee, R.C.A.F.

Read by Russell Evans, Great Nephew of Alan Boswell

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things

You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless falls of air...

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, nor ever eagle flew –
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod

The high, untrampled sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

Address

Prayers

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the lives of Alan and Robert and for the grace and mercy that they have received from you. For all that was good in their lives and for the treasured memories they left behind. We give thanks for their courage, devotion to duty and their sacrifice.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty Father, we thank you for those whose lives were and are defended by the service of the Royal Air Force and her allies and offer our debt of gratitude for our own lives and liberty. We pray for all those who suffer as a result of war or conflict; for the injured, the wounded, the hurt and the bereaved; for the homeless and the refugee; for the fearful and the oppressed; for the prisoner and the vulnerable; for those who seek to bring relief and protection.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Royal Air Force

Read by Sergeant Jack Ryder XI(F) Sqn RAF

Almighty God, who has promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength and mount with wings, as eagles; we commend to thy fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Uplift and support them in their endeavour, that they may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and a sure defence to our homeland, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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,
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.

Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure
keeping those who have died for their country, those whom we
knew and whose memory we treasure, and all who have lived
and died in the service of humanity.

The Exhortation

Read by Corporal Michael Langlands XI(F) Sqn RAF

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 SAC Jack Wilson, Trumpeter of the Central Band of the Royal Air Force

The Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by SAC(T) Harry Phipps XI(F) Sqn RAF

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

Wreath Laying

The Blessing

May God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to The Queen, Commonwealth
and all people, peace and concord.
And to us and all his servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen



Duhallow Advanced Dressing Station, believed to have been named after a southern Irish hunt, was a medical post 1.6 kilometres north of Ypres. The Cemetery was begun in July 1917, on the day of the Battle of Pilckem Ridge, with plots I and IV completed by November 1918. After the Armistice further burials were made when casualties were brought in from the surrounding cemeteries and battlefields, including Second Lieutenant Alan Thompson Watt Boswell and Second Lieutenant Robert Percy Gundill.



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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