



A Rededication Service for

Lieutenant Leslie Harvey

**1/8 Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own
Middlesex Regiment**

**14:30 hours Wednesday 28 April 2026
CWGC Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by Reverend Vikki Day CF
Chaplain to 22 & 26 Royal Engineers**

Lieutenant Leslie Harvey **3 January 1884 – 25 April 1915**

Leslie Harvey was born in Windsor in January 1884, the only child of parents Cecil Albany Harvey – a bank manager, and his wife Ann Arney. Sadly, Leslie's mother died when he was just a year old. Leslie was educated at Eastbourne and Isworth schools, and trained as a solicitor.

He joined the ranks of Cavalry Officer Training Corps, and on the outbreak of war volunteered immediately, being given a commission in the Middlesex Regiment on 28 August 1914. Leslie was sent to Gibraltar with the regiment in October 1914, and was promoted to Lieutenant in February 1915. Following a short period of leave in England he was sent to France, in late February – early March 1915.

By April 1915 Leslie had reached Belgium and was engaged in fighting in the Zonnebeke area. On 25 April 1915 he was killed whilst leading a bayonet charge. Although he was buried by his men at the time – near a railway crossing – the records of his grave were lost, and following the war he was named on the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing at Ypres.

In early 1928, the body of an unknown Lieutenant of the Middlesex Regiment was recovered from a location just south of the Ypres-Roulers railway – identified by a shoulder title, and his badges and buttons. It was impossible to determine his personal identity and he was buried as an unknown Lieutenant at Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, alongside two other men recovered at the same place and time.

Recently research has connected this unknown Lieutenant to Leslie Harvey, and allowed us to identify his final resting place. Today we rededicate his grave accordingly.

Welcome

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life". (John 3:16)

We gather here today to worship God and give thanks for those who lived and died in the service of freedom, justice and peace. We remember and pray for all those who have suffered, and who still suffer because of war. We pray for peace and reconciliation – especially remembering those with the responsibility for the leadership of nations – that conflict may be avoided.

We remember particularly here today Lieutenant Leslie Harvey. Today we name him and rededicate this new gravestone and his final resting place. He, alongside so many others, answered the call of their country, served with honour, and gave their lives in the service of their nation, counting service to others greater than service of self.

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: John 14 v1-6

Read by Group Captain John Dawson,

Outgoing Defence Attache to Belgium & Luxembourg

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me".

Reading: For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Nick Thom,

Incoming Defence Attache to Belgium & Luxembourg

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe. "

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are story in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

* The fourth verse of the poem is not read here since it will be read later in the service.

Address

The Reverend Will Day OF

The Act of Dedication

We now rededicate this grave as the final resting place of Lieutenant Leslie Harvey 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 Leslie 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 Nooney, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Ages 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 Waterson,
The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment*

Silence

Ravells

Kehms 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 Middlesex Regiment

*Read by Major (Ret'd) Derrick Harwood MBE TD RM,
President of the Queen's Regimental Association
Middlesex Branch, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment*

O ever-living God, by whose only grace we are able to say, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, grant to us Thy servants of the Middlesex Regiment that, ever remembering the valour of those who gave us victory, we may endure hardness and be faithful unto death, as good soldiers of Him who laid down his life for us, our saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayers

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you have made us in your image
to reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for Lieutenant Leslie Harvey;
for the grace and mercy he received from you,
for all that was good in his life,
for the sacrifice he made that we remember today.

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 renew in us a search for peace so that trust may replace
suspicion,
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 & Compensation 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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