



A Rededication Service for

**Lieutenant Alfred Owen Cookson**

Hawke Battalion  
Royal Naval Division

Killed in action on 8 October 1918

**CWGC Proville British Cemetery**  
France

**Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 11:30 hours**

Service Conducted by  
**The Very Revd David Conroy QHC VE RN,**  
Royal Navy Deputy Chaplain of the Fleet

### **Lieutenant Alfred Owen Cookson**

Alfred was born on 10 February 1894 in Wakefield, West Yorkshire to Albert Cookson (1863-1943) and Kate Maud Smithson (1868-1945). Alfred had one sister: Violet Sarah Cookson (1892-1966). At the outbreak of the war, Alfred was working as a mining student, presumably with his father who was a colliery manager.

When the First World War began, Alfred joined the Motor Patrol Service. The following year he was transferred to the Royal Naval Division and joined the Hawke Battalion on 25 October 1915 as a 'Bombing Officer'. He went on to serve in the Dardanelles and in France, being twice wounded in action. He died of his wounds on 8 October 1918 when his division was ordered to capture Cambrai.

Created by the 61st Division and 8th North Staffordshire Regiment in October 1918, when the village was captured, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Proville British Cemetery now contains the graves of 149 casualties. Among them are 28 casualties of the Royal Naval Division, including Lieutenant Alfred Owen Cookson who could not be identified at the time.

## **Welcome**

*John 1, 25 – 26*

*Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*

We are gathered here today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past.

Today we remember with thanksgiving Lieutenant Alfred Owen Cookson who, alongside so many others, answered the call of his country, served with honour and gave his life in the service of his nation.

In so doing let us commit ourselves anew to remember his courage. For by so doing we honour his memory and we reflect upon that sacrifice.

Let us offer ourselves also to God's service, that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven and that His kingdom of justice and peace be established everywhere.

## **Bidding Prayer**

Let us recall the presence of God, the Father of all mankind, maker and sustainer of all that is, whose purposes are good, whose love is never withheld and whose mercy never passes away. We call to mind His faithfulness in times of darkness and despair.

We remember before Him our brothers and sisters whose names are known only to God, and all who have served in the Armed Forces of our nation; who counted service to others greater than service of self, and who gave their lives in battle.

Merciful Father,  
hear our prayers and comfort us;  
renew our trust in your Son  
whom you raised from the dead;  
strengthen our faith  
that all who have died in the love of Christ  
will share in His resurrection;  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **Scripture Reading**

*Ecclesiastes 3, 1 – 8 (NIV)*

**Read by WO1 Darren Wearing MBE, Royal Navy**

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under  
heaven:

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,  
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.

### **Scripture Reading**

*John 14, 1 – 6 (NIV)*

**Read by CPO Samuel McGaw, Royal Navy**

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Trust in God still, and trust in me.  
There are many rooms in my Father's house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.  
I am going now to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am  
you may be too.  
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so  
how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.'

## **The Act of Remembrance**

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure  
Keeping: those who have died for their country in conflict;  
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 Cdr Nicola Cripps, Royal Navy**

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**

**Silence**

**Reveille**

## **Kohima Epitaph**

**Read by Cdr Nicola Cripps, Royal Navy**

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

**Wreath Laying**

## **Prayers**

Remember, Lord, your people, who cry to you in their grief.  
Remember the fallen in battle, and the innocents who have died.  
Remember your power to heal and save.

O God, we remember Lieutenant Alfred Owen Cookson, with  
gratitude and affection and give thanks  
for his life and service.

We remind ourselves that this is not the end,  
For our God is the God who raised Jesus from the dead  
And will bring us all to life.

We dedicate this spot, to stand as an earthly memorial  
Of his life, declaring in faith that he rests in your everlasting  
arms.

May God give peace.

**Amen**

Almighty God, who has revealed your only Son as the  
resurrection and the life; raise us, we pray, from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness that, when we depart from this life,  
we may rest in Him, and at the last may receive the blessing;  
Well done good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your  
Lord. Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our  
mediator and redeemer.

**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,  
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 Naval Prayer**

O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end: be pleased to receive into thy almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants and the Fleet in which we serve.

Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth and her dominions, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our Islands and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve thee our God;

And that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land with the fruits of our labours and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## **The Dismissal and Blessing**

Lord God,  
whose days are without end  
and whose mercies beyond counting,  
keep us mindful that life is short  
and the hour of death unknown.  
Let your spirit guide our days on earth  
in the ways of holiness and justice,  
that we may serve you  
in union with the whole Christian Church,  
secure in faith,  
strong in hope,  
perfected in love.  
And when our earthly journey is ended,  
lead us all rejoicing into your kingdom.

And may the blessing of Almighty God,  
the Father,  
the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you  
and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**



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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