



A Rededication Service for

Captain Gordon Cuthbert

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

**19:30 hours Wednesday 28 April 2026
CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium**

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



Captain Gordon Cuthbert
14 August 1878 – 26 April 1918

Gordon Cuthbert was born in Sanbury, Middlesex in August 1878, the third of four children born to Henry Westell Cuthbert, a Russia Broker / Oil and Tallow Broker, and his wife Rosa Isabel. Gordon was the only son, having two elder sisters - Mildred born in 1873 and Eva born in 1874, and one younger sister in Mary born in 1888. Gordon was educated at Clifton College in Bristol.

On reaching his majority in 1897 Gordon was granted the Freedom of the City of London and membership of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers. He followed in his father's footsteps in civilian life, becoming an oil broker in the firm Messrs Cuthbert & Hall of Fenchurch Street, and a member of the Baltic Exchange.

In 1894 he joined the London Rifle Brigade, and he was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the 2 Volunteer Brigade of the Middlesex Regiment in February 1900. He transferred to the Territorial Reserve in 1908, was appointed captain in command of the Twickenham Company in 1911.

In 1905 he married Eleanor Bruce Arkstell in Middlesex, and they began a family with the birth of his son Cholmsley Ransom Cuthbert late that year. Cholmsley was followed by two sisters – Elizabeth, born in 1908 and Patricia, born in 1911.

On the outbreak of war in August 1914 he rejoined the Middlesex Regiment and proceeded to Gibraltar for garrison duty until February 1915 when he was sent to northern Europe. He was killed on 25 April whilst leading a storming party which retook a trench near Ypres that had been vacated by another battalion owing to gas. In the chaos of war immediate burial was impossible, and following the war Gordon's name was added to the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing in Ypres.

Gordon was obviously highly thought of by both his men, and his fellow officers. Second Lieutenant Leeson wrote a letter published in the Middlesex Chronicle in early May 1915 in which he said:

It is no great exaggeration to say that his officers and men adored him – unflinching in sympathy, unflinching in good humour, he was always ready at the end of a long march or an exhausting turn of duty in the trenches with a laugh and a joke, however tired he might be. As one of his men said 'Our Captain Cuthbert is a champion'. His devotion was indeed an example. By disposition a man of peace, he might easily have avoided service at the front on medical grounds, but he preferred to take the risk ... and go with his 'boys'. The battalion has lost a loyal servant, his company a devoted leader, Lt Buller and I a true friend. He leaves a widow and three little children who I know will have your sympathy.

In 1905 the body of a Captain of the Middlesex Regiment was recovered on the southern side of the Ypres-Flourens railway line – his rank and regiment were determined from elements of his uniform, but his personal identity was impossible to tell and so he was buried as an unknown Captain at Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Recently in depth research has allowed the unknown Captain to be connected to Gordon Cuthbert, and today we rededicate his final resting place in his name.

Welcome

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25,26)

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.

And on this day above all, we meet to rededicate this grave as the final resting place of Captain Gordon Cutlbert. Already known and loved by our creator God, today we entrust him again into the arms of God's loving mercy and place a headstone with his name as a fitting memorial to his service and ultimate sacrifice. This 'Unknown Officer of the Middlesex Regiment' retains 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

God of all consolation,
your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears
at the grave of Lazarus his friend.

Look with compassion on your children in their loss;
give to troubled hearts the light of hope
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 27

*Read by Lieutenant Colonel Nick Thom,
Incoming Defence Attache to Belgium & Luxembourg*

The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me
it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

Reading: Farewell by Sir Henry Newbolt

*Like Gordon, Sir Henry Newbolt was educated at Clifton College in Bristol.
Chosen on behalf of the family of Captain Culbert*

*Read by Group Captain John Dickson,
Outgoing Defence Attache to Belgium & Luxembourg*

Mother, with unbowed head
Hear thou across the sea
The farewell of the dead,
The dead who died for thee,
(Greet them again with tender words and grave,
For saving thee, themselves they could not save.

To keep the house unharm'd
Their fathers built so fair,
Deeming endurance arm'd
Better than brute despair,
They found the secret of the word that saith,
'Service is sweet, for all true life is death.'
So greet thou wilt thy dead
Across the homeless sea,
And be thou comforted
Because they died for thee.
Far off they served, but now their deed is done
For evermore their life and thine are one.

Address:

The Reverend Mark Day, C/P

The Act of Dedication

We now rededicate this grave as the final resting place of Captain Gordon Cuttbert 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 Gordon 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,
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 Waterston,
The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment*

Silence

Ravele

Rehina 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

Prayers

Lord of all,
we praise you for Captain Gordon Culbert and for all who have
entered into their rest,
reaching the promised land where you are seen face to face,
Give us grace to follow in their footsteps
as they followed in the way of your Son.

Thank you for the memory of those you have called to yourself;
by each memory turn our hearts from things seen to things unseen,
and lead us till we come to the eternal rest
you have prepared for your people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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
suspicions,

Friendship replace fear,

And your spirit of reconciliation be known among us all. **Amen.**

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.**

The Lord's Prayer (all)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
followed by 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 service personnel.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the graves, memorials, records and history of the 1.7 million Commonwealth-service men and women who died during the two world wars.

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