



A Rededication Service for

**Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC
34th Battalion Machine Gun Corps**

**10:30 hours on Thursday 23 April 2020
CWGC Croisilles British Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by The Reverend Joseph Roberts CF
Chaplain to 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment
Disculément de la cérémonie présidé par
Le Révérend Joseph Roberts CF**

Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC



Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC was born in Hampstead, London, on 27 March 1893. He was one of five children born to George Herbert Steinberg and his wife Bertha. Before enlisting George worked as a patent agent's assistant. On 5 September 1914, shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, he enlisted into The Royal Berkshire Regiment and was posted to 7th Battalion. On 23 June 1915, the then Corporal Steinberg, was discharged having been given a Commission. He initially joined The East Lancashire Regiment as a second lieutenant before transferring to the Machine Gun Corps. On 7 November 1916, he was wounded in a bombing accident in the United Kingdom. He was promoted to lieutenant on 1 January 1917.

Lieutenant Steinberg arrived on the Western Front on 11 April 1917 and joined 102nd Company Machine Gun Corps on 30 April 1917. He is described as having been an intelligent, sober and punctual man, he distinguished himself as a strong leader and was awarded the Military Cross which was published in the London Gazette of 17 December 1917. The citation for the decoration read:

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During an enemy barrage, one of his machine guns was blown up, and shortly afterwards, all the non-commissioned officers became casualties. Nevertheless, he collected the guns and moved them forward to an advanced position, personally superintending the action of each gun under the heaviest shell fire.'

On 10 February 1918, Lieutenant Steinberg attended a course at the Machine Gun School at Camiers. By the time he returned to his unit on 17 March 1918, 102nd Machine Gun Company had been redesignated as 34th Battalion Machine Gun Corps. When the German Army launched Operation Michael, the first phase of their Spring Offensive, on 21 March 1918, 34th Battalion Machine Gun Corps was in the line near St

Lager where they had spent the preceding days hurriedly preparing defences and emplacements for the expected attack. Lieutenant Steinberg was in charge of D Battery part of G Company.

The War Diaries of 34th Battalion Machine Gun Corps record that at about 18:30 hours on 21 March 1918, Lieutenant Steinberg was instructed to fire indirectly on Maida Vale. This was carried out for around thirty minutes. The enemy was visible and a haze which had been present earlier in the day had cleared. Lieutenant Steinberg was then instructed to carry out direct fire which he kept up until dusk. Lieutenant Steinberg was reported to have fired 20,000 rounds.

Lieutenant Steinberg's servant was with him when he was killed on 22 March 1918 and recorded that he was buried three to four hours later. He was 24 years old. A letter written by a Lieutenant Colonel Cameron, records that Lieutenant Steinberg had behaved with 'special gallantry in the show – he was killed instantaneously by an 8" shell – he had evidently shown most extraordinary determination and gallantry'.

The remains of Lieutenant Steinberg were buried by the Germans and moved after the war into Croisilles British Cemetery, where he was reinterred as an unknown Lieutenant of 102nd Machine Gun Company. As he was missing, Lieutenant Steinberg was commemorated on the Arras Memorial. However, new research has resulted in the identification of his grave and the headstone over the grave has now been replaced. Today we will remember Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Croisilles British Cemetery was made in April 1917 and contains nearly 1,200 burials. It was significantly expanded after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields.

and smaller burial grounds. Among these graves was that of Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC, who could not be identified at the time.

Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC est né à Hampstead, Londres, le 27 mars 1893. Il était l'un des cinq enfants nés à George Herbert Steinberg et sa femme Bertha. Avant de s'engager, George travaillait comme assistant d'un agent de brevets. Le 5 septembre 1914, peu après le déclenchement de la Première Guerre mondiale, il s'est enrôlé dans Le Royal Berkshire Regiment et a été affecté au 7^e Bataillon. Le 23 juin 1915, Corporal Steinberg fut démobilisé après avoir reçu une commission. Il rejoignit d'abord Le East Lancashire Regiment en tant que sous-lieutenant avant d'être transféré au Machine Gun Corps. Le 7 novembre 1915, il fut blessé lors d'un accident accident de bombardement au Royaume-Uni. Il fut promu lieutenant le 1 janvier 1917.

Lieutenant Steinberg est arrivé sur le front occidental le 11 avril 1917 et rejoignit la 102^e Company du Machine Gun Corps le 20 avril 1917. Décrit comme un homme intelligent, sobre et posé, il s'est distingué comme un leader fort et il a été décoré avec le Military Cross, qui a été publié dans la London Gazette du 17 décembre 1917. La citation disait:

"Pour sa bravoure et son dévouement remarquables. Lors d'un barrage ennemi, l'une de ses mitrailleuses a été détruite et, peu après, tous les sous-officiers ont été blessés. Néanmoins, il a rassemblé les mitrailleuses et les a déplacées vers une position avancée, supervisant personnellement l'action de chaque mitrailleuse sous un feu d'artillerie intense."

Le 15 février 1918, Lieutenant Steinberg suivit un cours à l'école de mitrailleurs de Camiers. Lorsqu'il rejoignit son unité le 17 mars 1918, la 102^e Company avait été rebaptisée 34^e Bataillon du Machine Gun Corps. Lorsque l'armée allemande

lancé l'opération Michael, la première phase de son offensive de printemps, le 21 mars 1918, le 34^e Bataillon du Machine Gun Corps se trouvait en ligne près de St Leger, où il avait passé les jours précédents à préparer à la hâte ses défenses et ses emplacements en prévision de l'attaque attendue. Lieutenant Steinberg était responsable de G Battery, qui faisait partie de C Company.

Les journaux de guerre du 34^e Bataillon du Machine Gun Corps indiquent qu'à environ 15:30 heures le 21 mars 1918, Lieutenant Steinberg reçut l'ordre de tirer indirectement sur Maréchalville. Cette opération dura environ trente minutes. L'ennemi était visible et la brume qui régnait plus tôt dans la journée s'était dissipée. Lieutenant Steinberg reçut alors l'ordre d'effectuer des tirs directs, qu'il poursuivit jusqu'au crépuscule. Lieutenant Steinberg avait tiré 20 000 cartouches.

Le serviteur du Lieutenant Steinberg était avec lui lorsqu'il a été tué le 22 mars 1918 et a rapporté qu'il avait été entendu trois à quatre heures plus tard. Il avait 24 ans. Une lettre écrite par Lieutenant Colonel Cameron rapporte que Lieutenant Steinberg s'était comporté avec «une bravoure exceptionnelle au combat – il a été tué sur le coup par un abus de 8 pouces – il avait manifestement fait preuve d'une détermination et d'une bravoure extraordinaires.»

Les restes de Lieutenant Steinberg ont été entendus par les Allemands, puis transférés après la guerre au Croisilles British Cemetery, où il a été inhumé en tant que l'un lieutenant inconnu de la 102^e Company du Machine Gun Corps. Comme il a été porté disparu, Lieutenant Steinberg a été commémoré au mémorial commémoratif à Arras. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié et sa pierre tombale a été modifiée en conséquence. Aujourd'hui, nous nous souviendrons du Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Call to Worship
Appl and Adoration

"Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
I once was lost, but now am found."

We gather here today in the solemn peace of Croisilles British Cemetery to rededicate the grave of Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC of 34th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps – a courageous young officer of the First World War whose resting place has now been identified with certainty and restored to him with dignity.

More than a century has passed since Lieutenant Steinberg served and fell on the Western Front. He fought in one of the most demanding and perilous roles of the war, leading his men under fire in the Machine Gun Corps – a unit whose service and sacrifice were marked by extraordinary resolve. For his gallantry he was awarded the Military Cross, a testament to his leadership, his courage, and his devotion to duty in the most trying of circumstances.

Today, thanks to careful research and dedicated investigation, we are able to honour him by name. A life once known but now lost, a grave once honoured but unmarked, is today restored in full recognition of the man who lies here in this hallowed place.

We come together to give thanks for Lieutenant Steinberg's service, to commend him to God's eternal care, and to reaffirm our promise that those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom will never be forgotten. His story, like so many of his generation, reminds us of the cost of war and the enduring value of peace.

May this act of rededication not only honour his memory but also deepen our gratitude for all who served and renew in us the resolve to remember them with humility, respect, and hope.

Bidding Prayer

Prayer

We 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.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may live together in freedom, justice and peace.

All Father in heaven,
we thank you because you made us in your own
image and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit.
We thank you now for George
and what he meant to us.
As we honour his memory,
make us more aware that you are the one
from whom comes every perfect gift,
including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Reading

Lecture

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

Not Just a Name

By Ray Gaenor Berkin

For years you have lain in France's green fields
Just marked with a pure white stone
Your family at home, how they mourned your loss
All the more for you were "unknown".

How often they prayed that you would be found
How they yearned to visit your stone
And now here you lie- named at last-
No longer just an "unknown".

The loved ones who knew you are all lost to time
And to us the torch is now thrown.
So we will remember the man who was lost
And not just a name on a stone.

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Ecritures Saintes

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

Wisdom Chapter 3 v 1-8 & 9

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them,
in the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
but they are in peace,
if they experienced punishment as men see it,
their hope was rich with immortality;
slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be.
God has put them to the test
and proved them worthy to be with him;
he has tested them like gold in a furnace.
They who trust in him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with him in love;
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

Address

Allocution

The Act of Dedication

L'Acte de Dédication

So let us now bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC.

Lord of all life and hope, we bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Lieutenant George Kenneth Steinberg MC, whom we honour for his courage, service, and sacrifice.

Eternal God, sanctify this ground once more.
Let it be a sign of our enduring commitment
to honour the fallen,
to support the living,
and to work faithfully for a world
where justice and reconciliation prevail.

May Lieutenant Steinberg rest in Your everlasting peace,
and may we, in our time, walk in the light of the values
for which he served and lived.

All Amen.

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian 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.

All We will remember them.

Last Post

Sonnerie aux Morts

Played by Lance Corporal April Farthing

The Band of The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épithaphe de Kohima

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôt des Gerbes

Prayers

Princes

Let us pray for the people of the world:
for all those who govern and rule,
that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do
what is right...
For all who work to improve international relationships,
that they may find the true way to reconcile people of
different race, religion and creed...
And for humankind the world over,
that they may have justice and freedom,
and live in security and peace...

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:
for the injured and the disabled,
for the mentally distressed,
and for those whose faith in God and humanity has been
weakened or destroyed...
For the homeless and refugees,
for those who are hungry,
and for all who have lost their livelihood and security...
For those who mourn their dead,
those who have lost husband or wife,
children or parents,
and those who do not where their loved one died,
sustain and hold them in their grief...

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
infinite wisdom, love and power!
have compassion on those for whom we pray.

especially for George and all his fallen comrades.
Help us to use all suffering
in the cause of your kingdom;
through him who gave himself for us on the cross,
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer du Seigneur

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with
confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Prrière pour les Forces Armées

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces; grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Blessing

Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction

May the God of peace,
who calls each one of us by name,
bless us with gratitude for lives given in service,
with compassion for all who suffer,
and with a steadfast commitment to peace.
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon this place,
upon the memory of Lieutenant George Kenneth
Steinberg MC,
and upon all who stand here today.

All **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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