



**A Rededication Service for
Captain John Russell Pound
Att. 2nd Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry**

**12:30 hours on Wednesday 18 March 2026
CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by Father Terkura Igbe CF
Chaplain to
1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment**

Captain John Russell Pound



Captain John Russell Pound was born in Edmonton, Middlesex, on 7 June 1887. He was the eldest of six children born to Sir John Lulham Pound and his wife Lady Julia. His grandfather Sir John Pound, the owner of luggage manufacturer and retailer John Pound & Co. of London, had served as the Lord Mayor of London between 1904 and 1905 and had become the 1st Baronet Pound, of Stanmore, Middlesex, a title that Captain Pound would have inherited had he not been killed during the First World War.

John Russell Pound was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School in London and St John's College Oxford where he graduated with First Class Honours in Mathematics and took a masters degree. He was a keen athlete, and played rugby for his school team, was captain of his college team and played for Oxford University and for the Old Merchant Taylors. In 1909 John became an Assistant Master at Shrewsbury School. He later had an interval year teaching at Christ Church College in Kanpur, India, before becoming the Housemaster of School House at Shrewsbury School. On 31 March 1914 he married Elsie Irene Pendlebury in the Shrewsbury School Chapel.

Captain Pound took a keen interest in the Officer Training Corps at Shrewsbury School in which he was a captain. In 1910 he was gazetted on the Unattached List in the Territorial Force. Upon the outbreak of the First World War he applied for a Commission and in August 1914 was made a captain in 3rd Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry and was attached to 2nd Battalion for active service on the Western Front.

On 25 April 1915, two companies of 2nd Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, X Company under Captain Pound, and Z Company, were sent to the extreme apex of the salient near Broedsiude to retake Trench 25 which had been lost by 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment the day before. When they had reached the sunken road half a mile

beyond Zonnebeke, it was decided to attack from there. Two platoons of Z Company attacked but were not successful. X Company then made another attempt to take the trench but was also not successful. Following the attacks, X and Z Companies took over the trenches adjoining the lost trench and it was in that location on 27 April 1915 that Captain Pound was shot through the head by a sniper and died without regaining consciousness. He was 27 years old. Later that day another unsuccessful attempt to take Trench 25 was made by the battalion.

Captain Pound was the second of the six siblings to lose his life in the Great War. His younger brother, Lieutenant Murray Stuart Pound who was attached to 1st Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), was wounded near Poelcapelle on 21 October 1914 and died in St Guy's Hospital London, on 7 November 1914. He is buried in Highgate Cemetery in London.

After the war the remains of Captain John Russell Pound were recovered and buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery as an unknown captain of The King's Shropshire Light Infantry. As he was missing, Captain Pound was commemorated on the Menin Gate. However, new research has led to the identification of his grave and the headstone over the grave has now been changed to reflect this. Today we will remember Captain John Russell Pound and his grave will be rededicated.

Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world, is now the resting place of more than 11,900 servicemen from the First World War. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on a German pillbox captured by the 3rd Australian Division on 4 October 1917. After the Armistice, graves were brought in from small burial grounds and the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck, including that of Captain John Russell Pound, whose previously unidentified grave we rededicate today.

Call to Worship

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord;
inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation
of the world. (Matthew 25 v 34)

The Lord be with you.
All **And with your spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, in our grief we turn to you. Are you not the God of
love always ready to hear our cries? Listen to our
prayers for your servant Captain John Russell Pound,
whom you have called out of this world: lead him to your
kingdom of light and peace and count him among the
saints in glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Read by Group Captain John Dickson

Defence Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg

Isaiah Chapter 25 v 6–9

On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Read by Regimental Sergeant Major Mark Nicholls
4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment

John Chapter 11 v 21–27

Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you'. 'Your brother,' said Jesus to her, 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day'. Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reading

Read by Sir Robert Pound
Great Great Nephew of Captain Pound

The Soldier

By Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Address

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Dear friends, in reverence let us pray to God, the source of all mercies. We pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings that came to so many people through the life of Captain John Russell Pound may he now receive the fullness of God's blessings in eternity.

We pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, hear us.**

God, you are full of mercy and compassion. Forgive Captain John Russell Pound any sins he committed through human weakness.

We pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the family and friends of Captain John Russell Pound may the Lord be their strength and their consolation.

We pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for all who are gathered here for this service of rededication. May our own lives bear witness to the generous love of the Lord who lived, died and rose from the dead so that we may have life and have it to the full.

We pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Listen, O God, to the prayers of your children on behalf of the faithful departed, and grant to your servant Captain John Russell Pound, whose rededication we have celebrated today, the inheritance promised to all your saints. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Act of Dedication

So let us now bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Captain John Russell Pound.

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb: Bless and dedicate, we pray, this grave as the place where the body of your servant John may rest in peace, in the knowledge that he now abides in your glory through the merits of your Son, who is the resurrection and the life; who died and is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Exhortation

Read by Warrant Officer Class 2 Thomas Edge
4th Battalion The Mercian 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

Played by The Band and Bugles of The Rifles

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Warrant Officer Class 2 Thomas Edge
4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment

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

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

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 Church, sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love. And when our earthly journey is ended, lead us rejoicing into your kingdom, just as you led your son Captain John Russell Pound where you live for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Read by the Reverend Richard Clement
Chaplain to St George's Memorial Church, Ypres

O Lord Jesus Christ, Light of Light, who didst die and rise again more glorious for us, vouchsafe so to raise thy servants The King's Shropshire Light Infantry into thy glorious light, that though we suffer we may be glorified with thee, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost art glorified for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Blessing

Because God has chosen to call our brother Captain John Russell Pound from this life to himself, we commit his body to its resting place, for we are dust and unto dust we shall return. But the Lord Jesus Christ will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory, for he is risen, the first-born from the dead. So let us commend our brother to the Lord, that the Lord may embrace him in peace and raise up his body on the last day.

O God, in whom sinners find mercy and the saints find joy, we pray to you for our brother Captain John Russell Pound who has gone before us. Grant that he may be delivered from the bonds of death. Admit him on the last day to rejoice in your presence for ever.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

All **And with your spirit.**

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

All **Amen.**

Go in peace.

All **Thanks be to God.**



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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