



A Rededication Service for

**Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle
1/8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters
(Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)**

**14:30 hours on Tuesday 17 March 2026
CWGC Joncourt East British Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by Father Terkura Igbe CF
Chaplain to 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment
Déroulement de la cérémonie présidé par
Le Révérend Terkura Igbe CF**

Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle

Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle was born in Nottingham in early 1898. He was one of seven children born to John Hardy Mantle and his wife Eleanor. Following the outbreak of the First World War, Arthur joined The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) and was posted to 1/8th Battalion.

Following the Allied attack near Amiens on 8 August 1918, the stalemate of the Western Front was broken and the German Army was rapidly pushed back eastwards. On the morning of 3 October 1918, 1/8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters was located on the eastern side of Joncourt ready to attack. A and B Companies were in the frontline with C and D Companies in support. Their objective was a line running northeast on the western outskirts of Montbrehain on a front of 1000 yards.

At 06:50 hours a creeping barrage commenced, and they moved off behind this. The first organised resistance came from Wiancourt and the high ground southeast of Swiss Cottage. They rushed a machine gun and discovered a shallow trench. The enemy tried to escape but were killed or captured. The village of Wiancourt should have been taken by the Australians, but as they were unable to advance, 1/8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters diverted to the left to deal with it. Afterwards they continued on towards Ramicourt and Montbrehain.

On reaching their objective 1/6th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters passed through to the east mopping up. After the enemy counterattacked, 1/8th Battalion was forced to fall back and took up positions on the railway and sunken road northeast of Ramicourt. It was during the fighting that day that Lance Corporal Mantle was killed. He was 20 years old.

The remains of Lance Corporal Mantle were recovered and buried in Joncourt East British Cemetery as an unknown lance

corporal of 1/8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters. As he was missing, Lance Corporal Mantle was commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. However, new research has allowed the grave of Lance Corporal Mantle to be identified and the headstone over the grave has been changed. Today we will remember Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle and his grave will be rededicated.

The village of Joncourt was captured by Australian troops on 30 September 1918. CWGC's Joncourt East British Cemetery is the final resting place of 71 casualties of the First World War, all of whom lost their lives between 30 September and 3 October 1918. With the identification of Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle, whose grave we rededicate today, every casualty buried in this cemetery is now commemorated with a named headstone at the site of their final resting place.

Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle est né à Nottingham au début de l'année 1898. Il était l'un des sept enfants nés à John Hardy Mantle et de son épouse Eleanor. Après le début de la Première Guerre mondiale, Arthur s'est engagé dans le régiment des Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) et a été affecté au 1/8^e Bataillon.

Après l'attaque alliée près d'Amiens le 8 août 1918, l'impasse du front occidental a été brisée et l'armée allemande a été rapidement repoussée vers l'est. Le matin du 3 octobre 1918, le 1/8^e Bataillon des Sherwood Foresters se trouvait à l'est de Joncourt, prêt à attaquer. Les A et B Companies étaient en première ligne, soutenues par C et D Companies. Leur objectif était une ligne s'étendant vers le nord-est à la périphérie ouest de Montbrehain, sur un front de 1 000 yards.

À 06:50 heures, un barrage rampant a commencé, et ils se sont mis en mouvement derrière celui-ci. La première résistance organisée est venue de Wiancourt et des hauteurs

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. (John 6 v 39)

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Father, it is our certain faith that your son, who died on the cross, was raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Grant that through this mystery your servant Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle, who has gone to his rest in Christ, may share in the joy of his resurrection. 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.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Elizabeth Sedgwick
Joint Attaché to France

The Book of Wisdom Chapter 3 v 1-6, 9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love; because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Warrant Officer Class 2 Thomas Edge

4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment

Luke Chapter 7 v 11–17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people'. And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reading

Lecture

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

“If”

Taken from the *Wipers Times*, a trench newspaper
published by Captain Fred Roberts and Lieutenant John
Pearson of 12th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters

If you can drink the beer the Belgians sell you,
And pay the price they ask with ne'er a grouse,
If you believe the tales that some will tell you,
And live in mud with ground sheet for a house,
If you can live on bully and a biscuit,
And thank your stars that you've a tot of rum,
Dodge whizzbangs with a grin, and as you risk it
Talk glibly of the pretty way they hum,
If you can flounder through a C.T. nightly
That's three-parts full of mud and filth and slime,
Bite back the oaths and keep your jaw shut tightly,
While inwardly you're cursing all the-time,
If you can crawl through wire and crump-holes reeking
With feet of liquid mud, and keep your head
Turned always to the place which you are seeking,
Through dread of crying you will laugh instead,
If you can fight a week in Hell's own image,
And at the end just throw you down and grin,
When every bone you've got starts on a scrimmage,
And for a sleep you'd sell your soul within,
If you can clamber up with pick and shovel,
And turn your filthy crump hole to a trench,
When all inside you makes you itch to grovel,
And all you've had to feed on is a stench,
If you can hang on just because you're thinking
You haven't got one chance in ten to live,
So you will see it through, no use in blinking

And you're not going to take more than you give,
If you can grin at last when handing over,
And finish well what you had well begun,
And think a muddy ditch a bed of clover,
You'll be a soldier one day, then, my son.

Address

Allocution

Bidding Prayer

Prière

We bring our prayers to God for our brother, Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even in death and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Lord in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Lord in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

You raised the dead to life; give our brother eternal life.

Lord in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Lord in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, from whom all life proceeds and by whose hand the dead are raised again, though we are sinners, you wish always to hear us. Accept the prayers we offer in sadness for your servant Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle: deliver his soul from death, number him among your saints and clothe him with the robe of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Act of Dedication

L'Acte de Dédicace

So let us now bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle.

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 Arthur 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

L'Éxhortation

Read by Regimental Sergeant Major Mark Nicholls
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

Sonnerie aux Morts

Played by The Band and Bugles of The Rifles

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

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

Dépôts des Gerbes

Prayer

Prière

God our Father, your power brings us to birth, your providence guides our lives, and by your command, we return to dust. Lord, those who die still live in your presence, their lives change but do not end. We pray in hope for Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle. In company with Christ, who died and now lives, may he rejoice in your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away. Unite us together again in one family, to sing your praise forever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Sherwood Foresters

Récitation du Sherwood Foresters

Read by Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Mark Jackson OBE
The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental
Association

O God, who hast planted us as trees to bring forth fruit to thy glory, give thy grace to The Sherwood Foresters, that, as we increase in strength in the storms of battle, and stand unshaken in our earthly trust, so against all adversities we may take root deeply in the good ground of thy truth, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prière 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.**

The Blessing

Séparation et Dernière Bénédiction

Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle. May our farewell express our affection for him; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

To you, O Lord, we commend the soul of Lance Corporal Arthur Mantle your servant; in the sight of this world he is now dead; in your sight may he live for ever. Forgive whatever sins he committed through human weakness and in your goodness grant him everlasting peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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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