



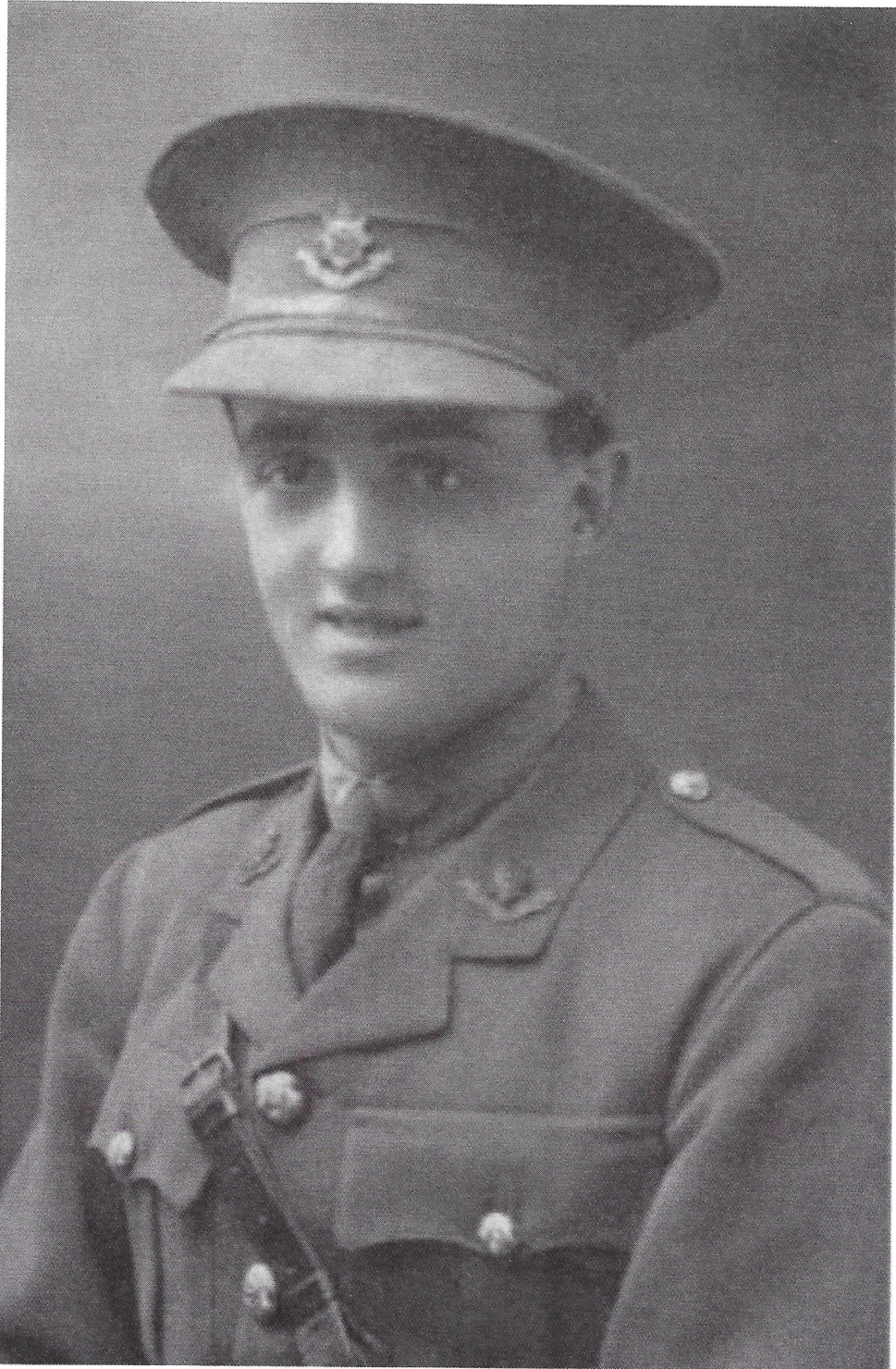
A Rededication Service for

**Captain Martin Warren
Att. 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment**

**10:30 hours on Tuesday 17 March 2026
CWGC Pargny 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**

Captain Martin Warren



Captain Martin Warren was born in Worcester on 7 May 1897. He was the middle of three sons born to Richard Alfred Warren and his wife Emily. He was educated at King's School Worcester, entering the school in 1908 and leaving in 1914 to employment at the Hill, Evans & Co Vinegar Factory in their laboratory works. Whilst at school Martin had shown a keen interest in scientific work but was also on the cricket and football teams and a strong runner. In 1916 he won the 5-mile Cross County Championships at Plymouth Garrison.

Martin was a non-commissioned officer in the Officer Training Corps whilst at school. Following the outbreak of the First World War, he was Commissioned into 5th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment as a second lieutenant on 7 May 1915. Upon arriving on the Western Front on 18 November 1915, he was attached to 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment and rose to the rank of captain.

The War Diaries of 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment show that when the German Spring Offensive commenced on 21 March 1918, they were out of the line training and holding boxing contests. On 22 March they paraded and marched from Moringhem to St Omer and entrained for Nesle. They arrived in Nesle at 02:30 hours on 23 March and marched to Epenancourt. They took up a line along the right bank of the Somme Canal with the right of the battalion resting on Pargny. 2nd Battalion The Rifle Brigade was to their right in the line.

That afternoon A and B Companies took up positions east of Falvy but were forced to withdraw to their original positions. That evening the enemy attacked and were ejected from Epenancourt. On 24 March the right flank of the brigade was forced back, and 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment withdrew to a position east of Licourt. It was on this day that Captain Warren went missing. He was 20 years old. A letter written by the Chaplain describes how Captain Warren met his fate:

'Martin was killed on the retreat from the Somme Canal. He was constantly doing exceedingly good work, having first to protect the retirement of another Division and then counter-attack. Later we slowly retired to the third position, and he was mortally wounded and had to be left behind. His death is greatly lamented. He was the life and soul of our mess. He was my organist and chief helper. His courage and keenness were a great example and encouragement to others. He was always the first to start sports and games when we were in rest. He was the truest type of Englishman that one can ever wish to meet.'

Captain Warren was buried by the Germans. After the war his remains were moved to Pargny British Cemetery, where he was buried as an unknown captain of The Worcestershire Regiment. As he was missing, Captain Warren was commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial. However, new research has now allowed his grave to be identified and the headstone over the grave has been changed to reflect this. Today we will remember Captain Martin Warren and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Pargny British Cemetery was established following the Armistice, with graves brought in from Pargny German Cemetery and the surrounding battlefields. It is now the final resting place of over 600 casualties of the First World War, many of whom were killed resisting the German advance at the Somme crossings during March 1918. Among these casualties is Captain Martin Warren, whose previously unidentified grave we rededicate today.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come from heaven to save us.
(Philippians 3 v 20)

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

Let us pray.

O God, who has set a limit to this present life, so as to open up an entry into eternity, we humbly beseech you, that by the grace of your mercy you may command the name of your servant Captain Martin Warren to be inscribed in the book of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

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

Romans Chapter 14 v 7-12

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life — it is the Lord who speaks — every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by James Uzzell

Researcher

Matthew Chapter 11 v 25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Dear friends, since God has loved us so much, we too must love one another. No one has seen God, but as long as we love one another, God will live in us and his love will be complete in us, and we know that love is stronger than death, so let us pray to the God who first loved us. We thank God for Captain Martin Warren's life. We give thanks for the goodness of his life and for the friendship and love which he shared with so many during his time on earth.

Lord hear us.

All **Lord graciously hear us.**

Captain Martin Warren lived Christ's great commandment of love.....may he now hear those words..."Well done, good and faithful servant, inherit the kingdom which has been prepared for you."

Lord hear us.

All **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for all who grieve for Captain Martin Warren and all who have experienced recent loss in their lives. We remember all our family and friends and may our faith be our strength and may eternal life be our great hope.

Lord hear us.

All **Lord graciously hear us.**

Lord, may you support us all the day long, till the shadows lengthen and evening falls and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant all of us a safe lodging, holy rest and peace at last. 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 Captain Martin Warren.

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 Martin 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 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

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

Almighty and ever-living God, in you we place our trust and hope, in you the dead whose bodies were temples of the Spirit find everlasting peace. As we take leave of Captain Martin Warren, give our hearts peace in the firm hope that one day he will live in the mansion you have prepared for him in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Worcestershire Regiment

Récitation du Worcestershire Regiment

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

O God, our hope and strength, who hast built us upon
the rock of Christ our foundation, uphold, we pray thee,
thy servants of The Worcestershire Regiment in every
trial by sea or by land, that, trusting in thy everlasting
strength, we may be steadfast and unmoveable, and may
hold fast our hope firm unto the end, in the same 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

Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Captain Martin Warren and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see Captain Martin Warren again and enjoy his friendship. Although we will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom. Therefore let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brother Captain Martin Warren. Cleanse him and all the faithful departed of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

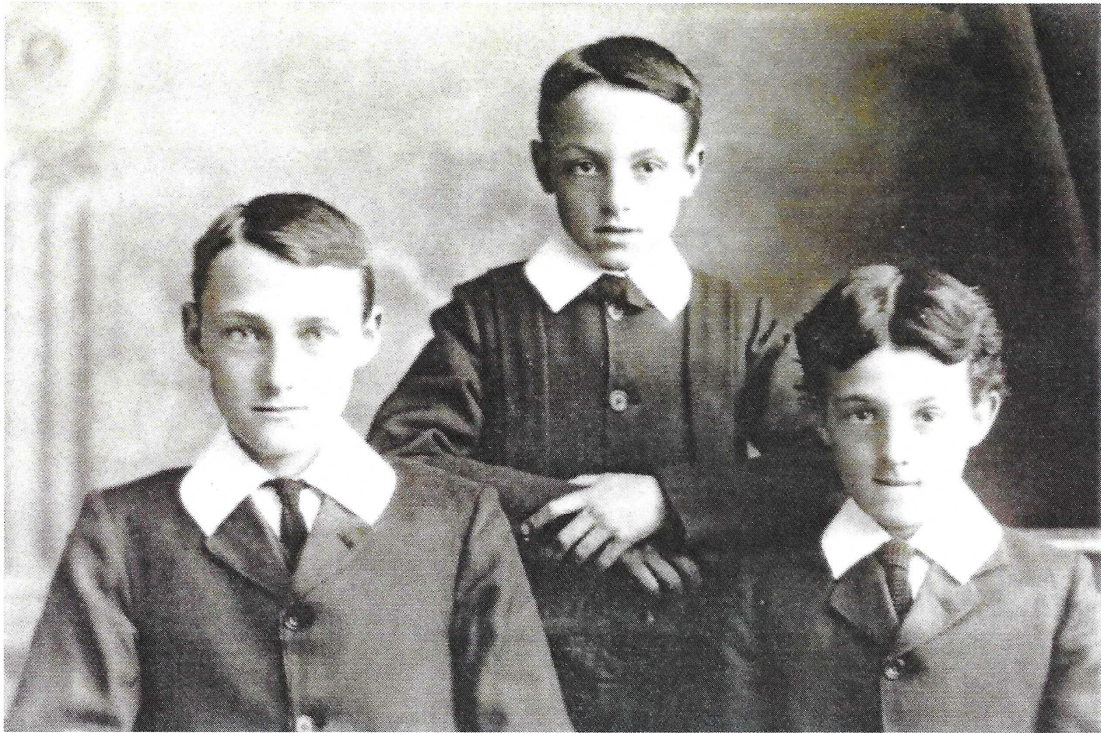
All **And with your spirit.**

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

All **Amen.**

Go in peace.

All **Thanks be to God.**



Martin Warren (right) with his brothers Richard and Leslie.



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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