



A Rededication Service for

**Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick
4th Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment**

**15:30 hours Tuesday 15 July 2025
CWGC Lebusquiere Communal Cemetery Extension
France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Carl Stokes CF
Chaplain to Blandford Garrison
Déroulement de la cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Carl Stokes CF**

Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick

Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick was born in 1892 in Worthing, Sussex. He was one of ten children born to George Madgwick and his wife Emily. The 1911 Census shows that before the war he had worked as a carriage painter. Charles enlisted into The Cambridgeshire Regiment but was transferred to 4th Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment.

When Operation Michael, the first phase of the German Spring Offensive, commenced on 21 March 1918, 4th Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment was in support lines. At 12:00 hours on 23 March 1918 they withdrew from Havrincourt Wood, through Neuville-Bourjonval to Ytres. On the night of 23 to 24 March they withdrew again to the Royal Engineer dump north of Ytres. They experienced heavy machine gun fire passing through Barastre and Beaulencourt. Having supplied a rearguard, they then withdrew to Bazentin-le-Petit and then to Courcellette where they stopped overnight. It was at some stage during this withdrawal that Lance Corporal Madgwick went missing. He was 25 years old.

It appears that Lance Corporal Madgwick's body was recovered by the Germans and buried in what is now Lebusquiere Communal Cemetery Extension, as an unknown lance corporal of The Bedfordshire Regiment. As he was missing, Lance Corporal Madgwick was commemorated on the Arras Memorial. However, new evidence has shown that he is the unknown lance corporal buried in this grave. The headstone over the grave has now been changed to reflect this. Today we will remember Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick and his grave will be rededicated.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Lebusquiere Communal Cemetery Extension was begun on 24 March 1917 and was used by various units for almost a year until the village was captured by the Germans during the Spring

Offensive. The Allies reoccupied Lebusquiere on 3 September 1918, with further burials made in the cemetery. It was greatly enlarged after the Armistice with concentrations of graves from the surrounding battlefields. Among those buried here is Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick, whose previously unidentified grave we rededicate today.

Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick est né en 1892 à Worthing, dans le Sussex. Il était l'un des dix enfants nés à George Madgwick et de sa femme Emily. Le recensement de 1911 montre qu'avant la guerre, il travaillait comme peintre de voitures. Charles s'est engagé dans le Cambridgeshire Regiment, mais a été transféré au 4^e Bataillon du Bedfordshire Regiment.

Lorsque l'opération Michael, la première phase de l'offensive allemande de printemps, commença le 21 mars 1918, le 4^e Bataillon du Bedfordshire se trouvait dans les lignes de soutien. À 12:00 heures le 23 mars 1918, ils se retirèrent du bois d'Havrincourt, en passant par Neuville-Bourjonval jusqu'à Ytres. Dans la nuit du 23 au 24 mars, ils se replièrent à nouveau vers le dépôt du Royal Engineers au nord d'Ytres. Ils essuient un feu nourri de mitrailleuses en passant par Barastre et Beaulencourt. Après avoir ravitaillé une arrière-garde, ils se sont retirés à Bazentin-le-Petit puis à Courcellette où ils se sont arrêtés pour la nuit. C'est au cours de ce repli que Lance Corporal Madgwick a été porté disparu. Il avait 25 ans.

Il semble que le corps du Lance Corporal Madgwick a été récupéré par les Allemands et enterré dans ce qui est aujourd'hui Lebusquiere Communal Cemetery Extension, comme un lance corporal du Bedfordshire Regiment. Comme il était porté disparu, Lance Corporal Madgwick a été commémoré au monument commémoratif des disparus à Arras. Cependant, la nouvelle recherche a permis le site de son dernier repos d'être identifié. Aujourd'hui nous nous

souviendrons de Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick et sa tombe sera consacrée une nouvelle fois.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have come to this place to dedicate the grave of Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick of 4th Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment whose grave was previously marked only by rank and regiment but now with name.

Today we accord the dignity and respect that he is due in naming his grave and commend him to the mercy and grace of God our redeemer, in the hope and life given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us.

All May the Peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

Bidding Prayer

Prière

We meet in the presence of God.

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

We come to pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We come to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick, and all whose lives, in conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a Representative of British Embassy Paris

Joshua Chapter 4 v 1-9 (NIV)

After all the people had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, "Choose twelve from among the people, one from each tribe. Tell them to get twelve stones from the middle of the river, from where the priests stood. Carry the stones and put them down where you stay tonight." So, Joshua chose one person from each tribe. Then he called the twelve together and said to them, "Go out into the river where the Ark of the Lord your God is. Each of you bring back one stone, one for each tribe of Israel, and carry it on your shoulder. They will be a sign among you. In the future your children will ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' Tell them the water stopped flowing in the Jordan when the Ark of the Agreement with the Lord crossed the river. These stones will always remind the Israelites of this." So, the Israelites obeyed Joshua and carried twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River, one stone for each of the twelve tribes of Israel, just as the Lord had commanded Joshua. They carried the stones with them and put them down where they made their camp. Joshua also put twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan River where the priests had stood while carrying the Ark of the Agreement. These stones are still there today.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Lecture

Read by Captain Harry Di-Lieto

2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

To Some Who Have Fallen

By Moray Dalton

Spring is God's season; may you see His Spring
Somewhere, the larch and ash buds burgeoning,
Round catkin tassels and the blossomed spine
Of blackthorn, and the golden celandine,
And little rainwashed violet leaves unfurled
To deck young April in another world.

We cannot know how much a dead man hears,
What awful music of the distant spheres,
But you may linger still, you may not be
Too far from us to share the ecstasy
Of all the larks that nest upon our hills,
Or miss the flowering of the daffodils.

Since if, as some folk say, ourselves do make
Our Heaven, yours will hold, for old times' sake,
The farms and orchards that you left behind,
Steep lichened roofs, and rutted lanes that wind
Through green lush meadows up from Wealden towns
To the bare beauty of our Sussex Downs.

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Sergeant Paul Meehan

2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

Revelation Chapter 2 v 8,10,17 (NIV)

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Address

Allocution

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 Charles Madgwick.

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 Charles 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.

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by Sergeant Paul Meehan

2nd 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.**

The Last Post

Sonnerie aux Morts

Played by Lance Corporal April Farthing

The Band of The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Sergeant Paul Meehan

2nd 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

Dépôts des Gerbes

Collect of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

Récitation du Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

Read by Captain Harry Di-Lieto

2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

O Lord, God of battles, make us worthy of the soldiers who have fought under the Colours of the 16th Foot, and the glorious achievements of our regiment. Create within us a fervent desire for freedom, justice and truth; give us strength, perseverance and loyalty in all our undertakings, so that we may prove truly valiant; in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

All **Amen.**

Prayers

Prières

Eternal God, in your wisdom and grace you have given us freedom through the life of your departed servant. We thank you for the life of Lance Corporal Charles Madgwick and for those who loved him. We thank you for your goodness and mercy that followed him all the days of his life and his ultimate sacrifice to the cause of freedom and peace.

May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

We pray for all who have died or suffer because of conflict. Those whose lives are disfigured by war or terror. For service men and women, for civilians, for those held captive, even today, each one remembered by and known to God.

May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

We pray for peace-makers and peace-keepers; those who seek to keep this world secure and free; for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

Finally, we pray for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return.

May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

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

"I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, write, from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours".

May the blessings of those who rest in you, abound to each one of us – through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

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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