



A Rededication Service for

**Corporal Herbert Pearce**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment**

Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 2.15pm

CWGC Harlebeke New British Cemetery, Belgium

Service conducted by  
Reverend Andy Nicolls CF

Herbert Pearce was born in Kent in 1892 to Richard Pearce and Eliza Wynn. He had nine siblings; George, Grace, Archibald, Ernest, Lily, Edith, Leonard, Reginald and Doris. Some of them married and had children, but it has not been possible to contact any surviving relatives.

### **About the Service**

The service has been organised by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre and will be attended by regimental representatives and local dignitaries. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission will be providing the headstone.

### **About the Cemetery**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Harlebeke New British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves, including that of Corporal Herbert Pearce were brought in from the surrounding battlefields of 1918 and, in 1924-25, from German cemeteries or plots in Belgium. The cemetery now contains over 1,110 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War and a further ten from the Second World War.

## **Introduction**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

We have come together, family, friends, representatives of His Majesty the King and the Mercian Regiment, to give thanks for the life of Corporal Herbert Pearce who was killed in action on 20 October 1918. As we remember his life, devotion to service and sacrifice, we continue to commend all those who died into the everlasting arms of God.

## **Bidding Prayer**

Almighty God, you judge us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything that you have made.  
In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;  
through our saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **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.

#### **Wisdom 4: 7-15**

But the righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.  
For old age is not honoured for length of time, or measured by  
number of years;  
but understanding is grey hair for anyone, and a blameless life is  
ripe old age.

There were some who pleased God and were loved by him,  
and while living among sinners were taken up.

They were caught up so that evil might not change their  
understanding or guile deceive their souls.

For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,  
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.

Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years;  
for their souls were pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness.

Yet the peoples saw and did not understand,  
or take such a thing to heart,  
that God's grace and mercy are with his elect,  
and that he watches over his holy ones.

**Ploegsteert** (Plug Street) by Roland Leighton, an officer of the  
Worcestershire Regiment

Love have I known, and dawn and gold of day-time,  
and winds and songs and all the joys that are  
known once, and as a child that tires with play-time,  
leaped from them to the elemental dust of War.

I have seen blood and death, but all has ending,  
and even Horror is but made to cease.  
I am sickened with Love that lives only for lending,  
and all the loathsome pettiness of peace.

Give me, God of Battles, a field of death,  
a Hell of Fire, a strong man's agony...

## **Revelation 21:1-4; 22:4-5**

I saw a new heaven and a new earth,  
for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished,  
and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
made ready like a bride for her husband.

I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne;  
"Now God has his dwelling with mankind!  
He will dwell among them and they shall be his people,  
and God himself will be with them."

He will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
There shall be an end to death,  
and to mourning and crying and pain,  
for the old order has passed away.

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be there,  
and his servants shall worship him;  
they shall see him face to face and bear his name on their  
foreheads.

There shall be no more night,  
nor will they need the light of lamp or sun,  
for the Lord God will give them light;  
and they shall reign for ever.

**Address:** Reverend Andy Nicolls CF

You have done all you can on a physical level, and now must enter sacred waiting. The hardest most integral step, is turning all over to the grace of life and the coming transformative powers born from the steps you have already taken.

Written by Sarah Blondin

### **The Act of Remembrance**

Father in heaven, we praise your name  
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,  
for the example of their lives, the life and grace you gave them  
and the peace in which they rest.

We praise you today for your servant Herbert Pearce  
and for all that you did through him.

Meet us in our sadness and fill our hearts with praise and  
thanksgiving, for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping:  
those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we  
knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived  
and died in the service of humanity.

### **The Exhortation**

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**

### **The Silence**

### **The Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

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

### **Wreath Laying**

## **The Prayers**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,  
and ask that God may give us peace:  
for the service men and women  
who have died in the violence of war,  
each one remembered by and known to God;  
may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life,  
offering the distress of our grief  
and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

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.**

For civilian women, children and men  
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,  
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatred of humanity;  
may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,  
who seek to keep this world secure and free;  
may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

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.**

### **The Collect of the Worcestershire Regiment**

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.

**Amen.**

### **A Soldier's Prayer** by Sgt J E Blue

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands,  
protect them as they protect us.  
Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform  
for us in our time of need,

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**



The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace this day and always. And the blessing of God Almighty; Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**



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