



A Rededication Service for

**Captain Hugh Mortimer Travers DSO
5th Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers**

**10:30 hours Thursday 19 May 2022
CWGC New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium**

**Service conducted by
Reverend Dr Isaac Thompson MBE TD DL HCF
Chaplain to The Royal Irish Regiment**

Captain Hugh Mortimer Travers DSO



Captain Hugh Mortimer Travers DSO was born on 2 September 1873 in Calcutta, India. He was one of four children born to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Oates Travers of The Leicestershire Regiment and his wife Eleanor Louisa Travers. He came from a military family, his grandfathers having been General Sir Robert Travers KCMG, CB of The Rifle Brigade and Major General Sir Henry Marion Durand KCSI CB of the Corps of Royal Engineers.

He joined the Militia as a Second Lieutenant serving with 5th Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers on 16 September 1893. On 9 December 1896 he was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and joined 1st Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment in South Africa. He was promoted to Lieutenant in October 1899. During his time in South Africa Captain Travers saw action at Talana Hill, took part in the retreat from Dundee and actions at Lombard's Kop, was involved in the siege of Ladysmith and the advance on Lydenburg and served in the Eastern Transvaal. He received The Queen's South Africa Medal with five clasps and The King's South Africa Medal with two clasps. He also received The King George V Coronation Medal.

Having been promoted to Captain on 26 April 1902 he was selected for the Egyptian Army but was forced to retire on medical grounds in 1907. Later that year he rejoined 5th Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers. On the outbreak of the First World War Captain Travers was attached to 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. He joined the battalion in France on 16 October 1914.

The battalion's War Diaries record that the morning of 8 November 1914 was quiet. At 14:00 hours they were ordered to send two companies to retake trenches on the northern side of the Menin Road, west of Gheluvelt which the Zouaves had lost. Their position faced eastwards covering the Veldhoek Chateau.

Captain Travers was killed during a bayonet charge in this action and received the Distinguished Service Order for the part he played. The citation reads:

'For conspicuous gallantry and ability on the 8th November 1914, near Ypres, in organising an attack and re-capturing a trench from the enemy, and subsequently for leading a second attack and capturing another position 50 yards further to the front. Captain Travers was killed whilst maintaining his post on this occasion.'

The Adjutant of the battalion described Captain Travers as having 'died the death of a soldier and a very gallant gentleman.' Another member of the battalion stated that Captain Travers' actions were 'the coolest deed' he had ever seen. 'It was gloriously brave.'

The location of Captain Travers' death was in German hands for much of the First World War. In 1921 the remains of an unknown Captain of The Royal Munster Fusiliers were recovered and buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery. It was noted that he was wearing a George V Coronation Medal ribbon and South Africa medal ribbons. As Captain Travers was missing, he was commemorated on the Menin Gate. However, new research has shown that this is in fact the grave of Captain Travers. Today we will remember him and his grave will be rededicated.

Close to a farm known by the troops as 'Irish Farm', this cemetery was used from August to November 1917, and April and May 1918, and at the war's end contained just 73 burials. After the Armistice more than 4,500 graves were brought in from the battlefields north-east of Ypres and from a number of small cemeteries to what is now known as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's New Irish Farm Cemetery. Among them was Captain Hugh Mortimer Travers DSO, who could not at the time be identified.

Call to Worship

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
Psalm 63:1-3

Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God—Jesus, the Son of God. Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it.
Hebrews 4:14-16

Prayer and Rededication

Let us come with a sense of thanksgiving for the service of Captain Hugh Mortimer Travers to King and Empire and his example of bravery in South Africa and here in Europe.

Sovereign God, stronger than we can ever comprehend, greater than all we can imagine, wiser than all we can understand, kinder than we can ever dream, guide and lead us on this nostalgic occasion. As this grave no

longer holds the remains of an unknown soldier, we now rededicate this last earthly resting place of Captain Hugh Mortimer Travers, in the name of The Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Give us grace to rededicate also our lives in the service of God, so that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven and that His Kingdom of justice and peace may be established.

The motto of The Royal Munster Fusiliers is "**Spectemur agendo**" (*Let us be judged by our acts*): Jesus says, "By their fruit you will recognise them". Matthew 7:20.

Direct us, Lord, in all our doings, with Your most gracious favour, and further us with Your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in You, we may glorify Your Holy Name, and finally by Your mercy obtain everlasting Life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, of thy goodness, give me Thyself; for Thou art enough for me, and I can ask for nothing less that can be full honour to Thee. And if I ask anything that is less, ever shall I be in want, for only in Thee have I all. (Julian of Norwich 1343-1416).

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Read by Group Captain John Dickson
Defence Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg

Isaiah Chapter 61 v 1-3, 10-11 (NIV)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendour.
I delight greatly in the Lord;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

Gospel Reading

Read by Major General Colin Weir DSO MBE
Colonel of The Royal Irish Regiment

John Chapter 14 v 1-6, 15-20 (GNT)

"Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. "Believe in God and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am. You know the way that leads to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?"

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me."

"If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.

"When I go, you will not be left all alone; I will come back to you. In a little while the world will see me no more, but you will see me; and because I live, you also will live. When that day comes, you will know that I am in my Father and that you are in me, just as I am in you"

Reading

Read by Guy Travers

Great Nephew of Captain Travers

We Shall Keep the Faith

By Moina Michael

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Address

The Exhortation

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Christof Masheder

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

Read by Major Jennifer Wilson

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

Laying of Wreaths

Prayers

Merciful and faithful God, Your purpose is to fold both earth and heaven in a single peace. With sorrow we confess that in our hearts we keep alive the passions and pride that lead to hatred and war. We are not worthy of Your love nor of the sacrifice made by others on our behalf.

We give You thanks for the courage and devotion to duty and self sacrifice of all in our Armed Forces; the toil, the endurance and the suffering of those both in uniform and out of uniform; bless those who sent us help from afar and came and stood by our side in face of our enemies. Guide those who are in authority in every land and give them the wisdom to know and courage to do what is right. Encourage those who work for peace and strive to improve international relations, who seek new ways of reconciling people of different race, colour and creed.

Almighty and eternal God, our eyes cannot see You, our hands cannot touch You. You are beyond the understanding of our minds. But You have breathed Your Spirit into our spirits. You have formed our minds to seek You, inclined our hearts to love You, and called us heirs of Your eternal Kingdom. Give us faith to lay hold of things unseen, to live as those who see the invisible God.

Bring us at the last to those things beyond our seeing, beyond our hearing, beyond our imagining, to the vision of Your glory, when we shall see You face to face; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of The Royal Irish Regiment
Read by Major General Colin Weir DSO MBE
Colonel of The Royal Irish Regiment

Almighty God, whose love knows no bounds, grant that we, The Royal Irish Regiment, may do our duty courageously whether at home or abroad, so that undaunted by the difficulties which beset us, your will may be done and united as members one with another, may we, mindful of the valour and sacrifice of those who have gone before us, *clear the way* for those that follow: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Faugh a Ballagh!

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

God, grant to the living, grace; to the departed rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, the King of the Belgians and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all His servants, life eternal. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All **Amen.**



ARMY

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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