

News story: Grave of Yorkshire born WW1 second lieutenant finally rededicated nearly a century later

Verifying the research submitted was crucial in identifying the final resting place of Second Lieutenant (2 Lt) Bertie Swallow of the 18th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, who was killed in action due to the injuries he suffered on 31 October 1918. Almost a century after he was buried as an 'Unknown Officer of the Lancashire Fusiliers', a rededication service was held on 25 July 2017 at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Harlebeke New British Cemetery in Belgium.

The service, which was a fitting tribute to the sacrifice made by 2 Lt Swallow, was organised by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), part of Defence Business Services, and was conducted by the Reverend Stuart Richards, Chaplain to 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Louise Dorr, JCCC said:

It is thanks to a member of the public who has submitted all of his research that this grave has been able to be identified.

I'm delighted that we have been able to pay tribute to 2 Lt Bertie Swallow here this morning and to give him back his name.

2 Lt Swallow joined the Royal Field Artillery on 9 December 1915 before moving to the 18th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on 5 September 1918. Although he was reported wounded on 31 October 1918, his family didn't receive the news that he had died on that date until 28 November 1918. At the time, there was no burial location recorded or even any evidence that his body had been recovered and buried locally.

JCCC now know that Bertie Swallow was buried as an 'Unknown Officer of the Lancashire Fusiliers' in Harlebeke New British Cemetery in Belgium. Records from this cemetery show that the original burial location was just east of the village of Kloosterhoek, where there were no British forces until the 18th Lancashire Fusiliers arrived on 31 October 1918.

There are only 4 other Lancashire Fusiliers officers who were killed within a few weeks of Bertie Swallow's death and who have no known grave, all of them can be excluded as their battalions were between 30-100 kilometres away.

This proved to the JCCC that there is no other candidate for the unknown grave in Harlebeke. No other officer of the Lancashire Fusiliers is listed as missing or killed in the relevant place and time period. His field burial

site was not the scene of any armed conflict until the arrival of the Lancashire Fusiliers on 31 October 1918. By elimination, this confirmed the final resting place of 2 Lt Bertie Swallow.

Reverend Stuart Richards delivers the rededication service for 2 Lt Swallow.
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Reverend Stuart Richards, said:

It is a privilege to tend the flame of remembrance and to ensure that those who made the supreme sacrifice a century ago have a memorial and a name for future generations.

Almost 100 years after he died, 2 Lt Swallow's grave has been rededicated and a new headstone bearing his name has been provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

[News story: Armed Forces Muslim Forum Celebrates Eid with the Muslim Community](#)

Defence Minister, Earl Howe, Chief of Defence People, Lieutenant General Richard Nugee, and Commander Home Command, Lieutenant General Bashall, hosted a dinner centred on the theme of being driven and united by common values and purpose.

Earl Howe gave the keynote speech, in which he highlighted how the Armed Forces and Muslim community often experience stereotyping and misconceptions.

Defence Minister Earl Howe said:

It is wonderful to be celebrating the end of Ramadan together, and in doing so celebrating the important role the Muslim community plays in our Armed Forces.

There is far more that unites us than divides us, and by working together we are building a diverse force which is therefore a stronger force, enhancing our cultural and linguistic skills for our operations at home and abroad.

In his speech, Earl Howe praised the Muslim community for their generosity and resilience in the face of recent events, including the devastating

Grenfell Tower and the Finsbury Park attack. The Minister then turned to the “unknown” humanitarian efforts of our Armed forces, where personnel show the same values at home and on operations overseas.

Brigadier Peter Cameron, from the MOD’s Operation Directorate, gave a presentation on the UK Armed Forces’ recent humanitarian operations before Mr Aamer Naeem, CEO of UK based Muslim charity, Penny Appeal, highlighted their humanitarian activities overseas and endorsed the Armed Forces for the values they share.

Sergeant Ahmed Dhalai described his experience of helping to rescue migrants off the coast of North Africa, where he was able to use his linguistic skills and cultural background to carry out his tasks compassionately, showing the importance of building a diverse force.

Colonel Steve Davies spoke about his role in efforts to foster peace and security in South Sudan, and Major Naveed Muhammad spoke about his duties in the fight against Ebola in Sierra Leone.

[News story: G-Cloud 8 will expire on 28 July 2017](#)

A G8 call-off contract can still be signed if a G8 service was shortlisted before 22 May. All G8 contracts must be signed before G8 expires.

G-Cloud 8 contracts that have already been signed aren’t affected by the expiry of the G8 framework.

Email enquiries@digitalmarketplace.service.gov.uk if you have any questions.

[News story: Appointments to the Attorney General’s Special Advocate Panel](#)

The Attorney General is seeking to appoint new members to his panel of Special Advocates, and wishes to recruit advocates at the junior level, in particular those with expertise in Family and Employment Tribunal work.

Special Advocates

The Special Advocate competition is open to both self-employed barristers and solicitor-advocates with at least 5 years' advocacy experience.

The role of the Special Advocate has developed in proceedings before a wide variety of forums, both statutory and non-statutory in origin, where a party, with the permission of the forum, seeks to rely upon 'closed' evidence. Closed evidence may raise issues concerning national security. Individuals and their legal representatives are excluded from hearings where closed evidence is used.

Special Advocates perform an important role by representing the interests of the excluded party in those hearings and subjecting the sensitive material to scrutiny, thereby promoting the fairness of the proceedings.

Application

To obtain details of how to apply, email PanelCounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk.

Completed applications must be submitted by noon on Monday 18 September 2017.

[Press release: Mr Justice Mitting appointed as Undercover Policing Inquiry chair](#)

The Home Secretary has formally appointed Sir John Mitting as the chair of the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

Sir John Mitting will replace Sir Christopher Pitchford, who announced in February that he had been diagnosed with motor neurone disease and would be stepping down from his role due to his illness.

Sir John Mitting was appointed as a panel member in May 2017, with a view to him becoming chair when Sir Christopher's ill-health forced his resignation. He has been working on the Inquiry as a panel member since then to smooth the transition process and will now take over as chair.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

I'd like to place on record my profound thanks to Sir Christopher for all he has done to further the work of the Inquiry.

It is important that the Inquiry's work continues without delay, and it is for that reason I am pleased that Sir John Mitting will be taking over as chair. I wish him all the best in this incredibly important role.

Sir John Mitting has been a High Court judge in England and Wales since 2001. He served as the Chairman of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission from 2007 to 2012.

The Home Secretary has the power to appoint a panel member as a replacement chair under the Inquiries Act 2005.