

Centenary Commemoration - Christopher Cox, V.C. - unveiling of memorial VC stone, April 2017.

The Centenary Commemoration - Christopher Cox, V.C, took place on the afternoon of Sunday April 30th, 2017. Organised by Kings Langley Parish Council, the residents of Kings Langley came together to honour their World War I hero, Christopher Cox, whose exploits during the war was recognised by the receiving of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious honour awarded for valour.

At 2pm the parade led by Major (Ret'd.) Bill O'Connor, T.D., Chairman of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Herts) accompanied by the County ACF Corps of Drums, Standard Bearers, Old Comrades, Soldiers and members of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force plus members of the public proceeded up The Nap and along the High Street to the War Memorial.

The Worshipful Mayor of Dacorum, Cllr Bob McLean welcomed the congregation with a presentation and read the citation (see below). The Rev'd David Lawson of All Saints Church conducted the readings and prayers. Cllrs Howard Button and Gerry Angiolini, Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council unveiled the memorial stone. There followed the laying of wreaths, the National Anthem and the Last Post and Reveille was performed by a bugler from the Salvation Army. After the service, a reception for the dignitaries and guests took place at the Services Club in Hempstead Road.

Citation

For the most conspicuous gallantry and continuous devotion to duty when acting as a Stretcher Bearer during the operations against ACHIET-le-GRAND on March the 15th 1917.

During the attack of the 7th Bedfordshire Regiment the first wave came to a standstill owing to the severity of the artillery and machine gun fire. The whole line had to take cover in shell holes and dig in to prevent annihilation.

Private COX with absolute disregard for his own personal safety went out into the open over absolutely fire swept ground and single handed rescued four men. Having collected all the wounded of his battalion he assisted in bringing in the wounded of the neighbouring battalion.

He continued to rescue the wounded on March 16th and 17th with complete disregard of his own personal safety.

This Private soldier has been in every engagement in which his battalion has taken part since July 1916 and he has on all occasions displayed the same high example of unselfishness and personal courage. I consider him worthy of the highest decoration that can be bestowed.

(Exact copy of original citation)



A copy of the memorial stone was given to the people of Achiet Le Grand in a separate ceremony.



