



*A Burial Service for*

*An Unknown Commonwealth Soldier  
Killed During the Great War*

*13:00 hours on Tuesday 2 June 2008  
CWGC Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension,  
France*

*Service conducted by the Reverend Mark Henderson CF  
Chaplain to 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery  
Dirigement de la cérémonie peiséé par  
le Révérend Mark Henderson CF*

The remains of this soldier were found in a shell crater near Ciry-sur-Somme during an archaeological survey. No regimental artefacts or any other items were found with the casualty which could assist with his identification beyond showing that he was a Commonwealth soldier. Today he will be buried alongside his comrades in Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension with military honours and his sacrifice will be honoured.

Les restes de ce soldat ont été découverts dans un cratère d'obus près de Ciry-sur-Somme lors de fouilles archéologiques. Aucun objet appartenant à son régiment ni aucun autre objet susceptible de faciliter son identification, plus que le fait qu'il s'agissait d'un soldat du Commonwealth, n'a été retrouvé auprès de lui. Il sera aujourd'hui inhumé aux côtés de ses camarades au Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension, avec les honneurs militaires, et son sacrifice sera honoré.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension was established by the 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division in March 1917. It changed hands on 23 March 1918 when Péronne was captured by the German Army, and was resumed by Australian units from September 1918. It was extended after the Armistice as casualties from the surrounding battlefields and smaller cemeteries were brought in, and there are now more than 1,500 Commonwealth casualties buried here. These now include the unknown soldier being laid to rest today.

**Call to Worship**  
*Appeal & Adoration*

Jesus said... "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives by believing in me will never die..."

*John 11 v 25,26*

**Bidding Prayer**  
*Polite*

God our heavenly father, today we remember before you our unknown comrade whom we bury today. We are thankful he is known unto you.

As we give thanks for his life, his service, and his sacrifice we commit his body to be buried. We rejoice that he like us is more than a mind in a body rather he like us was one created in the image of God with an eternal soul.

God of all consolation, we ask you to comfort all who mourn and grieve the loss of a loved one today. May they know your peace, comfort and hope through faith in you.

*All* Amen.

### **Scripture Reading**

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

### **Psalms 23 (KJV)**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and  
thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of  
mine enemies: thou ointest my head with oil, my cup  
runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days  
of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for  
ever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Tony Richardson MBE  
Commanding Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

### **John Chapter 14 v 1-8 (NIV)**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

Lecture

Read by Regimental Sergeant Major Christopher Webber  
1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

## The Harvest

By Sydney Phillipson

In Flanders, in Flanders,  
The barns are full of garnered grain  
Heroically harvested,  
Full pitious it is to see  
On many a battle-washed plain  
The harvest of our youthful dead.

In Flanders, in Flanders  
The Reaper came whilst still the corn  
Was all unripe; he heeded not  
His scythe swept on relentlessly  
And youths whose promise was new born  
Fell with its sweep and they were not.

In Flanders, in Flanders  
Their youth was early harvested,  
The goodly promise unfulfilled  
Be yours their kinsmen then to see  
The beauty of the youthful dead  
Nor let your love for them be chilled.

In Flanders, in Flanders  
The ground is rich with Britain's own  
Who gave their utmost; not in vain  
If only times to come may see  
A juster world than they have known  
More frank of love, more free from pain.

**Address**  
**Address**

**The Committal**  
**∟ Entombment**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

*Psalm 46 v 1*

Lord, we thank you for the life and sacrifice of this unknown soldier. He is an example to us all, how to live and die well. We now commit his body to be buried: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life of all who trust in Jesus Christ.

**All** Amen.

**The Exhortation**  
**∟ Exhortation**

Read by  
Warrant Officer Class 2 Alexander Bellairs-Hughes  
1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

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.

### **Last Post**

*Sonnerie aux Morts*

Played by Gunner Guilherme Rosa-Russel Figueiredo

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery

### **Silence**

### **Reveille**

### **Kohima Epitaph**

*L'Építaphe de Kohima*

Read by a Gunner of the Search Party

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

### **Laying of Wreaths**

*Dépôt des Gerbes*

### **Prayer**

*Prière*

Heavenly Father, we have sought to honour our departed colleague by reflecting upon his great personal sacrifice for the freedom of others. Thank you for him. As we reflect upon his sacrifice we ask that we may never forget your great sacrifice for us. Grant us the peace of faith and the joy of your eternal hope.

*All: Amen.*

**Prayer for the Armed Forces**  
*Prérez pour les Forces Armées*  
Read by Sergeant Tennessee Ross  
1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces: grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**  
*Prérez 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,**  
**and the power, and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

*Séparation de Dernière Bénédiction*

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all here and forever more.

*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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