



A Burial Service for

**An Unknown Soldier
Killed During the Great War**

**13:30 hours on Wednesday 22 April 2020
CWGC Loos British Cemetery Extension, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Joseph Roberts CF
Chaplain to 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment
Déroulement de la cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Joseph Roberts CF**

The remains of this soldier were discovered near Tilloy-les-Mofflaines on 20 March 2023 during demining work prior to the construction of a new access road. No artefacts were found with the casualty which could assist with his identification and no DNA profile could be extracted from the remains. Given the location where he was found, it is likely that this man was killed in April 1917 during the Battle of Arras. However, given the high number of casualties still missing in the area from that period, it was not possible to narrow down a list of candidates. Although he remains unknown, today this soldier will be laid to rest alongside his comrades, and we will honour his sacrifice.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Loos British Cemetery Extension was opened by HRH The Princess Royal on 26 September 2024, and is only the second new cemetery established by the CWGC since the work to construct the Second World War cemeteries and Memorials was completed. It has been designed to be in keeping with the Commission's First World War cemeteries in France. It provides a fitting place of burial for those Commonwealth casualties still being recovered today from the former battlefields across France, including the Unknown Soldier who is being buried here today.

Les restes de ce soldat ont été découverts près de Tilloy-les-Mofflaines le 20 mars 2023 lors de travaux de déminage préalables à la construction d'une nouvelle route d'accès. Aucun objet qui pouvait aider à l'identifier n'a été trouvé avec cet homme et aucun profil ADN n'a pu être extrait des restes. Compte tenu de l'endroit où il a été trouvé, il est probable que cet homme ait été tué en avril 1917 pendant la bataille d'Arras. Cependant, étant donné le nombre élevé de victimes encore portées disparues dans la région pendant la période, il n'a pas été possible de réduire la liste des candidats potentiels. Bien que son identité soit inconnue, ce soldat sera inhumé aujourd'hui aux côtés de ses camarades, et nous rendrons hommage à son sacrifice.

Call to Worship **Appl and Adoration**

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.
Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

We gather here today in the quiet dignity of Leas British Cemetery to lay to rest an unknown soldier of the Great War.

More than a century has passed since he fell on the battlefields that surround us, yet his presence speaks to us still. He comes to us without a name, without regiment, and without story known – yet he is not forgotten, nor is he alone. He stands for all who served, all who sacrificed, and all who never returned home.

Today we offer him the honour, the gratitude, and the peace that every soldier deserves. We welcome him into this place of rest among comrades, tended with care and remembrance. Though we cannot call him by name, we recognise in him a life lived, a duty accepted, and a cost borne on behalf of others.

As we commit him to his final resting place, we do so with respect, with solemn pride, and with the enduring hope that the world for which he gave his life continues to find peace.

May this service be both an act of remembrance and a reminder of the human cost of war, and may this soldier, unknown to us, but known to God, find here his eternal rest, as we dedicate ourselves to 'never forget'.

Bidding Prayer

Priest

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present have been given and taken away.

All Lord God our Father,
 we pledge ourselves
 to serve all humankind,
 in the cause of peace,
 for the relief of want and suffering,
 and for the praise of your holy name.
 Guide us by your Spirit;
 give us wisdom;
 give us courage;
 give us hope;
 and keep us faithful
 now and always.
 Amen.

Reading

Lecture

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

Since They Have Died

By May Wedderburn Cannon

Since they have died to give us gentleness,
And hearts kind with contentment and quiet mirth,
Let us who live give also happiness
And love, that's born of pity, to the earth.

For, I have thought, some day they may be sleeping
Forgetting all the weariness and pain,
And unile to think their world is in our keeping,
And laughter come back to the earth again.

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Épîtres Saintes

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

Psalms 27 (NIV)

The Lord is my light and my salvation –
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life –
of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me,
it is my enemies, and my foes,
who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Address

Allegation

Blessing of the Grave

Benediction de la Tombe

O God of steadfast love,
we bless this grave as the resting place of an unknown
soldier. Though his name is lost to us, it is known to you,
for no life is ever forgotten in your sight. Grant him peace
in this holy ground, surround this place with your
presence, and make it a sign of remembrance, gratitude,
and hope. May all who stand here be inspired to walk in
the ways of justice, mercy, and peace.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Commendation and Committal L'Enterrment

Let us commend our fallen comrade to God's love and
mercy.

Into your arms O gracious God,
we commend our fallen brother,
named and known only by you,
yet so complete and precious in your sight.
As he travels from our longing to your care,
may Christ receive him on the clear shore of love's
embrace, where there is no more death or sorrow or pain
but only eternal peace with you.

All Amen.

We have entrusted this soldier to God's eternal care,
and commit his earthly remains to this hallowed ground,
reunited with comrades
who also paid the ultimate cost of sacrifice,
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...
As you rest now in eternal belonging,
and have left the shadows of this world behind,
rise on the wings of the morning,
May you rest in peace.

All Amen.

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

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

Sonnerie aux Morts

Played by Lance Corporal April Parthing

The Band of The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épithaphe de Kohima

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

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

Laying of Wreaths

Dépôt des Gerbes

Prayer of Commemoration for the Fallen
Prière de Commémoration Pour les Morts

God of all, remember your holy promises, and look with love on all your people, living and departed.
On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned;
those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss.
Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world.
And as you remember them, remember us, O God; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of your kingdom.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life;
hear our prayers and thanksgiving
for all whom we remember this day,
especially our fallen comrades who we have laid to rest.
Pull in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer 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.

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Prayer pour les Forces Armées

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

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 Blessing

Séparation de Dernière Bénédiction

May God give peace
peace to this unknown soldier,
whose name is hidden from us
but held in the heart of God for ever,
and peace to us in our lives and world.

As we have committed him to this place of rest,
may the God of all consolation
grant him light perpetual and a home in the eternal
kingdom.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

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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