



A Burial Service for

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

**13:00 hours on Tuesday 21 April 2026
CWGC Warlencourt British Cemetery, 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 casualty were discovered near Queudecourt on 13 December 2022 during the construction of a wind farm. No artefacts were found with the casualty which could assist with his identification. Given the location where he was found, it is likely that this man was killed in September or October 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. 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 his identity is unknown, this soldier will be laid to rest today alongside his comrades, and we will honour his sacrifice.

From 1916, fierce fighting took place on the battlefields surrounding Warlecourt. The casualty being laid to rest today, sadly unidentified, was recovered from these former battlefields. Along with over 3,500 of his comrades, this unknown soldier is now laid to rest in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Warlecourt British Cemetery, which was made in late 1916 when graves were brought in from the surrounding area. Over a third of the casualties buried here are unidentified.

Les restes de cette victime ont été découverts près de Queudecourt le 13 décembre 2022 lors de la construction d'un parc éolien. Aucun objet qui pouvait aider à l'identifier n'a été trouvé avec cet homme. En raison de l'endroit où il a été retrouvé, il est probable que cet homme a été tué en septembre ou octobre 1916 pendant la bataille de la Somme. 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
Apel à Adoration

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
And the love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with you all.

All **Amen.**

We gather here today in solemn remembrance and deep respect as we lay to rest an unknown soldier of the Great War. Though his name is lost to us, his life is not. He was someone's son, perhaps a brother, a friend, a comrade-in-arms. He walked the same earth, knew the same hopes and fears, and answered the same call to serve in a time of unimaginable turmoil.

Today, more than a century after he fell, we honour him not as a stranger, but as one of our own. His story, though unfinished in the records of humanity, is complete in the sight of God. In committing him to this place of peace and remembrance, we acknowledge the countless lives cut short, the families left without answers, and the enduring cost of war.

As we undertake this burial, we do so with gratitude, reverence, and a renewed commitment to remember those who gave their all, known and unknown alike. May this service affirm our shared humanity, our longing for peace, and our resolve never to forget the sacrifice made by this soldier and so many like him.

Bidding Prayer

Prison

As we remember before God our fallen brother whose name is unknown to us but is cherished with you, we pray for all who have served in the Armed Forces; who counted service to others greater than service of self, and who gave their lives in battle.

We continue to remember and pray for all those who have suffered, and who suffer still, as a consequence of war, violence and terror. Also, we pray for peace and reconciliation in our world today – especially remembering those with the responsibility for the leadership of nations.

Let us pray together:

- All** Ever-living God,
we remember those whom you have gathered
from the storm of war
into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Reading

Lecture

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

A Soldier's Cemetery

By John William Crooks

Behind that long and lonely trench'd line
To which men come and go, where brave men die,
There is a yet unmarked an unknown shrine,
A broken plot, a soldier's cemetery:

There lie the flower of youth, the man who scorn'd
To live (so died) when languish'd Liberty;
Across their graves flowerless and unadorn'd
Still scream the shells of such artillery,

When war shall cease this lonely unknown spot
Of many a pilgrimage will be the end,
And flowers will shine in this now barren plot
And fame upon it through the years descend:
But many a heart, upon each simple cross
Will hang the grief, the memory of its loss.

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Captain Oliver White

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

Psalm 138 v 1-14 (NIV)

You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully

and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

This is the Word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Address
Allocution

Blessing of the Grave
Bénédictio de la Tombe

Eternal God, as we prepare to bury this faithful servant alongside his fallen comrades, whose name is written for all ages in the palm of your hand, bless this grave to be one of remembrance and thanksgiving, for his service and sacrifice. May this grave and this cemetery, always be a place of rest and peace.

All Amen.

The Commendation and Comittal L'Entertainment

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

Into your arms Gracious God,
we commend our fallen brother,
named and known only by you,
yet he is 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, we
now commit their 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...

Most merciful and ever-living God,
we remember those whom you have gathered
from the storm of war into the peace of your presence:
surround in your love our comrade here,
and may he rest in eternal peace,
now and forever more.

All **Amen.**

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Read by Warrant Officer Class 2 Hugh Murphy
1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

They shall grow not old, as we that see 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

Soevere-our-Mort

Played by Lance Corporal April Farthing
The Band of The Royal Yorkshire Regiment

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Epitaph de Kohima

Read by a Soldier of the Baseer Party

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

Laying of Wreaths

Depôts des Gerbes

Prayers

Primer

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service men and women
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God,
May God give peace.

All God give peace.

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief
and the sadness of our loss,
May God give peace.

All God give peace.

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger
this day, remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return,
May God give peace.

All God give peace.

For all civilian women, children and men,
whose lives are disfigured by war and terror,
calling to mind in penitence the anger
and hatreds of humanity,
including the world's current conflicts,
May God give peace.

All God give peace.

For peace-makers and peace-keepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free,
May God give peace.

All God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and religious;
asking for your gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace,
May God give peace.

All God give peace.

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those whose memories we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken
world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish
us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in
your future, for you are the source of life and hope, now
and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Prière 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
Prière 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 Demestre Bénédiction

May the God of all mercy and compassion,
who gathers the lost and shelters the weary,
grant rest and peace to this unknown soldier,
whose name is known to God alone.

As we leave him in this place of honour,
may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon him,
and remain with all who mourn the fallen,
all who work for peace,
and all who carry the hope of a better world.

May his sacrifice remind us of the cost of war,
the dignity of every human life,
and the enduring call to seek justice and peace.

Go now in peace,
to love and to serve the Lord.

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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