



A Blessing of Sacred Remains

23 April 2026

CWGC Bancourt British Cemetery, France

Conducted by

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Introduction

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Dear friends,
we gather today to honour these scant and sacred remains,
recovered from the battlefields of the Great War.
Though time has passed and the earth has yielded only
fragments,
the life to which they belonged is fully known to God;
a life lived amid the mud and wire,
the fear and fellowship,
the duty and sacrifice of the Great War.

Here we stand in gratitude and reverence,
commending this soldier to God's eternal keeping
and setting apart this grave
as a place of dignity, remembrance, and peace.

Let us pray:

God of compassion and strength,
whose Son endured the violence of this world
and rose to bring peace;
receive the one whose remains we honour this day;
In the honor of war, you were present;
in the silence that followed, you remembered;
and in your mercy, you told all your fallen children.
Grant rest to this soldier
and hope to all who long for a world made new;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Reading – Job Chapter 18 v 23-27

Oh, that my words could be recorded,
Oh, that they could be inscribed on a monument,
carved with an iron chisel and filled with lead,
engraved forever in the rock.
But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
and he will stand upon the earth at last.
And after my body has decayed,
yet in my body I will see God.
I will see him for myself.
Yes, I will see him with my own eyes,
I am overwhelmed at the thought!

Blessing of the Grave

May this grave be blessed
as a place of honour, memory, and quiet hope.
May your light shine upon it,
and may all who pass by recognise here
the worth of a life known and loved by God.
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Commendation and Comittal

We now commend these remains to God
and commit them to their resting place.

Lord Jesus Christ,
whose cross stands beside the graves of the fallen,
receive this soldier into your everlasting peace.
Though only a little has been recovered,
you know the whole story;
the courage and fear,
the duty embraced,
the life interrupted.
You gather the scattered,
you remember the forgotten,
you restore what conflict has taken.

Grant eternal rest to the one whose body we now honour,
and gather him into the fullness of your peace,
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 peace,
now and forever more.

All **Amen.**

Moment of Silence

Let us have a period of silence,
remembering this soldier,
those who served alongside him,
and all who fell in the Great War.

A period of silence is kept.

Prayers

Let us pray to the Lord,
who is full of compassion.

For this soldier,
that he may rise in glory
and rest in the peace won for us by Christ.
Lord, in your mercy;

All **hear our prayer.**
For all who served and suffered in the Great War,
for the missing and the unknown,
and for all who still bear its legacy.
Lord, in your mercy;

All **hear our prayer.**

For families whose grief was never fully resolved,
that they may find comfort in this act of remembrance.
Lord, in your mercy;

All **hear our prayer.**

For peace among the nations,
that the world for which so many died
may yet be shaped by justice, mercy, and hope.
Lord, in your mercy;

All **hear our prayer.**

Gathering our prayers into one, we say:

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

May Christ, the Prince of Peace,
who breaks down the walls of hostility
and heals the wounds of war,
give peace to the departed
and comfort to the living.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you 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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