



**A Burial Service for an Unknown Soldier of
The South Wales Borderers**

Killed during the Great War

**10:00 hours Wednesday 19 June 2019
Béthune Town Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by The Rev'd Ben Archibald CF
Chaplain to 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh**

The remains of this South Wales Borderer were discovered on the outskirts of Richebourg during drainage work in 2016. Research suggests that this soldier was most likely a member of 1st Battalion The South Wales Borderers who was killed on 9 or 10 May 1915 during the Battle of Aubers Ridge. However, there are unfortunately still too many soldiers of that battalion missing from that time to be able to identify this man. He will, therefore, be buried today as an unknown soldier of The South Wales Borderers.

Les restes de ce soldat de South Wales Borderers ont été découverts à l'orée de Richebourg au cours des les travaux de drainage en 1916. Il est probablement qu'il été un soldat du 1^e Bataillon South Wales Borderers et qu'il a été tué le 9 ou 10 mai 1915 au cours de La Bataille de la Crête d'Aubers. Malheureusement il manque toujours un trop grand nombre de soldats de South Wales Borderers disparus pendant cette bataille pour pouvoir tenter d'identifier cet individu. Il sera donc inhumé aujourd'hui comme un soldat inconnu du South Wales Borderers.

The town of Béthune acted as an important railway and hospital hub for much of the war. As such, designated plots within the local cemetery were used for the burial of over 3,000 casualties who had died as a result of their wounds or were killed in the surrounding area. These plots make up the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Béthune Town Cemetery. The unidentified casualty can now be laid to rest alongside 27 of his comrades from The South Wales Borderers.

Introduction

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Psalm 91 v 1-2 (ESV)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Almighty God, you judge us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything that you have made. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of paradise where there is no sound or noise, but one equal music; no dazzling or fear, but one equal light; no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a representative of the British Embassy

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1-8 & 14 (NIV)

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

I know that everything God does will endure forever;
nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God
does it so that people will fear him.

Reading

Lecture

Read by Captain David Hughes

1st Battalion The Royal Welsh

First Time In

By Ivor Gurney

After the dread tales and red yams of the Line
Anything might have come to us; but the divine
Afterglow brought us up to a Welsh colony
Hiding in sandbag ditches, whispering consolatory
Soft foreign things. Then we were taken in
To low huts candle-lit shaded close by slitten
Oilsheets, and there but boys gave us kind welcome;
So that we looked out as from the edge of home.
Sang us Welsh things, and changed all former notions
To human hopeful things. And the next days' guns
Nor any line-pangs ever quite could blot out
That strangely beautiful entry to War's rout,
Candles they gave us precious and shared over-rations —
Ulysses found little more in his wanderings without doubt.
'David of the white rock',
the 'Slumber Song' so soft, and that
Beautiful tune to which roguish words by Welsh pit boys
Are sung — but never more beautiful than here under the
guns' noise.

Gospel Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Steve Brown, Officer in Charge

Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre

John Chapter 15 v 9 -13 (NIV)

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

Interment

L’inhumation

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of our dear brother here departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change the body of our low estate that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working, whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

The Act of Remembrance

Acte de D vouement

Let us remember before the Father, and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we knew, and those whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

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

The Silence

The Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L' pitaphe de Kohima

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

Laying of Wreaths
Dépôts des Gerbes

The Prayers
Les Prières

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, comrades, and all who pray for their safe return; may God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatred of humanity; may God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

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

All **God give peace.**

Collect of The South Wales Borderers

Récitation des South Wales Borderers

Read by Captain David Hughes

1st Battalion The Royal Welsh

O Christ, who hast said, be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life, strengthen us, The South Wales Borderers, who bear the crown in honour of those who died for their trust, so to fight the good fight of faith that we may lay hold on eternal life, in thee, who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prière du Seigneur

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 et Dernière Bénédiction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace this day, and always.

And the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, wherever they may be, this day and always.

All **Amen.**



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