



A Burial Service for

**Two Unknown British Soldiers
of The Great War**

**14:00 hours 23 September 2021
Woburn Abbey Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Simon Talbot CF
Chaplain 6th Battalion The Rifles**

Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par le Révérend Simon Talbot

Woburn Abbey Cemetery

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Woburn Abbey Cemetery was named from a house on the East side of it used as Battalion Headquarters and as a Dressing Station. It was begun in June 1915 and closed in January 1916, although a small number of further burials were made as late as April 1918. Plots II-V were added after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields East of Bethune and from a number of smaller cemeteries. Sadly, almost half of those buried in this cemetery, including the two casualties being interred today, remain unidentified.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. We come before God in remembrance of our fallen comrades and ask that God may receive our prayers as we call upon Him.

All **May the Peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.**

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Almighty God, you tell us blessed is the man who perseveres under trial as he will receive the crown of life that you have promised to those who love you. In your mercy may you draw close to us as we remember that you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. As we seek our refuge in you may you strengthen us by your presence and assure us of your grace.

All **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

John Chapter 15 v 9-17 (ESV)

Jesus said, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

Reading

Lecture

I Went to See the Soldiers

By Kenny Martin

I went to see the soldiers, row on row on row,
And wondered about each so still, their badges all on
show.

What brought them here, what life before
Was like for each of them?
What made them angry, laugh, or cry,
These soldiers, boys and men.

Some so young, some older still, a bond more close than
brothers

These men have earned and shared a love,
That's not like any other
They trained as one, they fought as one
They shared their last together
That bond endures, that love is true
And will be, now and ever.

I could not know, how could I guess, what choice each
had made,
Of how they came to soldiering, what part each one had
played?
But here they are and here they'll stay,
Each one silent and in place,
Their headstones line up row on row
They guard this hallowed place.

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Prière pour les Forces Armées

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 honour your holy name,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All **Amen.**

Committal

Enterrement

Lord, we offer into your safe keeping these unknown
soldiers who are not unknown to you. We commit their
mortal remains to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:
We look for the fullness of the resurrection
when Christ shall gather all his people
to reign with Him in glory for ever.

All **Amen.**

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

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe 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

Prayer

Prière

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those who have given their life in the service of their country. As we remember those known to us and those whose names we will never know help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us dignity as we 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

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

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all his servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**



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