



FUNERAL SERVICE
FOR AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER
OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

CWGC Guards' Cemetery
Lesboeufs, France

Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 11:00 hours

**The Service is conducted by
The Rev'd Martin Wainwright CF,
Chaplain to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards**

**The Bearer Party is
found by
Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards,
commanded by
Lieutenant Tom Hodson**

**Musicians from
The Band of the Grenadier Guards,
by permission of
Major General Christopher Ghika CBE
Major General commanding the Household Division**

A brief history of The Grenadier Guards

The First or Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards traces its origins back to 1656, when a Royal Regiment of Guards was formed by supporters of the exiled King Charles II, who was then in Bruges, Flanders.

The Regiment was granted its present title after the defeat of the French Imperial Guard at Waterloo in 1815. It is the only Regiment in the British Army that has directly gained its title from the part it played in action.

Grenadiers have fought in almost every major campaign over the last 366 years and throughout its rich and distinguished history, the Regiment has been awarded many Battle Honours.

The First World War

During the First World War, known to many as the Great War, four Grenadier service battalions were almost continually in the field, all on the Western Front. The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards was also largely raised by Grenadiers.

In 1915 a Guards Division was formed, which included all our battalions, and its baptism of fire came at Loos that September. In August 1916 it left the Ypres Salient, the scene of bitter fighting, to take its turn on the Somme and, in mid September 1916, the first battle was fought at Ginchy with a second major assault, ten days later, on Lesboeuifs. In these two battles the battalions each suffered between forty and fifty percent casualties, with a higher proportion of officers.

Overall, the war cost the Regiment dearly. 4711 Grenadiers were killed, a further 7181 wounded, many with life-changing injuries. Over 25,000 had passed through the Reserve Battalion and many awards were made for gallantry and distinguished service, including seven Victoria Crosses.

Welcome

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die". John Ch 1, vs 25 – 26

We are gathered here today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past.

Today we remember with thanksgiving this Unknown Soldier who, alongside so many others, answered the call of his country, served with honour and gave his life in the service of his nation.

We will shortly commit his body to be buried. In so doing let us commit ourselves anew to remember his courage. For by so doing we honour his memory and we reflect upon that sacrifice.

Let us offer ourselves also to God's service, that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven and that His kingdom of justice and peace be established everywhere.

Bidding Prayer

Let us recall the presence of God, the Father of all mankind, maker and sustainer of all that is, whose purposes are good, whose love is never withheld and whose mercy never passes away. We call to mind His faithfulness in times of darkness and despair.

We remember before Him our brothers and sisters whose names are known only to God, and all who have served in the Armed Forces of our nation; who counted service to others greater than service of self, and who gave their lives in battle.

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in His resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First Reading - Luke Ch 12, vs 4 – 8

Read by Colonel Richard Aubrey-Fletcher, President of the Grenadier Guards Association

And I say unto you my friends, be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.

Address

By The Rev'd Martin Wainwright CF

Second Reading - John Ch 14, vs 1 – 6

Read by Major James Gatehouse, Regimental Adjutant

Let not your heart be troubled:

ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Interment

Our days are like the grass;

we flourish like a flower of the field

when the wind goes over it; it is gone

and its place will know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures

for ever and ever.....

We have entrusted this Unknown Soldier to God's eternal keeping. We now commit his earthly remains to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

The Exhortation

Read by Warrant Officer (2nd Class) Dwaine Oliver

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.
We will remember them.

The Last Post

The Grenadiers March

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

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

Wreath Laying

Prayers

Almighty God, protect all who serve in the Forces of The Queen; strengthen us in danger and temptation, give us courage and loyalty, that we may remain true to the highest traditions of our profession; and keep us steadfast when faced with the perils of action in war; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Almighty God, who has revealed your only Son as the resurrection and the life; raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness that, when we depart from this life, we may rest in Him, and at the last may receive the blessing; Well done good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord. Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our mediator and redeemer.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**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, the power and the glory

For ever and ever.

Amen

Regimental Collect of The Grenadier Guards

O God grant that thy servants, the Grenadier Guards, may ever be mindful of their proud and costly heritage, that continuing to guard what is right, and fighting for what is just, they may so serve thee here in this life that they may be counted worthy to join those who now continue their service in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Dismissal

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening falls,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at last;
through Christ our Lord.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you
and all those you love and for whom you pray,
this day and always.

Amen

The British Grenadiers

Musicians

LCpl Adam Higginson – flute

Musn Josh Gilding – drum

Musn George Hirst - cornet

The village of Lesboeufs was first attacked by the Guards Division on 15th September 1916, during the Battle of the Somme and, after heavy fighting and severe losses to both sides, it was captured ten days later. However, it was lost again on 24th March 1918, during the great German Spring offensive and not recaptured until 29th August 1918.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Guards' Cemetery originally consisted of 40 graves, mostly of men of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, but the cemetery was greatly increased after the Armistice when isolated graves and other smaller cemeteries from the surrounding battlefields were gathered together. There are now 3137 casualties of The Great War buried or commemorated here; 1644 are sadly unidentified.

For the Fallen

Written in 1914 by Lawrence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs into battle, they were young
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hope profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars that are known to the Night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

*"Remember, then, whichever way the balance doth decline,
If God is in His Heaven, and the Guards are in the line,
All's Well".*



ARMY

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.

© Crown Copyright/JCCC 2022