



# ARMY

A Funeral Service for

**2 Unknown WW1 British Soldiers**

at 13:30 hrs

Tuesday, 26 October 2021

Perth Cemetery (China Wall), near lepers

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Led by Reverend Paul Whitehead, CF

Chaplain to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment

## **The Background**

The remains of these 2 soldiers were recovered at the Bellewaerde Theme Park – near Hooge – on the Menin Road in September 2018. Hooge was the scene of fierce fighting at several stages throughout the war, although CWGC records prove that no British casualties recovered from that area died before May 1915.

Sadly, no personal or military artefacts were found with these 2 soldiers so, besides knowing they are British, we haven't been able to name them individually or narrow down their regiment or date of death.

### **The Cemetery**

CWGC's Perth Cemetery (China Wall) was begun in November 1914 by French forces and adopted by the 2nd Scottish Rifles for the burial of 130 Commonwealth casualties between June-October 1917. It was called Half Way House Cemetery or Perth (after the town where the regiment was raised) and a communication trench nearby known as the Great Wall of China. Further burials were added after the armistice from small cemeteries and the surrounding battlefields, including the area where these two unknown soldiers were found. There are now over 2,790 burials in this cemetery, almost half of which remain unidentified.

## **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 11.25.26*

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

Today we remember with thanksgiving these two soldiers who, alongside so many others, answered the call of their country, served with honour and gave their lives in the service of their nation.

We will shortly commit their bodies to be buried. In so doing let us commit ourselves anew to remember them. For by so doing we honour them and we reflect upon their sacrifice.

Let us offer ourselves in His 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 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.

**Silence**

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**

### **Scripture Reading**

There is a time for everything and a season for every  
activity under heaven;  
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,  
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.  
*Ecclesiastes 3, 1 – 8*

## **Scripture Reading**

Jesus said to His disciples; "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going". Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way"? Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me".

*John 14, 1 – 6*

## **Moment of Reflection**

### **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 these two soldiers whose names are known to God alone to God's eternal keeping. We now commit their 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.**

### **The 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.  
**We will remember them.**

### **The Last Post**

**Silence**

**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.**

### **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.**



# ARMY

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