



ARMY

**A Burial Service for
An Unknown Soldier of an Unknown Regiment
Killed during the Great War**

**14:30 hours Tuesday 16 April 2019
Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Tim Flowers CF
Chaplain 4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment**

The remains of this unknown soldier were discovered on the outskirts of Ginchy during work on a wind turbine project. No artefacts were found with this soldier to suggest which regiment he belonged to. It is likely that he was killed in September 1916 when heavy fighting took place in this area. He will be buried today as an unknown soldier of the Great War.

Les restes de ce soldat inconnu d'un régiment inconnu ont été découverts à l'orée de Ginchy au cours des travaux pour un projet d'éoliennes. Il n'y avait pas des artefacts trouve avec ce soldat qui pourrait indiquer son régiment. Il est probablement qu'il a été tué en septembre 1916 quand des combats violents eurent lieu dans cette région. Il sera inhumé aujourd'hui comme un soldat inconnu de la Grande Guerre.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs, was created after the capture of Lesboeufs in September 1916. Originally consisting of 40 graves, the cemetery increased after the Armistice with the concentration of isolated graves and small cemeteries from the surrounding battlefields. Sadly, over half of the burials within this cemetery, including the casualty being interred today, remain unidentified.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have come to this place to inter the mortal remains of a British soldier, known unto God; whose life was possibly taken during the fierce fighting that took place in Ginchy during September 1916.

Today in this place we accord this man the dignity and respect that he is due and commend him to the mercy and grace of God our redeemer and judge, and in the hope and life given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us.

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

Bidding Prayer

Prière

We meet in this solemn moment to worship Almighty God, who calls those who follow Him to live lives of justice, mercy and humility; to give thanks for the life of our fallen comrade and to commend him to God's loving and faithful care: and through our love and prayers we remember those who grieved at his loss. Hallow this place and those who stand here before you today as we reflect upon man's humanity and your great gift of life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew James

The British Embassy Paris

Matthew Chapter 5 v 1-12 (NRS)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by Captain Benedict Griffiths

Regimental Adjutant, The Mercian Regiment

Ephesians Chapter 6 v 10-18 (NRSA)

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Lecture

Read by Sergeant Anthony Fayle
1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment

MCMXIV (1964)

By Phillip Larkin

Those long uneven lines
Standing as patiently
As if they were stretched outside
The Oval or Villa Park,
The crowns of hats, the sun
On moustached archaic faces
Grinning as if it were all
An August Bank Holiday lark;

And the shut shops, the bleached
Established names on the sunblinds,
The farthings and sovereigns,
And dark-clothed children at play
Called after kings and queens,
The tin advertisements
For cocoa and twist, and the pubs
Wide open all day;

And the countryside not caring:
The place-names all hazed over
With flowering grasses, and fields
Shadowing Domesday lines
Under wheat's restless silence;
The differently-dressed servants
With tiny rooms in huge houses,
The dust behind limousines;

Never such innocence,
Never before or since,

As changed itself to past
Without a word – the men
Leaving the gardens tidy,
The thousands of marriages,
Lasting a little while longer:
Never such innocence again.

Address

Allocution

Prayers

Prières

Heavenly Father, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women in our Armed Forces at home and abroad.

Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace;
strengthen them in their trials and temptations;
and give them courage to face the perils that beset them;
and help them to know that nothing can separate them
from your love;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory and claiming his promises,
we entrust our fallen comrade to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive and reigns with you,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Committal
Enterrement

We have but a short time to live.
Like a flower we blossom and then wither;
like a shadow we flee and never stay.
In the midst of life we are in death;
to whom can we turn for help,
but to you, Lord, who are justly angered by our sins?
Yet, Lord God most holy, Lord most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
deliver us from the bitter pains of eternal death.
Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;
hear our prayer, O God most mighty;
spare us, most worthy judge eternal;
at our last hour let us not fall from you,
O holy and merciful Saviour.

We have entrusted our fallen comrade to God's mercy
and now we 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 will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever.

All **Amen.**

Blessed are the dead who die in the law;
for they rest from their labours.

The Exhortation

L'Éxhortation

Read by Warrant Officer Class 2 Simon Coulson
4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment

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

Prayers

Prières

Eternal God, in your wisdom and grace you have given us joy through the lives of your departed servants.

We thank you for the life of our fallen comrade and for those who loved him. We thank you for your goodness and mercy that followed him all the days of his life and his ultimate faithfulness to the tasks to which you had called him.

May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

We pray for all who have died or suffer as a result of conflict.

Those whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
For service men and women, for civilians, for those held captive,
each one remembered by and known to God.

May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

We pray for peace-makers and peace-keepers;
those who seek to keep this world secure and free;
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.**

Finally, we pray for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return.

May God give peace:

All **God give peace.**

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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 God's servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you all and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go forth with hope and seek for peace in the service of
God.

In the name of Christ.

All **Amen.**



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