



A Burial Service for

**5 Unknown Commonwealth Soldiers
Killed During the Great War**

**14:00 hours on 15 October 2024
CWGC Loos British Cemetery Extension, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Huw Ryden CF
Chaplain to 3rd Battalion The Rifles
Déroulement de la cérémonie présidé par
le Révérend Huw Ryden CF**

The remains of 4 of these unknown soldiers were found on the outskirts of Saint-Laurent-Blangy during the construction of a new prison. It is most likely that these men were killed on 9 April 1917, the first day of the Battle of Arras, when 26th Infantry Brigade, part of 9th Scottish Division, attacked across the area where they were recovered from. No artefacts were found with these men which could lead to their identification.

The fifth casualty was found by the Durand Group whilst clearing the entrance to Gustav Tunnel in Haisnes. Again, no artefacts were found with this man which could lead to his identification. Based on the location where he was found, it is most likely that he was a casualty of the Battle of Loos in 1915.

Today all 5 of these men will be laid to rest with full military honours and their sacrifice will be remembered.

Loos British Cemetery Extension was completed in early 2024. The land on which it stands has been granted in perpetuity to the CWGC by the French State, having been acquired from the town of Loos-en-Gohelle. It currently contains 48 unknown British casualties, but it has been created to provide a peaceful and dignified last resting place for all Commonwealth war casualties recovered from the former battlefields in the surrounding areas.

Les restes de 4 de ces soldats inconnus ont été retrouvés à la périphérie de Saint-Laurent-Blangy lors de la construction d'une nouvelle prison. Il est très probable que ces hommes ont été tués le 9 avril 1917, le premier jour de la bataille d'Arras, lorsque la 26^e Infantry Brigade, faisant partie de la 9^e Scottish Division, a attaqué le lieu où ils ont été récupérés. Aucun objet était trouvé avec ces hommes qui pouvait aider avec leur identification.

Le cinquième homme a été trouvée par le Durand Group au cours de nettoyage l'entrée du Gustav Tunnel à Haisnes. Là encore, aucun objet n'a été trouvé avec cet homme qui pouvait aider avec son identification. En raison de l'endroit où il a été trouvé, il est très probable qu'il a été tué pendant la bataille de Loos en 1915.

Aujourd'hui, ces 5 hommes seront enterrés avec tous les honneurs militaires et nous nous souviendrons leur sacrifice.

Call to Worship
Appel à Adoration

We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

We have come here today
to remember before God these five soldiers,
to give thanks for the good which they had in their lives;
and to sombrelly mark that loss.
To commend them to God our merciful redeemer and
judge; to commit them to the ground and to lay their
mortal bodies to rest.

Bidding Prayer
Prière

We meet in the presence of God.

To commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for
reconciliation between the nations, that all people may,
together, live in freedom justice and peace.

We come to pray for all who in bereavement, disability
and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting
and terror.

We come to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow
these five soldiers, and all whose lives, in World Wars
and conflicts past and present, have been given and
taken away.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Read by a Representative of the British Embassy Paris

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1-11 (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.

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Lecture de l'Évangile

Read by the Reverend Huw Ryden CF

Chaplain to 3rd Battalion The Rifles

John Chapter 14 v 1-6 (ESV)

"Let not your heart be troubled; you 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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Lecture

Read by Lieutenant Henry Waterson
3rd Battalion The Rifles

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 others

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 choices 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.

Address

Allocution

The Committal

L' Enterrement

Let us commend these five soldiers to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence

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 these five souls to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord
who died and is alive
and reigns with you,
now and forever.

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.
As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to
everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children.

Psalm 103 v 13-17 (ESV)

Though we are dust and ashes, God has prepared for those who love him a heavenly dwelling place.

We have commended these five soldiers into the hands of almighty God. We now, in good order and with care, compassion and honour, commit their bodies to the earth.

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.**

The Exhortation

L'Exhortation

Read by Corporal Philip Ingamells
3rd Battalion The Rifles

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

Played by Rifleman Callum Phillips
3rd Battalion The Rifles

Silence

Rouse (Reveille)

Kohima Epitaph

L'Épitaphe de Kohima

Read by Corporal Jake Wilkinson

3rd Battalion The Rifles

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

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Prière pour les Forces Armées

Read by Lieutenant Henry Waterson

3rd Battalion The Rifles

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 the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prière du Seigneur

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

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 de Dernière Bénédiction

Support us, O Lord,
all the day-long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
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 the last;
through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

May God give you his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy,
In this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, and your loved
ones, now and ever more.

Go in peace, ever labouring for peace in the service of
God.

In the name of Christ.

All **Amen.**



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.

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