



ARMY

A Burial Service for

Thirteen Unknown Soldiers of the Great War

11:00 hours Thursday 10 October 2019

Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium

**Service conducted by Father Patrick O'Driscoll
Chaplain 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers**

In 2017 a crowd funded archaeological excavation took place at the former site of Hill 80. This was known as Dig Hill 80. The site had been acquired by developers for house building.

Hill 80, in the village of Wytschaete, was the site of a windmill before the First World War, it became an entrenched German gun position following the village's capture in 1914. The location afforded observational advantage to the Germans as it overlooked the town of Ypres and formed part of the Messines Ridge.

The site remained in German hands until the Battle of Messines in June 1917 when it was recaptured. In 1918, Hill 80 was again taken by the Germans during the Battle of the Lys, before finally returning to Allied hands in September 1918.

The remains of these Commonwealth soldiers were found during the Dig Hill 80 excavation. Today, their sacrifice will be remembered, and they will be buried with full military honours.

Created after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding area, including the vicinity of Hill 80, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Wytschaete Military Cemetery contains almost 1,000 burials. Although unidentified, like two-thirds of the burials within this cemetery, these 13 soldiers can now be laid to rest alongside their comrades.

Music
For the Fallen

The Joint Youth Orchestra and Choir

Call to Worship

We are gathered in fellowship today before God to remember those who have made the supreme sacrifice by the giving of their lives in the service of their country. Let us remember them in joy, sadness, and gratitude, and commend them to God's sure keeping. We remember and pray for all those who have suffered, and who still suffer, as a consequence of war. Finally, we pray for peace and reconciliation – especially remembering those with the responsibility for the leadership of nations – that conflict may be avoided, and peace prevail among all people. Finally, we commit ourselves to that work of peace.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you,

All **And also with you.**

Bidding Prayer

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 comrades and to commend them to God's loving and faithful care:

and through our love and prayers we remember those who grieved at their 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

Read by Group Captain Justin Fowler

Defence Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Read by Group Captain Ret'd Clive Montellier OBE
AH JCCC & MOD Medal Office

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1-8 & 14 (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.

I know that everything God does will endure forever;
nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God
does it so that people will fear him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Read by Major Ret'd Andrew Greenwood

We Shall Keep the Faith (1918)

by Moina Michael

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.
We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.
And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Address

Music

Abide With Me

The Joint Youth Orchestra and Choir

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Read by Major James Blaszkowski

1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

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.**

Prayer

God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for these we pray for today. In Christ's name we pray.

All **Amen.**

Committal

As we gather to commend our brothers to God our Father and to commit their bodies to the earth, let us express in prayer our common faith in the resurrection. As Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, we to are called to follow him through death to the glory where God will be all in all.

Almighty God, you created the earth and shaped the vault of heaven; you fixed the stars in their places. When we were caught in the snares of death you set us free through baptism; in obedience to your will our Lord Jesus Christ broke the fetters of hell and rose to life, bringing deliverance and resurrection to those who are his by faith. In your mercy look upon this grave, so that your servants may sleep here in peace; and on the day of judgement raise them up to dwell with your saints in paradise.

Lord God, by the power of your word you stilled the chaos of the primeval seas, you made the raging waters of the Flood subside, and calmed the storm on the sea of Galilee. As we commit the remains of our brothers to the deep grant them peace and tranquillity until that day when they and all who believe in you will be raised to the glory of new life promised in the waters of baptism.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **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.

All **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.'

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ Jesus, we cannot be parted, either by death or life: Hear our prayers and thanksgiving for all whom we remember this day.

We pray for the leaders of the nations of the world, that they may guide their people in the ways of justice and peace. For Queen Elizabeth and all who lead us at national and local level.

Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our Prayer.**

For all our soldiers serving throughout the world, that they, during their duty may be kept in God's safe keeping.

Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for peace-keepers and peace-makers all over the world who seek to keep this world secure and free.

Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our Prayer.**

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember our loved ones and our comrades who have died and gone before us. We remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and especially those whose faith was known to God alone.

Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our Prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Go forth into the world in peace; Be of good courage;
Hold fast that which is good; Render to no one evil for evil;
Strengthen the faint-hearted; Support the weak;
Help the afflicted; Honour everyone;
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty,

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Music

In Flanders Fields

The Joint Youth Orchestra and Choir

Music provided by:

The Joint Youth Orchestra and Choir

from

Gymnasium Theodorianum Paderborn (*Germany*)

Mildenhall College Academy (*United Kingdom*)

St Joseph's College Ipswich (*United Kingdom*)



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