



**A Burial Service for
Two Unknown Soldiers of
The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)**

10:30 hours Wednesday 9 October 2019

New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium

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

Between 2014 and 2015 twenty four sets of remains were found during construction work, at what is believed to have been the site of Irish Farm Cemetery. It had previously been thought that after the Great War the graves in Irish Farm Cemetery had all been moved to New Irish Farm Cemetery, a short distance away. Nineteen of these soldiers were buried in September 2017 with full military honours.

Two of the remaining five soldiers were found with shoulder titles of The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Research showed that these casualties were most likely killed between May and September 1915 but were unable to be identified. Today, their sacrifices will be remembered and they will be buried with full military honours.

Close to a location known by the troops as 'Irish Farm', the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's New Irish Farm Cemetery was first used in August 1917 and by the war's end contained 73 burials. After the Armistice, the cemetery was greatly increased in size when more than 4,500 graves were concentrated from several small cemeteries and the surrounding battlefields near Ypres. It is from this area that these two Royal Fusiliers casualties were recovered and can now be laid to rest alongside their comrades.

Call to Worship

We come this morning as a community – to remember, lest we forget. We come together to remind ourselves and reflect on all those who gave their lives courageously and with selfless devotion both in uniform and civilian. We are here to mourn all that is lost by their premature passing and to lament humankind's inability to live at peace. We remember the ever-present grace of God and we seek His guidance and blessing, that our world might be worthy of past sacrifice. So, at this Remembrance and burial time, let us worship God and in His presence let us commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

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

Matthew Chapter 8 v 5-13 (TJB)

When he went into Capernaum a centurion came up and pleaded with him. 'Sir,' he said, 'my servant is lying at home paralysed and in great pain.' Jesus said to him, 'I will come myself and cure him.' The centurion replied, 'Sir, I am not worthy to have you under my roof; just give the word and my servant will be cured. For I am under authority myself and have soldiers under me; and I say to one man, "Go," and he goes; to another, "Come here," and he comes; to my servant, "Do this," and he does it.' When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, 'In truth I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found faith as great as this. And I tell you that many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the kingdom of Heaven; but the children of the kingdom will be thrown out into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.' And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go back, then; let this be done for you, as your faith demands.' And the servant was cured at that moment.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Read by Major Ret'd Andrew Greenwood

Joel Chapter 2 v 1-3 & 12-13 (NRSVA)

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Fire devours in front of them, and behind them a flame burns. Before them the land is like the garden of Eden, but after them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

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

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 other

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 choice 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

The Collect of The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

Read by Major James Blaszkowski

1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

O God, who art our God for ever and wilt guide us even unto death, be pleased, we pray thee, so to guide The Royal Fusiliers, whose great city is rich in glory and honour, that, coveting rather the riches of Christ, we may do thy commandments, and enter at last into thy holy city; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayer

Ever-living God

We remember those whom you have gathered

From the storm of war into the peace of your presence;

May that same peace calm our fears,

Bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among nations,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Committal

Our brothers have gone to their rest in the peace of Christ. May the Lord now welcome them to the table of God's children in heaven. With faith and hope in eternal life, let us assist them with our prayers.

Lord Jesus Christ,
By your own three days in the tomb,
You hallowed the grave of all who believe in you
And so, made the grave a sign of hope
That promises resurrection
Even as it claims our mortal bodies.
Grant that our brothers may sleep in peace
Until you awaken them to glory,
For you are the resurrection and the life.
Then they will see you face to face
And in your light will see light
And know the splendour of God.

Because God has chosen to call our brothers from this life to himself,
We commit their bodies to the earth,
For we are dust and unto dust we shall return.
But the Lord Jesus Christ will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory, for he is risen, the first born from the dead.

So, let us commend our brothers to the Lord,
That the Lord may embrace them in peace and raise up their bodies on the last day.

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, in the course of 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 the 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.**

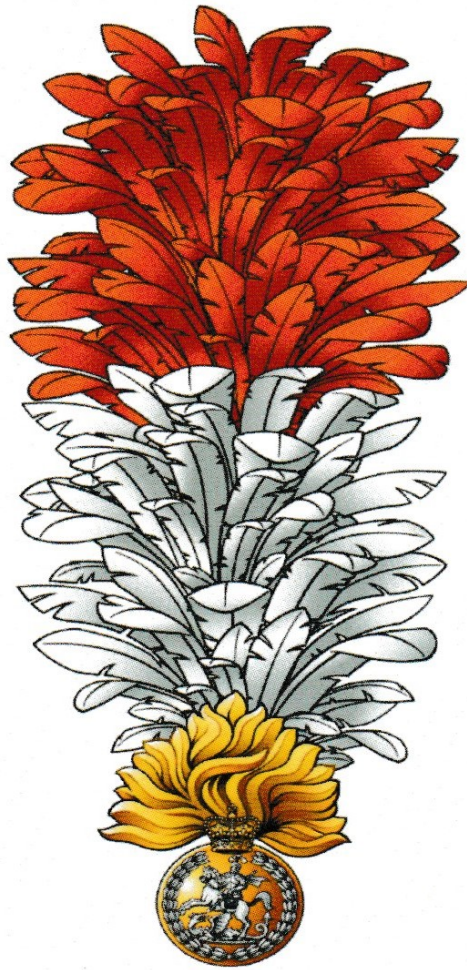
The Lord's Prayer

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.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit be with you all,
And remain with you always.

All **Amen.**





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