



**A Burial Service for an Unknown Soldier of
The Sherwood Foresters
(Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)
Killed during the Great War**

**11:00 hours Wednesday 17 April 2019
Guillemont Road Cemetery, France**

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

The remains of this Sherwood Forester were discovered on the outskirts of Ginchy during work on a wind turbine project. Research suggests that this soldier was most likely a member of 2nd Battalion The Sherwood Foresters who was killed in either September or October 1916 during heavy fighting in this area. However, there are unfortunately still too many soldiers of this battalion missing from that time period to identify this man. He will therefore be buried today as an unknown soldier of The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment).

Les restes de ce soldat de Sherwood Foresters ont été découverts à l'orée de Ginchy au cours des travaux pour un projet d'éoliennes. Il est probablement qu'il été un soldat du 2^e Bataillon Sherwood Foresters et qu'il a été tué en septembre ou octobre 1916 quand des combats violents eurent lieu dans cette region. Malheureusement il manque toujours un trop grand nombre de soldats des Connaught Rangers disparus pendant cette bataille pour pouvoir tenter d'identifier cet individu. Il serai donc inhumé aujourd'hui comme un soldat inconnu du Sherwood Foresters (Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment).

Created by fighting units in September 1916, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Guillemont Road Cemetery was used as a burial ground until March 1917. After the Armistice, the cemetery was expanded with the concentration of graves from the surrounding battlefields. It is from this area that the unknown Sherwood Forester who is being interred today was recovered. He can now be laid to rest alongside other men from his regiment.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

We have come to this place to inter the mortal remains of a soldier of The Sherwood Foresters known unto God; whose life was taken during the fierce fighting that took place in Ginchy during September and October 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 (Ret'd) Dominic Hancock
The British Embassy Paris

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 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

Isaiah Chapter 2 v 2-5 (NRS)

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Lecture

Ready by Sergeant Anthony Fayle
1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment

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

Allocution

Collect of the Sherwood Foresters

Récitation des Sherwood Foresters

Read by Captain Benedict Griffiths

Regimental Adjutant, The Mercian Regiment

O God, who hast planted us as trees to bring forth fruit to thy glory, give thy grace to The Sherwood Foresters, that, as we increase in strength in the storms of battle, and stand unshaken in our earthly trust, so against all adversities we may take root deeply in the good ground of thy truth, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayer

Prière

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

Ready 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

Prayer

Prière

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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