



ARMY

A Burial Service for

**Two Unknown British Soldiers
of The Great War**

**10:00 hours 22 September 2021
Villers Hill British Cemetery, France**

**Service conducted by the Reverend Simon Talbot CF
Chaplain 6th Battalion The Rifles**
Déroulement de la Cérémonie présidé par le Révérend Simon Talbot

Villers Hill British Cemetery

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Villers Hill British Cemetery was initially named the Middlesex Cemetery, Gloucester Road. Established during October 1918 it originally contained 100 graves. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from several German cemeteries. It now contains over 700 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. The two soldiers being laid to rest today alongside their comrades were also recovered nearby.

Call to Worship

Appel à Adoration

"I am the resurrection and the life", says the Lord. "Those who believe in me, though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you,

All **and also with you.**

Bidding Prayer

Prière

Lord of all life, hear our prayers as we come to you. Renew our trust in your Son, who you raised from the dead; strengthen our faith that all who have died in the name of Christ will share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Lecture des Écritures Saintes

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1-8 (NIV)

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven:

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 time to gather them,
A time to embrace and a time to refrain,
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.

Reading

Lecture

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.

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Prière pour les Forces Armées

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.**

Committal

Enterrement

Lord, we offer into your safe keeping these unknown
soldiers who are not unknown to you. We commit their
mortal remains to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:
We look for the fullness of the resurrection
when Christ shall gather all his people
to reign with Him in glory forever.

All **Amen.**

The Exhortation

L'Éhortation

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

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those who
have given their life in the service of their country. As we
remember those known to us and those whose names
we will never know help us to lift our eyes above the

torment of this broken world, and grant us dignity as we pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

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 his servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**



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