In the presence of The President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC

A service of Inauguration and Dedication of the Brookwood 1914 – 1918 Memorial

1100 am Wednesday 4th November 2015
Deputy Lord-Lieutenant for Surrey
Major General Tim Sullivan CB CBE DL

Director General
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Mrs Victoria Wallace

Chaplains
The Reverend Ernie Grimshaw RN
The Reverend Ian Colson CF
The Reverend Tim Wright RAF

Commander of the Guard of Honour
Major Euan Mathieson WG
HRH The Duke of Kent arrives and is welcomed by The Deputy Lord-Lieutenant for Surrey

Royal Salute

HRH introduced to the Director General

All guests are asked to stand upon the arrival of the Guest of Honour.

(Please ensure that any mobile phones are switched off for the duration of the service to avoid embarrassment).

Welcome and Introduction by the Director General
Inauguration of the Memorial by HRH The Duke of Kent
Order of Service for the Dedication

All Stand

Introduction & Opening Prayer

All Sit

The First Reading : Psalm 46
Mrs Pamela Haines (Descendant)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the LORD; 
see what desolations he has brought on the earth. 
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; 
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; 
he burns the shields with fire. 
‘Be still, and know that I am God! 
I am exalted among the nations, 
I am exalted in the earth.’ 
The LORD of hosts is with us; 
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

All Stand

Introduction to the Act of Remembrance

For the Fallen
Adrian Coles MBE TD
(Royal Hospital Chelsea In-Pensioner)

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England’s foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

By Robert Laurence Binyon.
(published in The Times newspaper on 21st September 1914).
Last Post

Two minutes silence

Reveille

HRH The Duke of Kent lays a wreath in memory of the missing

Prayer of Dedication

All Sit

The Second Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9

Mrs Mustard (WWI Wren Veteran)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.
Address

The Intercessions

MCMXIV

Alexander Cantelo and Grace Lawlor
(Pirbright Village Primary School)

Those long uneven lines
Standing as patiently
As if they were stretched outside
The Oval or Villa Park,
The crowns of hats, the sun
On moustached archaic faces
Grinning as if it were all
An August Bank Holiday lark;

And the shut shops, the bleached
Established names on the sunblinds,
The farthings and sovereigns,
And dark-clothed children at play
Called after kings and queens,
The tin advertisements
For cocoa and twist, and the pubs
Wide open all day;
And the countryside not caring:
The place-names all hazed over
With flowering grasses, and fields
Shadowing Domesday lines
Under wheat’s restless silence;
The differently-dressed servants
With tiny rooms in huge houses,
The dust behind limousines;

Never such innocence,
Never before or since,
As changed itself to past
Without a word – the men

By Philip Larkin

All Stand

The Blessing

Lament - Flowers of the Forest
Sgt Scotson REME

When invited to sit down, please remain in your seats
until requested to move by the ushers
Sentries take up position adjacent to each stele.

HRH The Duke of Kent meets the Architect and former Directors General

Descendants move to relevant panel under guidance of ushers

Association Representatives gather outside the memorial adjacent to relevant panels under guidance of ushers

HRH The Duke of Kent meets the Descendants on the memorial

Descendants and Association Representatives lay tokens if desired.

Director General escorts HRH The Duke of Kent to Canadian Building

Descendants, VIPs and Association Representatives move to reception tent under guidance of ushers
HRH The Duke of Kent to sign the guest book

HRH The Duke of Kent meets the Brookwood Staff

HRH The Duke of Kent meets civic leaders and VIPs plus Association Representatives and Descendants

HRH The Duke of Kent departs

*Guests invited to sign the guest book, tour the cemetery / depart after HRH has left*

Historical piece
Brookwood 1939 - 1945 Memorial unveiling 1958
In May 1920, a debate took place in the House of Commons on the early work of the Imperial War Graves Commission. The principle of non-repatriation of the dead had been established by the military authorities early in the Great War, and was strengthened by a feeling that those who had served and died together should be laid to rest together. Nevertheless, Edmund Turton, MP for Thirsk and Malton, expressed a common sentiment when he admitted that:

‘There are many of us who would have given all we possess if we had been allowed to bring our boys back to England, and to put their bodies in the churchyard, where eventually we shall be laid ourselves, and where Sunday after Sunday we could see the grave.’

Yet not all were buried in some corner of a foreign field. Aside from the many service personnel whose roles and duties were performed around the British Isles, hundreds of thousands of others returned over the course of the conflict because they had been wounded, injured, or fallen ill with sickness or disease, including many thousands of victims of the devastating influenza pandemic which began in 1918. They were treated in hospitals and convalescent homes across the country.

Those who did not recover were buried close to home. Graves and memorials from both world wars can now be found in nearly 13,000 locations throughout the United Kingdom. This reflects the geographical spread of medical facilities and training camps, but also the fact that the
principles established for war graves overseas were relaxed when it came to those who died on their way home, or while on home soil. In these cases, parents could bury their children in their local churchyard, and see the grave every Sunday.

Over the years, it became clear that there were serving personnel who had died in the United Kingdom and Ireland but whose final resting place was not known by the authorities. Some had been omitted from official records produced at the time. Others had been lost or buried at sea. They were all, in one way or another, ‘missing’.

From the outset, commemoration of the ‘missing’ was fundamental to the work of the Imperial War Graves Commission. Of the ‘million dead’ of the British Empire, only half had recorded burial places at the end of the Great War. Many tens of thousands had never been recovered or identified. Some lay beneath headstones bearing Kipling’s haunting inscription ‘Known Unto God’. Others had been buried by their comrades in the midst of the fighting, but their graves had been destroyed or lost in the turmoil.

It was an article of faith for Fabian Ware and the founders of the Commission that every name mattered. Those ‘to whom the fortunes of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death’ would nevertheless be commemorated with equal dignity on monuments spread across the world. Lutyens’ great memorial at Thiepval, Blomfield’s Menin Gate, and Baker’s Tyne Cot Memorial together named some 162,000 lost on the Somme and in the Ypres Salient. There were many others, from Cape Helles on Gallipoli to Doiran in the mountains north of Salonika, from Basra in Mesopotamia to Nairobi in eastern Africa.
Similar structures were erected in the United Kingdom. The sailors of the Royal Navy who had been lost with their ships, or committed to the deep in the traditional naval manner, were commemorated by name at three memorials at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham. At Tower Hill, at the heart of maritime London, a memorial was constructed for merchant mariners. Within the municipal cemetery at Hollybrook, Southampton, stands a memorial honouring members of land and air forces who were lost or buried at sea. Among them are the names of some 600 members of the South African Native Labour Corps, as well as that of Lord Kitchener, lost off Orkney in June 1916. Names now fill all the available space, so some now commemorated here at Brookwood would otherwise have been inscribed at Southampton.

Those commemorated on the Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial are not connected by the theatre in which they fought, by the nature of their service, or by the force in which they served. They represent a diversity of lives and experiences. The youngest were eighteen when they died, the oldest in their sixties. John Nixon Brown died only a day after Britain declared war on Germany in 1914. Clarence Edgar Morgan died on the day the Armistice was signed. More than 120 died after the end of hostilities on the Western Front. Some were victims of illness or accident, others lost their lives in Ireland. They remind us that 11 November 1918 did not signal the end of loss or conflict.

Many served in formations too often forgotten, such as the Royal Garrison Artillery, the Army Service Corps, or the Royal Engineers. Some were members of famous regiments, such as the Coldstream Guards or the Lancashire Fusiliers,
while the names of others are less familiar today, such as the North Irish Horse or the Lothians and Border Horse. Here, too, are glimpses of the forces of the British Empire, including officers of the Army of India who served with the 19th Lancers (Fane’s Horse), the 2nd King Edward’s Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), and the Indian Medical Service.

Next-of-kin information reveals grieving wives, parents and children living across the United Kingdom and Ireland, but also further afield: from London, England, to London, Ontario. Norman Roberts was born, bred, married and died in Wales, but at the outbreak of war he was in the United States, from where he travelled to join Canadian forces. Lyonel Neill was born in Dunedin, but travelled to Britain early in the war, where he joined the Royal Flying Corps.

After the Second World War, the Imperial War Graves Commission was again entrusted with the task of commemorating the dead of another global conflict. The Brookwood 1939-1945 Memorial bears the names of some 3,500 men and women who have no known grave and who could not be appropriately commemorated elsewhere. When it was unveiled in 1958, little over a decade after the end of the war, thousands gathered at Brookwood to pay their respects.

Today’s inauguration takes place during the centenary of the First World War. Our relationship to that conflict has changed fundamentally with the passing generations. Yet the Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial demonstrates that, even a century on, the task of commemoration continues.