Elgar's: Nimrod the Hunter

Remembrance Assembly 11th November 2021

Who are we remembering today?

'LEST WE FORGET'

Remembrance Day was established initially to remember the dead of the Great War, WWI, the 'war to end all wars', and was held on 11th November 1919 at the request of King George V. It was then extended to include those who died in WWII and now we remember British and Commonwealth soldiers who have given their lives in conflicts throughout the world since 1945.

Deaths of British Servicemen since 1945

Since 1945, there have only been two years- 1968 and 2016 – in which a British Serviceman has not been killed in action. British soldiers have been involved in conflicts in such far flung places as Borneo, Korea, the Middle East, Malaya, Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Armistice

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, an Armistice (truce) was signed by Germany, France and Great Britain which brought an end to the fighting of the First World War. In 1919 an Australian journalist, Edward George Honey, suggested that this time should be marked by a respectful silence to remember those who had died. Thus, the Two Minutes Silence was born.

NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

TWO MINUTE SILENCE TO HONOUR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

of the Second World War generation

08/05/2020 - 11AM

VE DAY 75

The 'Last Post'

A bugler plays the "Last Post" to usher in the Two Minute Silence and "The Rouse" or "Reveille" (wake-up) is played at the end. At the entrance to the town of Ypres in Belgium, scene of some of the worst fighting of WWI, lies the Menin Gate. The Last Post ceremony has been played here every night since 11 November 1928 by the buglers of the local Fire Brigade. The only exception was when the town was under German occupation in WWII from 1940-1944, when the daily ceremony was held, instead, at the Brookwood Military Cemetery not far from here in Woking.
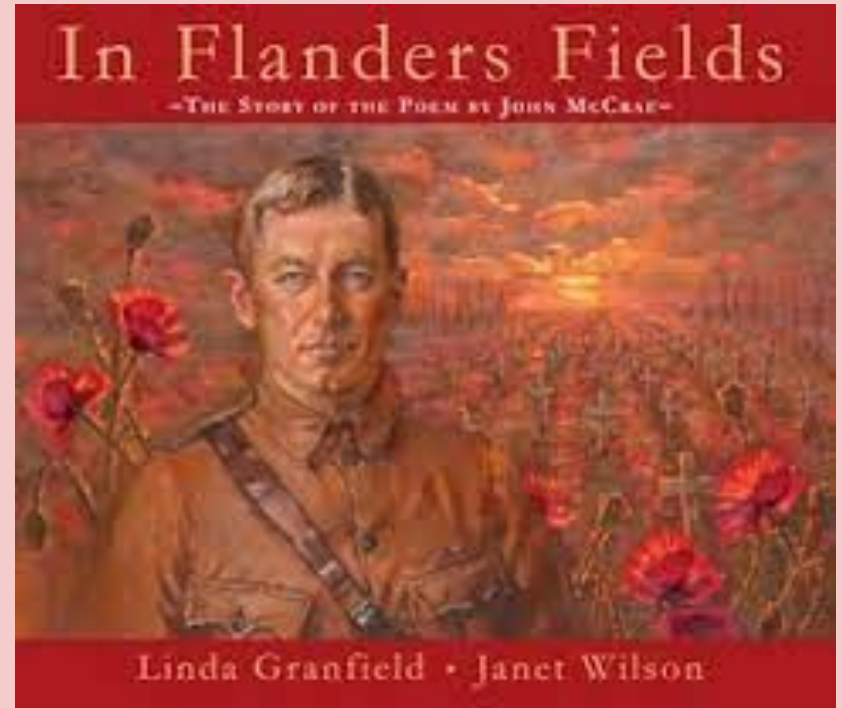
The Cenotaph- 'Empty Tomb'

Designed by Edwin Lutyens and unveiled in 1920, the Cenotaph has become the focal point for National Commemoration on Remembrance Day. The Queen and members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and government representatives, senior members of the armed Forces and members of the Commonwealth lay wreaths at the memorial. A bugler then plays the Last Post before the Two Minutes Silence is observed to remember those who have died for their country in ALL wars since World War I.

The poppy as a symbol - why?

The poppy was the only flower that flourished on the decimated western front (France/Belgium) in the months/years following the end of WWI. It was duly adopted as the symbol of remembrance by the Royal British Legion (retired/ex soldiers) which now organises Poppy Day each year. Army Surgeon, Major John McRae, wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields".

In Flanders Fields
—THE STORY OF THE POEM BY JOHN McCRAE—

Linda Granfield • Janet Wilson

In Flanders Fields - Verse 1

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

Verse 2

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, and now we lie

In Flanders fields.

Verse 3

Take up our quarrel with the foe:

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields.

The Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion is 100 years old this year. It is the organisation which supports veteran and current members of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants. It is also responsible for the yearly Poppy Appeal to raise funds for this worthy cause.

Victoria Cross - the highest award for valour/courage

The Victoria Cross is the highest award 'for valour' (bravery). There have been 1,355 recipients and 1,358 medals awarded since it was established in 1856. The first was awarded to Lieutenant Charles Lucas, Royal Navy, in 1857 during the conflict in Crimea and the most recent, to date, in 2015 to Sergeant Joshua Leakey of the Parachute regiment while serving in Afghanistan.

Youngest soldier to fight in World War I

George Maher was 13 years old when he lied to a recruiting officer and claimed to be 18. He was 6ft 2ins tall and was sent to the Western Front in France with the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. His age was subsequently discovered and he was sent home. He survived all conflicts and lived until he was 96 years old.

Old Barrow Hillian who served in the Royal Navy

Sub-Lieutenant Marcus Hugh McDonald was at Barrow Hills from 1967-71. His portrait is on the back wall of the Chapel, and he was killed in a helicopter crash at sea in March 1981. Although this was not on active service, it is right and fitting that we remember him today as someone who was prepared to fight, and possibly die, for his country.

SUB-LIEUTENANT MARCUS HUGH McDONALD, R.N.
820 NAVAL AIR SQUADRON H.M.S. SEAHAWK
BARROW HILLS PREP SCHOOL
1967 - 1971
LOST AT SEA 6th MARCH 1981 · OFF
H.M.S. INVINCIBLE.

Old Witleans in the Great War

Stephen Crumpton joined King Edward's in 1907 aged 11. He had no father and was under his mother's care prior to boarding at King Edward's.

During his time at King Edward's, he worked in the garden and joined the Cadet Corp. He left in 1912 and worked as an engineer, until he joined the army at the start of WWI in 1914 aged 17.
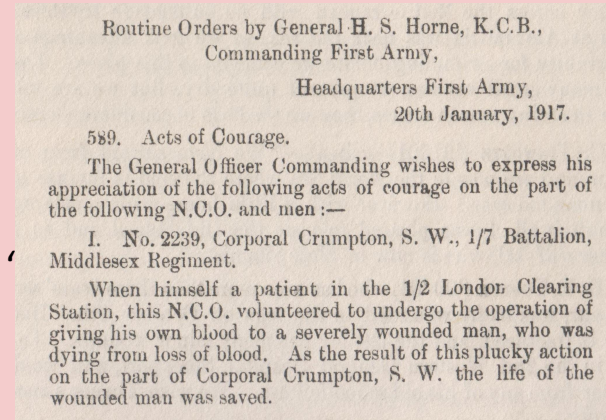

Corp. S. W. Crumpton,
1/7 Batt. Middlesex Regt.

Corporal Stephen William Crumpton
Pupil at King Edward's 1907-1912

- **Described as one of "The First Hundred Thousand", Crumpton responded to the call-up in 1914 and fought with the Middlesex Regiment. He was promoted to Corporal in 1916.**

- **Stephen Crumpton was killed in action in France on 28th March 1917, although the circumstances are unknown. He was 20 years old.**

- **He is buried in the Agny Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais**

Routine Orders by General H. S. Horne, K.C.B., Commanding First Army,

Headquarters First Army, 20th January, 1917.

589. Acts of Courage.

The General Officer Commanding wishes to express his appreciation of the following acts of courage on the part of the following N.C.O. and men:—

I. No. 2239, Corporal Crumpton, S. W., 1/7 Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

When himself a patient in the 1/2 London Clearing Station, this N.C.O. volunteered to undergo the operation of giving his own blood to a severely wounded man, who was dying from loss of blood. As the result of this plucky action on the part of Corporal Crumpton, S. W. the life of the wounded man was saved.

**"Truly a deed worthy of the noblest tradition of KES or of any school".
An extract from Stephen Crumpton's obituary, *The Edwardian*, January 1918**

Richard Goff Corbett, Pupil at King Edward's 1910-1915

R. G. Corbett,
2nd Seaforth Highlanders.

Richard Corbett came to King Edward's in 1910 when he was eleven years old. His father was in the Merchant Navy and his mother worked as a Nanny.

Whilst he was at King Edward's he was in the band as a trumpeter, and was described as "very good" in his leaver's report. He left in 1915 and immediately joined the band of the Seaforth Highlanders.
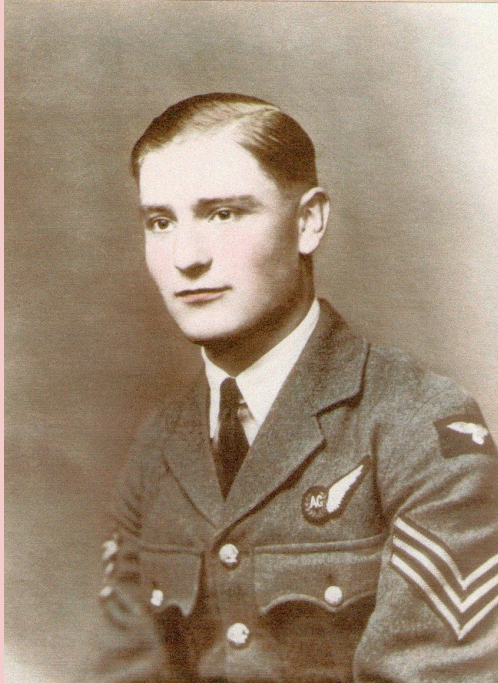
Richard Goff Corbett

- **Richard Corbett was killed in action on 13th October 1918, shortly before Armistice day on 11th November 1918.**

- **He died during the pursuit to the River Selle, which ended in the Battle of the Selle, 17th-25th October.**

- **He is buried at Avesnes-le-Sec Communal Cemetery, Nord, France.**

RICHARD GOFF CORBETT ('10-'15) was killed in France shortly before the signing of the Armistice in November last. "Nan," as he was affectionately called by everyone at School, was a fine happy lad and had a host of friends here. When he left us he joined the band of the Seaforth Highlanders, and it was whilst serving with his battalion that he made the great sacrifice. His death will be deplored by all, and we tender our deep sympathy with his mother in India on the loss of her only son.

RICHARD GOFF CORBETT
KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL. WITLEY.
· 1910 TO 1915 ·

KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE. OCTOBER
13TH. 1918. WHILST SERVING WITH THE
SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS. THE COST OF
THIS COVERED WAY WAS DEFRAYED FROM
A BEQUEST TO THE SCHOOL BY HIS MOTHER.

After his mother died in 1932 she left a bequest (all her estate) to the school. In 1935 it was used to build a covered walkway from the School passage to the new Dining Hall. A plaque at King Edward's commemorated this.

Sergeant Stanley Broadhurst, Pupil at King Edward's 1931-36

Stanley Broadhurst came to King Edward's in 1931 aged 11. His mother had died, his father had deserted the family in 1930 and he was living with the mother of his brother-in-law and his 10 siblings.

He joined the Royal Air Force and was a Wireless Operator and Air Gunner on the plane Halifax I L9489, which was part of No. 35 Squadron detailed to attack the docks and shipping canal at Le Havre on 10th March 1941.

On returning to their base, they were mistaken for an enemy aircraft and shot down by a night fighter in Aldershot. Their plane crashed in Merrist Wood, Surrey.

Two of the six crew members survived. One was injured and helped out of the falling aircraft by the rest of the crew, although they themselves were unable to escape. Stanley Broadhurst was one of those who sacrificed his life to save his crew mate. He was 20 years old.

He is buried at the Mansfield Woodhouse Cemetery.

King Edward's Witley War Memorial

Over 1,500 Old Witleians served in WWI, and it was reported at the time that 93 were known to have been killed in action.

The Memorial was unveiled on 11th September 1920. It was erected by the Old Witleians and their friends in memory of the former teachers and pupils who fell in WWI. Funds to build the memorial were raised by Old Witleians and their families.

The Unveiling Ceremony was led by Colonel Sir Charles Wakefield, who was the former Lord Mayer of London, President of the Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem, and President of the Old Boys' Association. The Lord Bishop of Guildford dedicated the memorial.

Inscriptions read: "To the Glory of God and in Memory of those Old Boys and Masters of the School who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918"

"This memorial is erected in affectionate remembrance by Old Boys of the School and their friends."

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Thankful Villages

All over the country today, people in villages and towns will have observed the two minutes silence as we have, and will have congregated around their war memorial to pay their respects to those from the locality who gave their lives in conflicts since 1914.

However, in some 56 villages in England and Wales all members of the Armed forces who served in WWI, survived and returned home - they became known as "Thankful Villages".

Amazingly, 14 of these communities suffered no loss of life in WWII - they are known as "Doubly Thankful".

A Prayer of Remembrance

A Prayer for Remembrance

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 the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"For the Fallen"- Ode of Remembrance

The English poet Laurence Binyon wrote his most famous poem, "For the Fallen", and the fourth stanza will be repeated throughout Britain today as a tribute to all those casualties of war:

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.

Hymn to the Fallen by John Williams