

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the life of Lance Corporal Richard Dennis; for all the love and good that he gave to his family, friends and comrades and the sacrifice he made for his King and country; may all that was important to him in his service remain important to us in this generation; may he and all who lie here never be forgotten but a reminder of our solemn duty to you, O Lord, to our Sovereign and to Canada. May he rest in peace in the hope of the coming of your Kingdom where there shall be no more war nor dying nor pain. We pray this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

REMEMBRANCE OF THE FALLEN

Reader5 They shall not grow old as we who 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.

(A minute's silent reflection shall be observed by all)

Leader: Let us now pray in the words which Christ Himself taught us:

ALL: OUR FATHER...

Leader: Let us depart in peace.

ALL: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER + AND OF THE SON
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.



A GRAVESIDE REMEMBRANCE
FOR
LANCE/CORPORAL RICHARD DENNIS
1ST BATTALION (WESTERN ONTARIO REGIMENT)
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
WHO FELL DURING THE 2ND ACTION OF GIVENCHY
15TH JUNE 1915

CABERET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ, FRANCE
9TH APRIL 2007

Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: We gather today at the grave of Lance/Corporal Richard Dennis to honour his memory and the sacrifice he made for peace and civilisation in the Great War as a soldier of the Canadian Corps.

Reader1 Corporal Dennis was born in Plumstead, Kent, England on 28th May 1870, the only son of Richard and Mary Dennis. He also had four sisters: Ellen, Alice, Elizabeth and Harriet. His mother died when she was very young. From his father, a plasterer by trade, Richard acquired this skill for his own livelihood. Still, he was drawn to military life and served for three years in the famous Royal West Kent Regiment as well as in the Canadian militia. He left his home for a new life in Canada sometime before the First World War and settled in Chatham, Ontario with his wife, Margaret. When the British Empire declared war on Germany, Richard went to Val Cartier, Québec and signed up to serve in the newly-formed Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Reader2 Within months, Corporal Dennis and his comrades were fighting in France. In the spring of 1915, in the Second Battle of Ypres, they were attacked with poison gas and participated in the capture of Festubert but at the great cost of 16,000 Casualties. In June, from his trench, Corporal Dennis, amidst heavy fire and bombing, was killed in an attack on the German front near Givenchy.

Reader3: A reading from the Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach.

1] Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their generations.
[2] The Lord apportioned to them great glory,
his majesty from the beginning. [3] There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and were men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and proclaiming prophecies; [4] leaders of the people in their deliberations and in understanding of learning for the people, wise in their words of instruction; [5] those who composed musical tunes, and set forth verses in writing; [6] rich men furnished with resources, living peaceably in their habitations -- [7] all these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times. [8] There are some of them who have left a name, so that men declare their praise. [9] And there are some who have no memorial, who have perished as though they had not lived; they have become as though they had not been born, and so have their children after them. [10] But these were men of mercy, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten; [11] their prosperity will remain with their descendants, and their inheritance to their children's children. [12] Their descendants stand by the covenants; their children also, for their sake. [13] Their posterity will continue for ever, and their glory will not be blotted out. [14] Their bodies were buried in peace, and their name lives to all generations.
The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Reader4 A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

ALL: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love 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.
The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.