

Rudgwick

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From the Vicar

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Dear Friends

Did you see the news article about the two Scottish soldiers buried in France on the 110th anniversary of their deaths? Lieutenant James Grant Allan and Lance Corporal Gordon McPherson were both killed in action on 25 September 1915, the first day of the Battle of Loos. They were 2 of more than 100 people whose remains were discovered when construction work started for a new hospital in northern France.

By painstaking research and using artefacts such as buttons found with the remains, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) were able to narrow down who the individuals might be and then use DNA from relatives to confirm the identity.

The memorial wall at Tyne Cot bears the names of almost 35,000 men whose resting places are not known, and the Menin Gate the names of another 54,000. If you visit some of the CWGC cemeteries in France and Belgium many graves simply say 'A soldier of the Great War' and then near the bottom bear the words "known unto God".

God knows not only who lies in each grave, he also knows all about us, our strength and weakness, our like and dislikes and everything else besides. But do you know him? Jesus came to earth, so we could know what God is like – in John's gospel Jesus says to his disciples that if they know him (Jesus), they know God. So, will you give God a chance? This Remembrance season will you read a gospel and find out about the one who knows all about you?

Every blessing

Martin King

Cover photo: A Soldier of The Great War, photo by Martin King