WANDSWORTH SCHOOL



Ceremony of Unveiling

of the

OLD WANDSWORTHIANS'

War Memorial

1939 - 1945

BY AIR CHIEF MARSHALL LORD DOWDING,
G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.M.G.

ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 1949
at 8 p.m.

Order of Service

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INTROIT by the School Orchestra.

BIDDING: The Rev. J. A. H. Waddington, M.B.E., B.Com.
Vicar of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

"We are here assembled to remember before God the Old Boys of the School who gave their lives in the Second World War, and to dedicate a memorial as a perpetual reminder of their heroic self-surrender and as a constant inspiration to us and our successors to see that their sacrifice was not in vain."

HYMN: "O God, our Help in Ages Past":

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our Eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne,
Thy Saints have dwelt secure.
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame.
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

LESSON: Read by the Head Boy.

"The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died; their departure was accounted to be their hurt, and their going from us to be utter destruction. But they are in peace.

"There be of them that have left a name behind them to declare their praises. And some there be which have no memorial. But these were men of mercy, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten. Their glory shall not be blotted out. Their bodies were buried in peace, and their name liveth for evermore."

Wisdom iii, Ecclesiasticus xliv.

INTRODUCTION OF LORD DOWDING by the Headmaster.

ADDRESS by Lord Dowding.

THE UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL.

THE HEADMASTER'S TRIBUTE AND THE READING OF THE NAMES.

"They shall not grow 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."

DEDICATION by the Rev. J. A. H. Waddington:

"To the Glory of God and to the sacred memory of these who gave their lives in the service of their country and in the cause of freedom, we dedicate this memorial in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen."

LET US PRAY:

For the Fallen:

Almighty God, the Lord and Giver of Life, we remember before Thee all those who suffered and died in this last war, especially those dear to us as Old Boys of this School.

We remember with thankfulness their courage, loyalty and devotion. Accept their sacrifice, O Lord, and use their service in Thine eternal purpose and for the establishment of Thy Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

For the Mourners:

Eternal Father, Source of all compassion, and Giver of all comfort, grant Thy consolation to those who have lost the earthly companionship of those they love. Help them to accept in simple faith Thy perfect will, and in the knowledge of Thine everlasting love to find the peace that passeth all understanding, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

For Ourselves:

Grant us grace, Almighty God, that we who today do honour to the memory of those who died that we might live, may lay aside all that is selfish and unworthy, and dedicate our lives to the building of a true community in which men shall live in fellowship and mutual service, where nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither learn war any more, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.

HYMN: "O Valiant Hearts":

O valiant Hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle-flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the Land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,
To save Mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our Dead,
Whose Cross has bought them and whose Staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing Land,
Commits her Children to Thy gracious hand.

THE BLESSING:

May the Peace of God which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us all now and for evermore, Amen.

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