

WESTMINSTER ABBEY



Service of Thanksgiving
at the Laying Up of
THE BATTLE HONOURS FLAG
of The Commando Association



Saturday
1 May 1971
at 11 a.m.

Before the Service the following music shall be played by the

Band of the Royal Marines School of Music,

under the direction of

Major P. J. Neville, M.V.O., A.R.A.M., R.M.,
Principal Director of Music, Royal Marines

Suite : "The Royal Fireworks"	<i>Handel</i>
Chorale from Cantata 147	<i>J. S. Bach</i>
Trumpet Tune and Ayre	<i>Jeremiah Clarke</i>
"Nimrod" (from the Enigma Variations) .. .	<i>Elgar</i>

The Fanfares will be played by the Silver Trumpets
of the Royal Marines School of Music

The singing will be led by members of the BBC Choral Society
(Conductor John Poole) who are directed on this occasion by

Douglas Guest

*Organist and Master of the Choristers
Westminster Abbey*

ORDER OF SERVICE

At 10.50 a.m. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will be received at the West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

When the Presentations have been made, the Procession of the Collegiate Body, escorting Her Majesty, will enter the Quire, while the following is played on the organ :

Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March)

Jeremiah Clarke

When all are in their places the Dean of Westminster, standing at the High Altar, will say :

THIS day, the 25th anniversary of the disbandment of the wartime Army Commando Units, you mark and make notable in your history by coming to Westminster Abbey to lay up, in solemn thanksgiving, the Battle Honours Flag. This doing, you will look to the past with thankfulness and pride but also to the future with hope and resolution, praying for the coming of the Kingdom of God upon earth and for peace, with righteousness, to rule in the hearts of men. Let us therefore lift up both heart and voice in praise to Almighty God who has been our refuge from one generation to another and is King over all the nations, be the earth never so unquiet.

Then all shall join in singing the Hymn :

470 E.H. **P**RAISE, my soul, the King of Heaven ;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing ?
Praise him ! Praise him !
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress ;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him ! Praise him !
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows ;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him ! Praise him !
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him ;
Ye behold him face to face ;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him ! Praise him !
Praise with us the God of Grace.

J. Goss (1800-1880)

H. F. Lyte (1793-1847)

*Then the Congregation shall be seated and the Lesson be read by
Colonel A. C. Newman, V.C., O.B.E., T.D., President of
The Commando Association.*

Revelation of St. John the Divine

Chapter xxi, verses 10, 11 and 22-end

Chapter xxii, verses 1 and 2

AND he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Having the glory of God : and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

And I saw no temple therein , for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it : for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it : and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day : for there shall be no night there.

And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie : but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month : and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

All shall stand while the Roll of Honour is borne from St. George's Chapel to the Sacrarium by Mr. Henry Brown, M.B.E., General Secretary and Treasurer of the Commando Association for twenty-five years.

The Roll of Honour will be escorted by the Organisers of Area Commando Rallies over many years ; A. H. J. Bishop (Scotland), F. Garner (Yorkshire), C. J. Hustwick (South Wales) and G. Rees (Lancashire), where it shall be received by the Sacrist of Westminster Abbey and then shall be laid upon the High Altar.

This done, the Congregation will sit while members of the BBC Choral Society sing the Anthem :

O THOU the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine ;
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

H. R. Bramley

The Congregation shall stand while the Right Reverend John Armstrong, C.B., O.B.E., formerly Chaplain of the Fleet and Bishop of Bermuda, is conducted to the Pulpit to preach

The Sermon

The Sermon ended, all shall stand and join in singing the Hymn :

540 E.H. ETERNAL Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep :
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage didst sleep :
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
And gavest light and life and peace :
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour ;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go :
And ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

J. B. Dykes (1823-1876)

W. Whiting (1825-1878)

During the singing of this Hymn a Procession, with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, will go to the Chapel of St. George for the Unveiling of the Battle Honours Flag and its Laying Up.

The President of the Commando Association will say :

Your Majesty, we ask you to unveil our Battle Honours Flag.

Then he will say :

Mr. Dean, we ask you to receive our Battle Honours Flag and to keep it in this holy place.

The Dean will say :

We receive this Battle Honours Flag which you have now laid up in this holy place, we will guard and preserve it, and that it may be a constant reminder to those who come after of duty and courage, we dedicate it, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Procession shall then return to the Sacrarium, while all join in singing the metrical version of Psalm 23.

THE Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want :
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green ; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

Unison : My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill ;
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes ;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Unison : Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me ;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Melody by Jessie Seymour Irvine (1836-1887)

*Scottish Psalter
(1650)*

Then the Congregation shall kneel and these Prayers will be said by the Precentor of Westminster Abbey, the Reverend Rennie Simpson :

Let us pray.

O LORD our God, whose name only is excellent and thy praise above heaven and earth : We give thee high praise and hearty thanks for all those who counted not their lives dear unto themselves but laid them down for their friends ; beseeching thee to give them a part and a lot in those good things which thou hast prepared for all those whose names are written in the Book of Life ; and grant to us, that having them always in remembrance, we may imitate their faithfulness and with them inherit the new name which thou hast promised to them that overcome ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GOD, who hast made us heirs of all the victories of faith, and joint-heirs with Christ of thy glory, if so be that we suffer with him : Arm us with such trust in the truth that is invisible, that we may ask no rest from its demands and have no fear in its service ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same unto the end, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory ; through him who for the finishing of thy work laid down his life, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, our faithful Creator and most merciful Redeemer, receive, we beseech thee, our humble thanksgiving for all our friends departed who gave their lives in war, trusting that they might bring nearer a world of justice and of peace. And that their sacrifice may not have been in vain, strengthen us, we pray thee, by thy Holy Spirit to quit ourselves like men in the heavenly war and to fight the good fight of faith for all that is true and honourable. Forgive us our sins against thee and our fellow-men and accept the intention of our wills and hearts to be fellow-workers with thee for the coming of thy Kingdom. And though we fail, do thou succeed in us and hold steadfastly before our eyes the Image of our Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may follow him, grow more like unto him, until we see him as he is ; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, God blessed for evermore. *Amen.*

The Precentor will say :

As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say :

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name ;
Thy kingdom come ; Thy will be done ; in earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation ; But deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and
ever. Amen.

*The Congregation shall stand, a Fanfare of Trumpets shall be sounded,
and this Hymn shall be sung :*

166 A. & M.R.

*People
and Choir
in Unison* ALL people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice ;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

*People
and Choir* The Lord, ye know, is God indeed ;
Without our aid he did us make ;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

Choir O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto ;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Choir For why ? the Lord our God is good ;
His mercy is for ever sure ;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

*People
and Choir
in Unison* To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Louis Bourgeois *William Kethe (d.c. 1599)*
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

All shall kneel and the Dean will say the Dismissal and Blessing.

GO forth in peace : be of good courage ; hold fast that which is good ; render to no man evil for evil ; strengthen the fainthearted ; support the weak, help the afflicted ; honour all men ; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever.

All shall say :

AMEN.

A Fanfare of Trumpets shall be sounded and all shall stand and join in singing :

The National Anthem

GOD save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us ;
God save the Queen.

After the Service the Band of the Royal Marines School of Music will play :

The Green Beret	<i>Magnoni</i>
Commando Patrol			<i>Vivian Dunn</i>

The Congregation are requested to remain in their seats until directed to move by the Stewards.

The Battle Honours Flag, now laid up in St. George's Chapel, can be seen today from 1.30 — 2.45 p.m., and from 3.45 — 5.45 p.m.



THE COMMANDO MEMORIAL, WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Unveiled by the
Rt. Hon. Sir Winston L. S. Churchill, K.G., O.M., C.H.
on the 21st May, 1948



TOWARDS THE DAWN

by E. C. SHAW

THE SCOTTISH COMMANDO MEMORIAL

The Memorial, which commands a wonderful view of the valley of the River Spean, Ben Nevis and western end of the Great Glen, was placed at Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire, because it was here that so many Commandos were trained—near the Basic Training Centre at Achnacarry.

The Memorial was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on Saturday the 27th September, 1952, and is now in the care of the Inverness County Council, to whom the Commandos and relatives of all fallen comrades, are greatly indebted.

COMMANDO ROLL OF HONOUR BOOK

This beautifully inscribed book, which rests in St. George's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, contains the names of 1,706 ex-Commando soldiers, Army and Royal Marine, who lost their lives during the 1939-45 war.

The Hove Shirley Press Ltd.

Battle Honours

On the 16th September 1957 Her Majesty the Queen approved the award of the following battle honours to the Commando Association in recognition of the services of the Commandos in the Second World War:—

"Vaagso," "Norway, 1941," "St. Nazaire," "Dieppe,"
 "Normandy Landing," "Dives Crossing," "Flushing,"
 "Westkapelle," "Rhine," "Leese," "Aller," "North-
 West Europe, 1942, '44-45," "Litani," "Syria, 1941,"
 "Steamroller Farm," "Sedjenane I," "Djebel Choucha,"
 "North Africa, 1941-43," "Landing in Sicily,"

"Pursuit to Messina," "Sicily, 1943," "Landing at Porto
 San Venere," "Termoli," "Salerno," "Monte Ornito,"
 "Anzio," "Valli di Comacchio," "Argenta Gap," "Italy,
 1943-45," "Greece, 1944-45," "Crete," "Madagascar,"
 "Adriatic," "Middle East, 1941, '42, '44,"
 "Alethangyaw," "Myebon," "Kangaw," "Burma, 1943-45."



THE COMMANDO ASSOCIATION BATTLE HONOURS FLAG
 DEDICATED ON THE 15th APRIL 1961
 AND LAID UP IN ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WESTMINSTER ABBEY
 DURING A SPECIAL SERVICE ON THE 1st MAY, 1971
 IN THE GRACIOUS PRESENCE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH
 THE QUEEN MOTHER