

Harbury

Lord Lieutenant, Councillors, Vicar, fine Harbury villagers, most importantly Youth of Harbury....

I will first address the children of Harbury because you have the responsibility to carry forth the message of remembrance.

For the children...

I want to tell you why it is so important that we pause in our busy lives to remember the men recorded on the Harbury war memorial, who sacrificed their own lives to benefit **your** lives.

My mission, like their mission, is to keep you safe at home, and to help countries around the world to be peaceful, and free.

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of the **many** people who in the past made the same decision I did - to serve in our country's armed forces. Maybe one of those people was your father, or your mother or an aunt or uncle . . . or going further back, a grandparent, or even a great grandparent.

But no matter how long ago they served, they all kept the same promise people like me keep today: to make sure you, your family, friends, and neighbours are able to live and play in peace and freedom.

That promise isn't easy to keep. Serving in the Canadian and British Armed Forces requires hard work. Often it means leaving your family, sometimes knowing that you will face great danger. But men and women like me and those recorded on your war memorial have been doing this for a long, long time.

More than 100 years ago, during the First World War, Canadians bravely sailed across the ocean to fight side by side with Britain in Europe against those who wanted to deny us freedom and peace.

Their courage, work, and sacrifice won the respect of nations around the world. Sadly there are no more soldiers alive who fought in that war. Remembering them means they will live on in our hearts forever.

Both Canadian and British Armed Forces again fought side by side in the Second World War, 75 years ago. Maybe you had a great grandfather or grandmother who served in that war.

Since, Canadian and British Armed Forces have served in many places around the world. In the Korean War in the 1950s, the Balkans in the 1990s, recently in Afghanistan and today in Iraq, where Canadian and British men and women are working very hard to bring peace.

So you can see that for a **very** long time, Canadian and British Armed Forces have been guarding your freedoms.

Think for a minute about what freedoms you have. Across this country, children like you play and go to school and live with their families in peace and safety. That is not the case in all countries.

Do you think those freedoms matter a great deal? I know I do. And since British and Canadian Armed Forces men and women have protected those freedoms, do you think it would be right to say thank you to them? I think it would be...

All of us who have served in the military, both in the past and present, ask for just one small thing: that you remember our service. When you walk past your Harbury war memorial which includes the names of 33 Harbury veterans, I ask that you take a moment to remember the hard work and sacrifices of all Veterans. And then, silently - or even better - out loud, say "thank you".

You may have heard the phrase "Lest We Forget". It really means we must never forget those who protected our freedoms **or**, ever take for granted what they did for you and me. One way to do that is by being here and listening to me.

So I thank you so much for being here. The history of Harbury's veterans is now part of your history. You can be very proud of that.
For the adults...

It was during Lance Sergeant Mullis, and Privates Reginald John Beardsworth's and Clement John Gascoigne's campaign of the First World War that Canada's military involvement overseas reached incredible

proportions in terms of numbers of Canadians serving, the staggering losses suffered and the impact the Canadian Corps had on the campaigns in which it served. The number of Victoria Crosses awarded to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force reflected the intensity of Canada's contribution, sixty-four Victoria Crosses being awarded to its soldiers and airmen. That country, Canada, being Lance Sergeant Mullis', Private Beardsworth and Private Gascoigne's chosen homeland.

The armistice of 11 November 1918, brought an end to the Great War and relief to the whole world. Never before had there been such a conflict. For a nation of eight million people, Canada's war effort was significant. More than 650,000 men and women from Canada and Newfoundland served — over 66,000 gave their lives, more than 172,000 were wounded. It was this immense sacrifice that led to Canada's separate signature on the Peace Treaty. No longer viewed as just a colony of England, Canada had truly achieved nation status. This nationhood was purchased by gallant men, like Lance Sergeant Sydney William Mullis killed at Ypres on 16 June 1915, Private Clement John Gascoigne killed at Vimy Ridge on 9 April, 1917, and Private Reginald John Beardsworth killed during the Third Battle of Scarpe, on 3 May, 1917, 100 years ago today. It was these men who stood fast at Ypres, stormed Regina Trench, climbed the heights of Vimy Ridge, captured Passchendaele, and entered Mons on 11 November 1918.

The Canada Memorial located next to Buckingham Palace in London reads: "In two world wars, one million Canadians came to Britain and joined the fight for freedom. From danger shared, our friendship prospers." It is this shared sacrifice that reminds us of our enduring friendship between Canada and Britain.

Canada and the United Kingdom are rated among the best countries in the world in which to live. We enjoy more freedoms than most, anywhere on earth. We owe it to Lance Sergeant Sydney William Mullis, Private Clement John Gascoigne and Private Reginald John Beardsworth never to forget their service to Britain and Canada and their sacrifices that made our freedom possible. We must keep the torch of remembrance burning for future generations. Lest we forget. Pro Patria.