



Here Rests In Honoured Glory An American Soldier Known But To God

So reads the inscription etched into the white marble tomb marking the resting place of America's official unknown soldiers. The 'Tomb of the Unknowns' at Arlington National Cemetery remains one of the United States' most revered sites, a permanent reminder of those who died fighting for its freedom.

Many more graves are marked on foreign soil by simple white stone crosses bearing the text 'Their name liveth for evermore'. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the graves and memorials of almost 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in the two world wars. These include the graves of more than 935,000 identified casualties and almost 212,000 unidentified individuals. The names of almost 760,000 people can be found on memorials to the missing.

But let me tell you about another grave, one that is well known but so often ignored or derided. A grave that marked the burial place of 1 man in whom the hope of millions is placed. A grave that was empty 3 days later, not because of thieves or enemies but because the man had risen from the dead and now 'He liveth for evermore'. This man was Jesus Christ, crucified by Romans, buried by Jewish disciples but raised to life by the power of God. Jesus did not die in honour or a hero. He died the death of a criminal. Yet His death was the most significant in history and for those that believe purchased freedom from sin.

So whilst we do and must remember those that died, for through this we remember the reality of war and thank God for their sacrifice, call also to mind Jesus' death and consider His sacrifice for you. One day you too will die and you will be called to judgement before the throne of God. Only a true knowledge of Him will be sufficient for you to be saved. Only before you die can you call out to God, recognise your guilt before him and seek His forgiveness.