

Sermon given by Canon Scott-Moncrieff over Canadian War Graves
– Buxton Cemetery, 19 September 1920 [Buxton Advertiser]

Scouts, and the Boys' Brigade Band. Leaving the Crescent, the procession moved via Terrace Road, High Street, and London Road, to the Cemetery, where the service was conducted by the Vicar, Canon Scott-Moncrieff, D.D., R.D. After brief introductory sentences, the hymn "O God, our help in ages past" was sung, and the Vicar gave a short address to the large crowd gathered round the graves. He pointed out how they were engaged upon a patriotic task in coming together that afternoon. There used to be a day when many people said that it mattered very little whether they had dominions across the seas or not, and then the great crisis came, and those people found out their mistake, when, from over the seas, from Australia and Canada, these brave men came to defend the old home, and beat back the threatened oppression of the whole civilised world. Some of them lay buried there. They had sealed their loyalty with their blood, and people across the seas had sad hearts, and missed those who would never come home. When the news went out that a great crowd such as this had met to honour the memory of those men, the hearts of those people in Canada would be drawn closer to the Mother country than ever before. Those graves were the strongest band between Canada and England—there was no stronger. What they were doing was not only a patriotic thing, but a religious thing, because they did not sorrow as men without hope. They believed that in the life beyond there was progress; progress from strength to strength, in righteousness, holiness and the knowledge of God. They believed that those who gave up their lives as they thought, in God's service, were going on in that splendid progress. It was a great privilege, and a great patriotic duty to remember, from time to time, those men who had given their lives for us, and we should lift our prayers to God, that in the Paradise of God where they rested, His Light might shine upon them.

After prayer had been offered, the hymn, "Soldiers who are Christ's" below" was sung, and the Benediction pronounced. The "Last Post," and the Canadian National Anthem concluded the service.