

"Tanks...The Battle of Cambrai"

Since writing this poem, Arthur has been advised that it will actually be read out at the "Cambrai Memorial" Northern France, on Monday the 20th November this year, this being the 100th anniversary of the battle.

'I penned this poem to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai, when conventional warfare changed and tanks were introduced on the Western Front for the very first time. It is also a tribute to the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, their motto is below:

"From the mud, through the blood, to the green fields beyond"

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**That unforgiving war, brave men being slaughtered,
gas, mortar, barbed wire, gave them no quarter.
No man's land, would be their final resting place,
Their war games played out, some shot in disgrace.**

**After years of stalemate, thousands they perished,
fighting for freedom, an existence to cherish.
Conventional warfare, were orders of the day,
this war of attrition, on foreign fields far away.**

**Tactics would change, Haigh gave the order,
tanks would now lead, more blood and slaughter.
At the battle of "Cambrai," is where they would shine,
their objective to breach "The Hindenburg Line"**

**Those juggernauts roared, breaching defences,
crushing barbed wire, destroying enemy trenches.
Advancing five miles, it was a tactical success,
however, with half the tanks lost, no further progress.**

**The battle raged on, heroes laid down their lives,
through blood, mud and gore, fighting to survive.
"Tankies" entombed, crumpled metal their shrine,
whilst praying to God for intervention divine.**

**"Cambrai" and tanks, to history now confined,
both casualties of war, forever entwined.
"Tankies" now serving, lest we forget,
brave heroes of old, always in their debt.**

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