Key figures in The History and Ritual of The British Unknown Soldier

**David Railton**

David Railton was a Scottish born in Stoke Newington near London in 1884. During the WW1, he **was** a chaplin that had the idea of commemorating of Unknown Soldier that served UK.He founded a white cross of wood on which was written in deep black pencilled letters, A*n Unknown Soldier of The Black Watch*.

David Railton had written a letter to Field Marshall Douglas Haig during the war to express the idea that a representative of the war dead should be returned to England but the letter was not acknowledged by Haig. In August 1920 he wrote another letter but this time to Dean Ryle of Westminster Abbey with the suggestion that an unknown soldier should be buried in the Abbey. Then the memorial were made to an unknown soldier in the Abbey.

**General L J Wyatt**

The task of selecting the body was of Brigadier General L J Wyatt, General Officer Commanding British Troops in France and Belgium. On 7 November 1920, Wyatt entered a hut at St Pol, near Ypres. Four sets of remains lay before him exhumed from four battle sites, the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres. The remains were soldiers buried early in the war and had been checked to ensure that there were no identifying items such as regimental buttons.

The remains were each covered in a Union Flag and Wyatt lifted up his lamp in the dark hut and stepped forward to touch one of the flags. He had chosen the Unknown Warrior and the other sets of remains were sent back to be reburied .