George V of the United Kingdom

George was born on 3 June 1865 in Marlborough House (London). He was the son of Albert Edward of Wales (also known as Edward VII, eldest son of Queen Victoria) and Alexandra of Denmark (daughter of King Christian IX of Denmark). He was third in the line of throne, so there weren’t expectations that he would become king.

He and his brothers joined the Royal Navy in 1877 when George was 12 years old, during the military training he toured the colonies of the British empire from Caribbean sea to Australia.

He fell in love with his first cousin Marie of Edinburgh, but she refused him he proposed to her and she married Ferdinand heir of Romania. In 1892 his elder brother died of Pneumonia and George became second in the line of the throne, George married Mary of Teck (House of Württemberg) on 6 July 1893. He was created Duke of York and Earl of Inverness and Prince of Wales in 1901. In 1894, as first cousin of the new Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, George joined his parents in St. Petersburg for the funeral of his uncle Alexander III of Russia.

He became the British king after Edward VII’s death on 6 May 1910. After his coronation, he travelled with the Queen to Delhi where he received the imperial crown of India (made for the occasion). The real challenge for his reign was the incoming war which would have devastated Europe. Together with the Russian Empire and the French Third Republic he created the Triple Entente to fight the Central Powers (German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria) led by his other first cousin Wilhelm II of Germany.

He had an important role in the realization Unknown Warrior’s grave. The King initially didn’t support proposals of the Dean Herbert Ryle and the British Prime Minister David Lloyd George for the burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey and without the king approval the idea couldn’t be concretized. But he changed his opinion: it was a political strategy because the king was the figure who represent all citizens and this act involved British people approving his will. On the armistice day in 1920 George V unveiled the Cenotaph in Whitehall and then processed behind the gun carriage which brought the Unknown Warrior's coffin to the Abbey for its burial.

He died on 20 January 1936 in Sandringham.