**George V**

George V (George Frederick Ernest Albert; 3 June 1865 – 20 January 1936) was [King of the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarchy_of_the_United_Kingdom) and the [British Dominions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion), and [Emperor of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor_of_India), from 6 May 1910 until his death in 1936.

His reign saw the rise of [socialism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism), [communism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communism), [fascism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascism), [Irish republicanism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_republicanism), and the [Indian independence movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_independence_movement), all of which radically changed the political landscape. The [Parliament Act 1911](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_Act_1911) established the supremacy of the elected [British House of Commons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Commons_of_the_United_Kingdom) over the unelected [House of Lords](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Lords). As a result of the [First World War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_World_War) (1914–18) the empires of his first cousins [Tsar Nicholas II of Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_II_of_Russia) and [Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_II,_German_Emperor) fell while the British Empire expanded to its greatest effective extent. In 1917, George became the first monarch of the [House of Windsor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Windsor), which he renamed from the [House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Saxe-Coburg_and_Gotha) as a result of anti-German public sentiment.

Reverend David Railton first considered the concept of the Unknown Warrior on the battlefield.

The idea came to him in the early part of 1916 after returning from the line after dusk to a billet at Erkingham near Armentieres. This idea was supported by the Dean Ryle and the Prime Minister [Lloyd George](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Lloyd_George), while at first king George V and other people strongly objected because he feared that such a ceremony would reopen the wounds of a recently concluded war.

**Edward Ryle**

Sir Herbert Edward Ryle was born in London, on the 25 May 1856. He was the second son of John Charles Ryle, the first Bishop of Liverpool, and his second wife, Jessie Elizabeth Walker. He was educated at Eton College and King's College, Cambridge and became a teacher until he was ordained.

Ryle was appointed Honorary Chaplain to Queen Victoria in March 1896. In December 1900 he was appointed Bishop of Exeter, being consecrated at Westminster Abbey in January 1901.In December 1910 Ryle was appointed Dean of Westminster.

During World War I Ryle used to take the midday service of intercession and he was responsible for the many special services held in wartime.

The idea of a Tomb of The Unknown Warrior was first thought in 1916 by the Reverend David Railton, he wrote to Dean Ryle in 1920 proposing that an unidentified British soldier fallen in France be buried in Westminster Abbey.

**David Railton**

David Railton was born on 13 November 1884 in London, he was a clergyman and he is known to be the originator of the idea of the Unknown Soldier’s tomb.

David Railton’s father George Scott Railton worked together with General William Booth in the founding of the Salvation Army. Educated in Oxford and Liverpool, David joined the Church of England in 1908: when the First World War broke out he was a curate in Folkestone and he saw hundreds of thousands of soldiers leaving the town for the Western Front, he became a military chaplain to the 2nd Battalion of the Hon Artillery Company, as a member he took personally part in the conflict. He was awarded the Military Cross for an important military action: he saved two comrades under fire of a heavy machinegun.

In 1916 in France, he found a makeshift grave which brings a particular inscription on a wooden cross that read An Unknown British Soldier. It was the first step to the birth of the war memorial in Westminster Abbey. Railton had the idea to have a symbolic burial in Great Britain to commemorate those who died in the Great War without a name and to come out of the project he convinced the most important British authorities. He could not know that his project would come true and one of the most important British war memorials and would allow the ritual and cult of the Unknown Warrior.

When the war finished he became vicar of Margate and in 1920, two years after the end of the First World War, he informed Herbert Ryle, Dean of Westminster. The building of a memorial in Westminster Abbey would be the symbol of all WWI’s casualties without identification. The idea was approved by King George V, the Parliament and the government.

David Railton sadly died on a train on the 13 June 1955.