

2374

They gathered at London Airport for a pilgrimage of remembrance. Bereaved relatives, linked by the courage and sacrifice of the Italian campaign.

~~A man with memories joined those who mourned.~~ A famous leader, Field Marshal Earl Alexander, ^{joined those who mourned:} He it was, who led their sons and husbands to hard-earned victory.

Now, he too, was going back... to Cassino. ~~But the road was different~~ ~~disappeared~~ ~~to be reborn with new life and hope.~~ Monastery Hill, with its rebuilt Abbey, still dominates the town - ~~as~~ as it did in World War Two.

~~Yes, these same heights dominated the road to Rome bogging down the Allied advance.~~ After months of bitter fighting, Allied bombers ^{WCK} ~~forced~~ the town and Monastery Hill ^{in order to continue the advance.} ~~before the Gustaf line was breached.~~

The years have healed the scars of war: but not the wounds of mankind.

So, Field Marshal Earl Alexander returns to Cassino, where after inspecting ^{A JOINT} ~~an Italian and British~~ Guard of Honour, he unveiled a Memorial to those who died under his command. ~~OUND.~~

The Commander-in-Chief (who was beloved by all) pays his own tribute - a quiet act of faith with those who died ~~OUND.~~

The Memorial takes the form of a Garden of Remembrance. In it are recorded, the names of over 4,000 Commonwealth dead, in Sicily and Italy, - who have no known grave.

~~And among~~ ~~4000 other known graves,~~ ^{And among 4000 other known graves,} relatives take a last farewell of loved ones ^{in the bell-shaped garden,} ~~in the bell-shaped garden,~~ ^{whose memory is kept green in this cool cloister of remembrance beneath the burning Italian sun.} ~~whose memory is kept green in this cool cloister of remembrance beneath the burning Italian sun.~~ A fitting memorial to those who died for a faith as indestructible as the ancient Abbey that guards them on Monastery Hill.

And among 4000 other known graves, relatives take a last farewell of loved ones, whose memory is kept green in this cool cloister of remembrance beneath the burning Italian sun. A fitting memorial to those who died for a faith as indestructible as the ancient Abbey that guards them - on Monastery Hill...

Banks up.