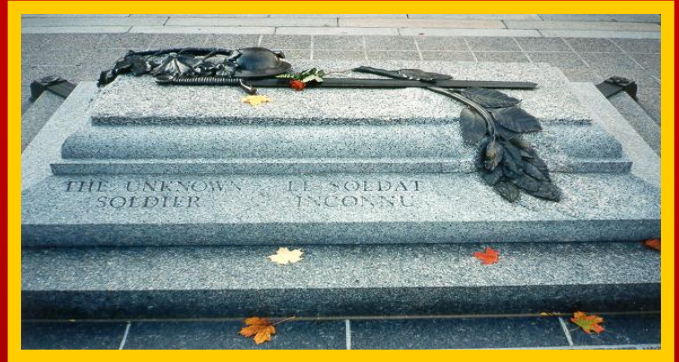


A Sovereign's Dedication

King George VI - Queen Elizabeth
May 21, 1939

Queen Elizabeth II - Prince Phillip
October 13, 2002



We see our sovereign's dedication
Do honour three small maple leaves
Through twist of fate... and abdication
So close... so close... to new war's eve.

Emotions flood this sacred altar...
Our human sacrifice to peace
Our past, claimed father... son... and daughter
Dare we give dying a new lease.

They volunteered to leave their family
To fight for country, King and kin
But now the sacrifice, the tally
Was all too near a mortal sin.

And as they struggled with their caisson
These brave men of another age,
Their beasts of burden helped them press on
Like they... held hostage to war's rage.

A solemn... proud... rededication
We praise our Crown... what we conceive
We thank God for our sovereign nation
As close... so close... the new wars weave.

Her blood ran coursing through hearts swollen,
Her spirit guiding these brave souls
Their courage won back freedoms stolen,
To harbours... safe... from deadly shoals.

Not they to shy from sacrifices
They stayed the course... that would ensue,
Delivered us from "state of crisis"
To kingdom calm... and righteous view.

For now some lie in fields of heroes,
While some remember long lost friends
We've married pride to years of sorrows
Our prayers tell if... we'll meet again.

In deeper, sombre contemplation
We softly speak in tones of hush
Great battles won! Oh! Such elation!
Great battles won! Oh! Such a loss...