



Soldiers of the 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery at Sunday's service.

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'May we be worthy of their sacrifice'

by Michael Pickard

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TWO soldiers from Bricket Wood, who both died in armed conflict, were honoured at a memorial service on Sunday.

Around 250 people gathered at the St Stephen Parish War Memorial in Park Street, where a plaque with the names of Lieutenant James Barry and Captain James Philippon was unveiled alongside those who died in World War One and Two.

Captain Philippon, who served with the 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery and 7 Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, was killed at the age of 29 fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2006.

Lieutenant Barry, a member of the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment of the Royal Signals, died aged 24 during the Falklands War in 1982.

Audrey Barry, Lieutenant Barry's mother, said: "I think it was so kind of St Stephen Parish Council to make this happen. It's a completion. It's like dotting the Is and crossing the Ts.

"It was so kind of so many people to come. We had very happy times. He was a one-off, a great character, huge fun and very professional

at the same time."

Lieutenant Barry's two brothers, David and Ben, were also at the ceremony.

David said: "I think it's great that somewhere like Bricket Wood will remember him in this sort of way. He was a larger-than-life character, a bit of a daredevil and was always getting into scrapes."

Captain Philippon's father Tony, who lives in St Albans, added: "What the council has done is wonderful. It's somewhere we can come on Armistice Day and actually find his name on there."

His mother Trish added: "I think it is a very fitting way for future generations to realise there have been such huge sacrifices. It might inspire other people to great things, rather than waste lives."

The service was the idea of parish councillor Mick Freeman, who said it was important to remember servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives for their country, during both world wars and in conflicts since then.

He said: "I don't see any difference between the names of people who died in the two world wars and people who lose their life nowadays. They are paying the ultimate sacrifice."

During the service, in which a trumpeter played *The Last Post*, Padre Richard Tillbrook paid tribute to the soldiers, for whom "life was an adventure".

He said: "Joining the Army was not a job. It was a calling and vocation.

"They were not just doing what they were paid to do.

"They believed in what they were doing and believed they could, and would, make a difference by doing what they loved, by doing the service of Queen and country.

"May we be worthy of the sacrifice these men and so many before them have made and worthy of the sacrifice Christ made for us."

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Did you attend the service? Tell us online