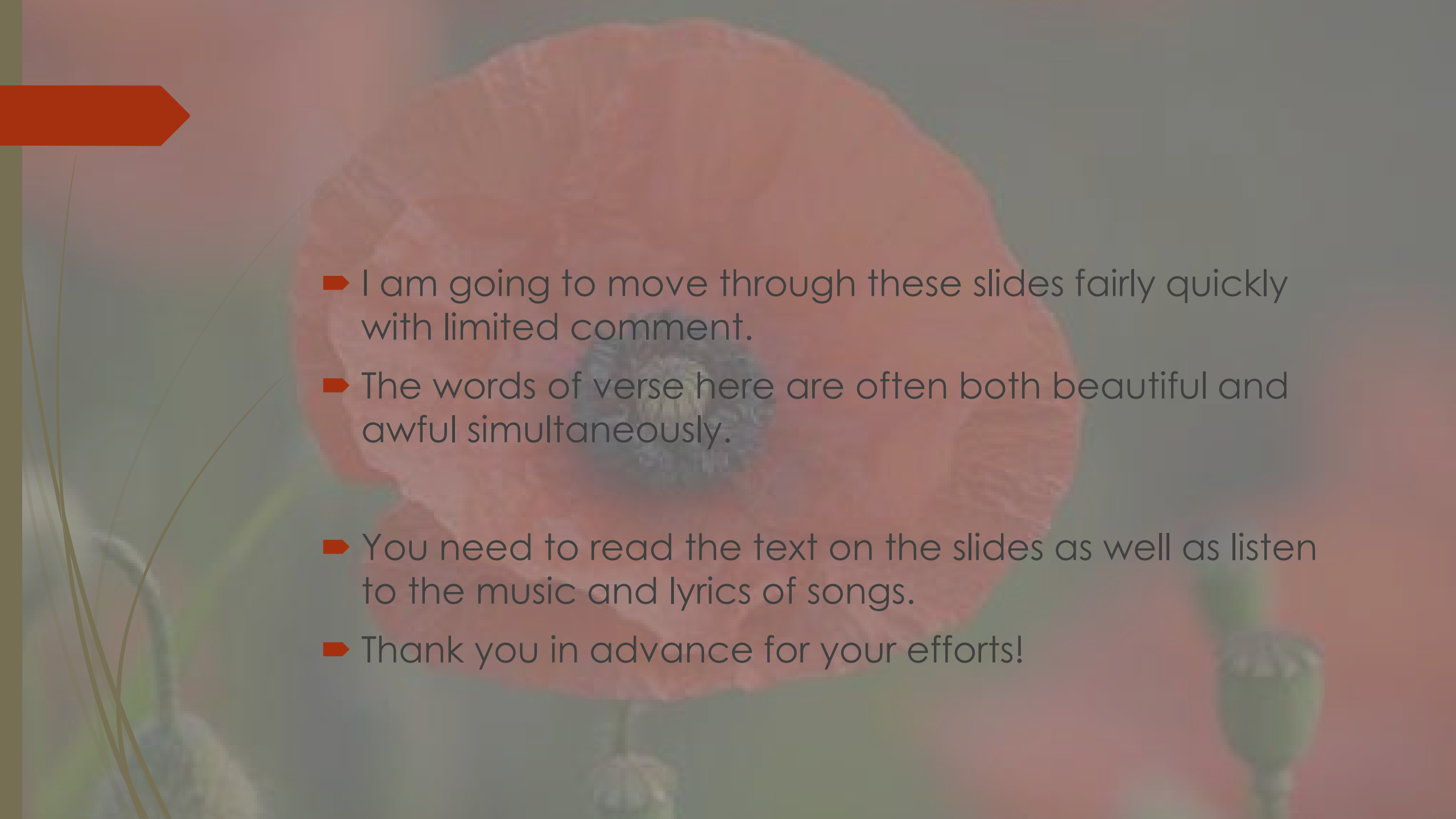
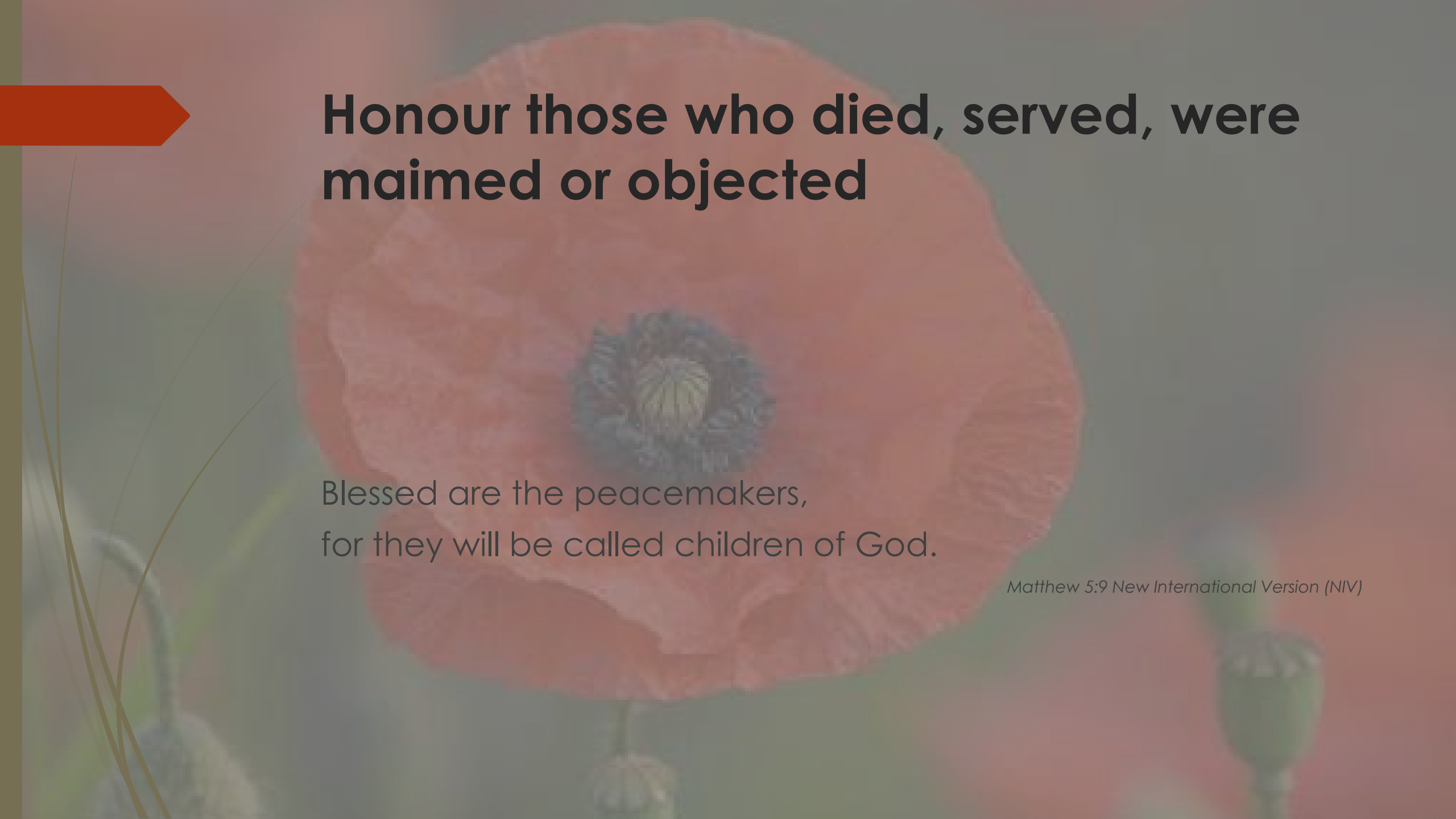




Reality of War

How Jesus saw conflict

- 
- ▶ I am going to move through these slides fairly quickly with limited comment.
 - ▶ The words of verse here are often both beautiful and awful simultaneously.
 - ▶ You need to read the text on the slides as well as listen to the music and lyrics of songs.
 - ▶ Thank you in advance for your efforts!



Honour those who died, served, were maimed or objected

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9 New International Version (NIV)

- 
- The essence of God and Jesus concerning conflict.

ANZAC Dawn Service

➤ Bomana War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea



War cemetery at the foot of the Kokoda Track

Bomana War Cemetery on ANZAC Day 1991

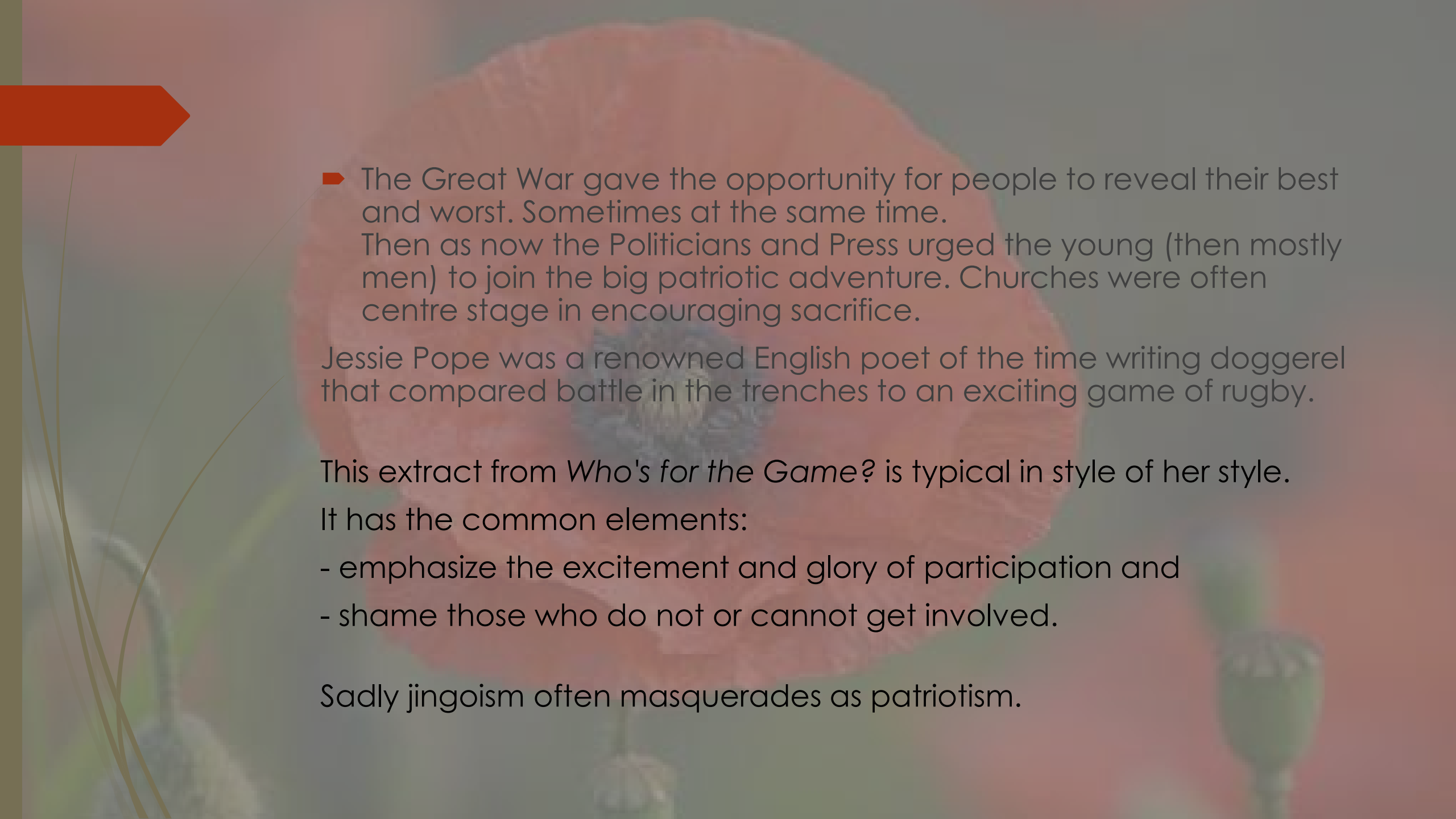

- I had the privilege of attending a dawn service at the Bomana War Cemetery on ANZAC Day 1991. As is normal in equatorial latitudes it was pitch black just before dawn and the few dozen troops and civilians were assembled in total silence as they contemplated what had happened on the Kokoda Track during WWII. As the service began and the bugle sounded the sun rose rapidly to reveal the serried ranks of white headstones that signified the awful cost paid by those who have fought and died there. The most moving Dawn Service I have ever attended.



Patriotism

*Who's for the game, the biggest that's played,
The red crashing game of a fight?
Who'll grip and tackle the job unafraid?
And who thinks he'd rather sit tight?*

Jessie Pope (1868–1941)

- 
- 
- The Great War gave the opportunity for people to reveal their best and worst. Sometimes at the same time. Then as now the Politicians and Press urged the young (then mostly men) to join the big patriotic adventure. Churches were often centre stage in encouraging sacrifice.

Jessie Pope was a renowned English poet of the time writing doggerel that compared battle in the trenches to an exciting game of rugby.

This extract from *Who's for the Game?* is typical in style of her style.

It has the common elements:

- emphasize the excitement and glory of participation and
- shame those who do not or cannot get involved.

Sadly jingoism often masquerades as patriotism.



Another familiar verse of that war

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

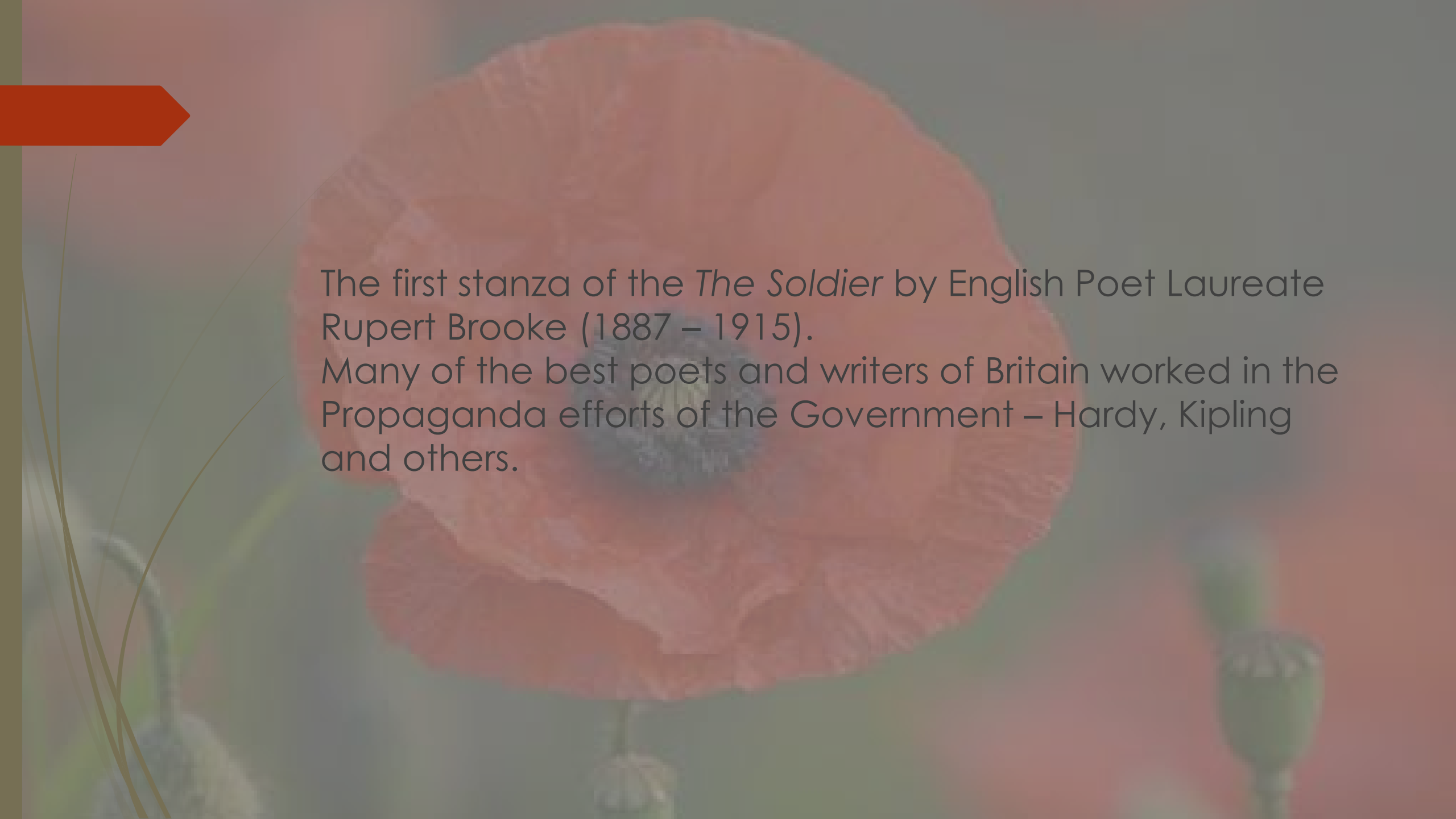
Laurence Binyon's *'For the Fallen'* (1914)




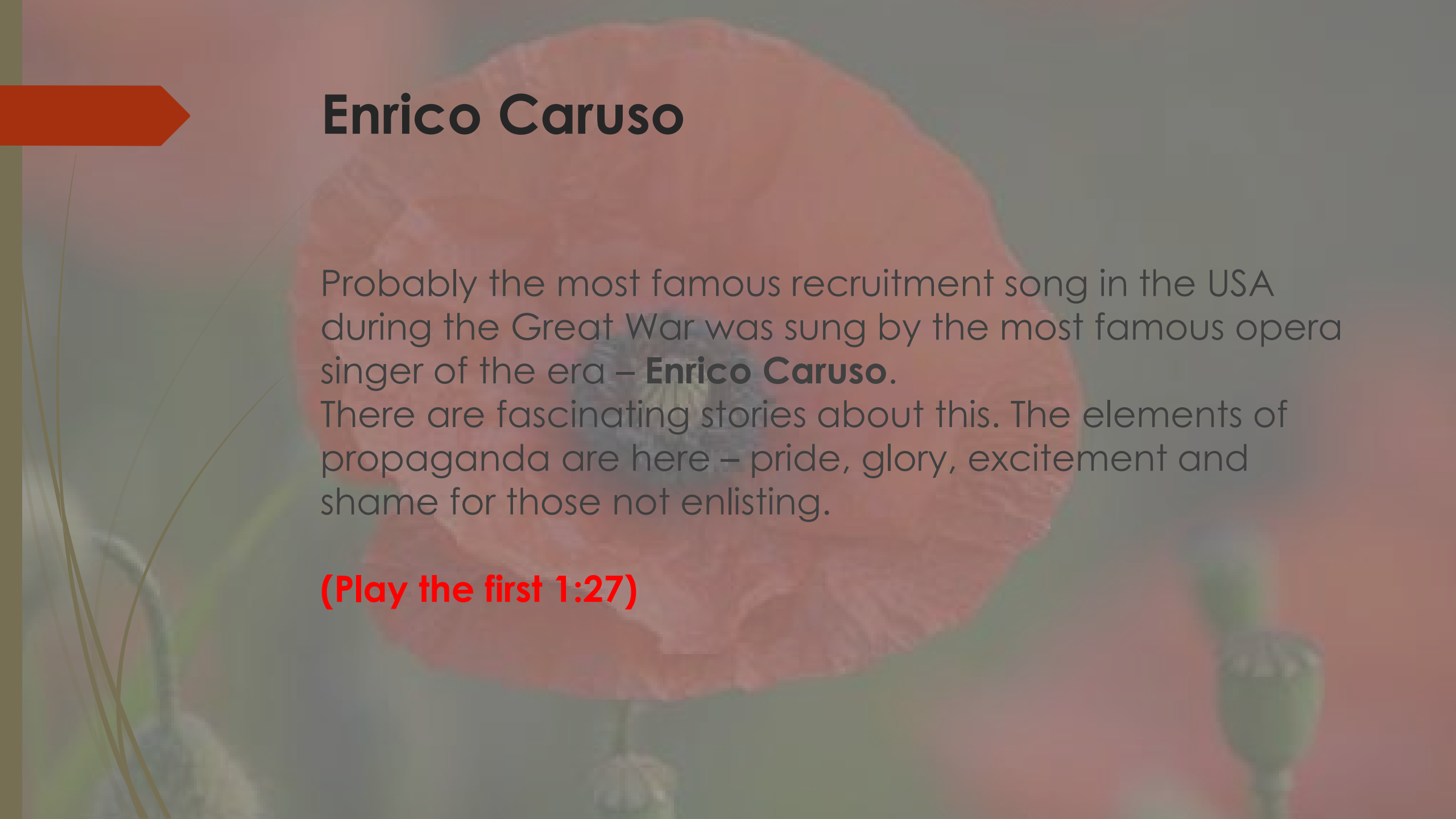
Another familiar verse of that war

*If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.*

Rupert Brooke (1887-1915) *The Soldier*



The first stanza of the *The Soldier* by English Poet Laureate Rupert Brooke (1887 – 1915).
Many of the best poets and writers of Britain worked in the Propaganda efforts of the Government – Hardy, Kipling and others.



Enrico Caruso

Probably the most famous recruitment song in the USA during the Great War was sung by the most famous opera singer of the era – **Enrico Caruso**.

There are fascinating stories about this. The elements of propaganda are here – pride, glory, excitement and shame for those not enlisting.

(Play the first 1:27)

Also patriotic poems as song

Click on song
"Over There"

Listen to only the
first one and a half
minutes to get the gist.

**Enrico
Caruso**

**"Over
There"**






Love for Enemies

But to you who are listening I say:
Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,

Luke 6:27 New International Version (NIV)



More from Jesus

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

(Matthew 5:43-44)

No Man's Land

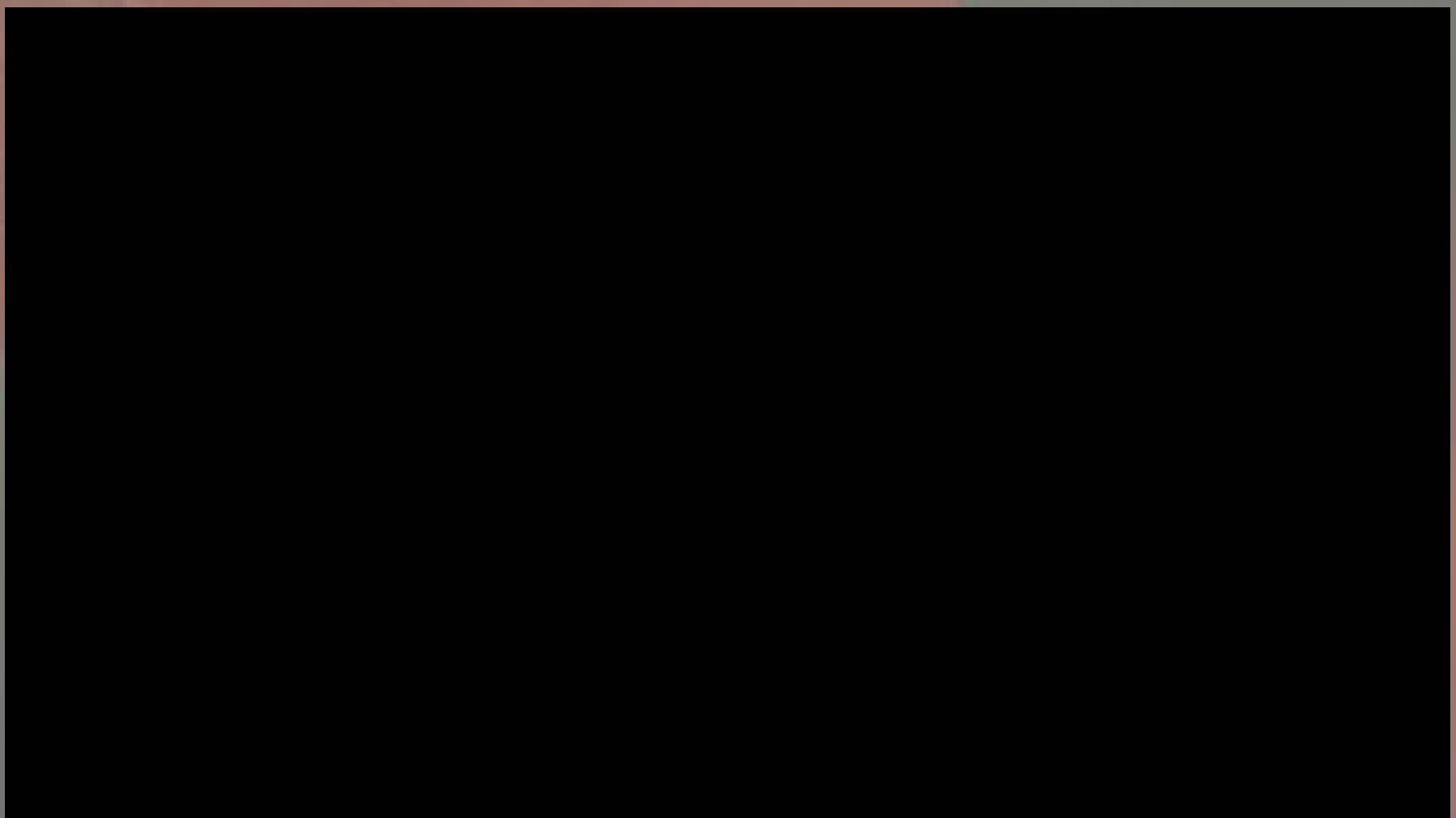
- Eric Bogle a world renowned South Australian folk singer from Gawler (originally from Scotland) wrote *No Man's Land* after visiting the battle fields and cemeteries of Flanders and France. The story in the song was prompted by Bogle resting at the headstone of a young William McBride who then becomes the focus of his thoughts.
It was popular but became a 'Hit' when his friends *The Fureys* - the famous Irish folk group - recorded and released it as *The Green Fields of France*.
- It has been sung and recorded by dozens of artists since then.
- In its respectful way it honours the dead at the same time as shining a spotlight on the futility of war.
- These songs are not overtly Christian, but express the compassion and teaching of Christ none-the-less.



No Man's Land

Green Fields of France - Written and sung by Eric Bogle

Click on song
"No Man's Land"





The last stanza

And I can't help but wonder, now Willie McBride,

Do all those who lie here, know why they died?

Did you really believe them when they told you the 'The Cause?'

You really believe that this war would end wars?

The suffering, the sorrow, the glory, the shame,

The killing, the dying, it was all done in vain,

For Willie McBride, it all happened again,

And again, and again, and again, and again!



The war to end all wars

The war to end all wars?

No one would be so stupid as to go to war again, but ...
there has been no pause since then.



Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling was part of the propaganda and recruitment drive rallying young men to fight.

Some say he bullied his son to enlist.

Notably he wrote to an Irish Regiment begging them to take his son even though his son was really not fit.



Kipling lost his son in 1915.

Rudyard Kipling was a significant part of the English propaganda and recruitment drive.

After son's death early in the war he wrote this simple couplet.

***If any question why we died,
Tell them, because our fathers lied.***



Wilfred Owen

- Owen dedicated the first publication of this famous, powerful and awful poem to Jessie Pope who so misrepresented the nature of war.



Dulce Et Decorum Est

by Wilfred Owen

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through
sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame, all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.



Dulce Et Decorum Est - continued

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! - An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.-
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams before my helpless sight
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

Dulce Et Decorum Est - continued

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,-
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: ***Dulce et decorum est***
Pro patria mori.



How is your Latin these days?

The old Lie:

Dulce et decorum est

Pro patria mori.

Dulce et decorum est

- "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" written by the Roman poet Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus) (65 -08 BCE) in (Ode III.2.13) (Valour):^[3]

*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori:
mors et fugacem persequitur virum
nec parcit inbellis iuventae
poplitibus timidoque tergo.*



How is your Latin these days?

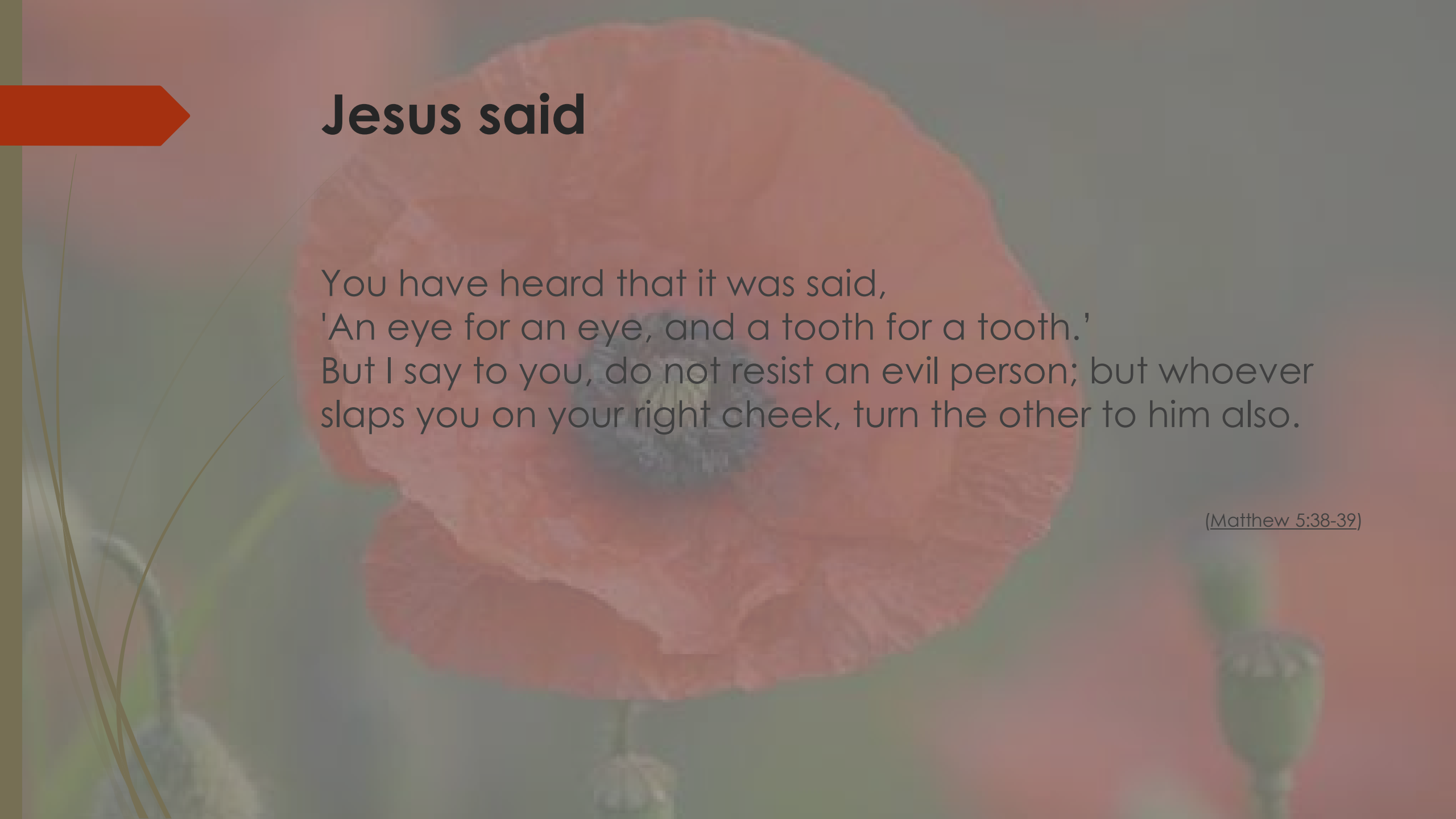
The old Lie:

Dulce et decorum est

Pro patria mori.

"How sweet and honourable it is to die for one's country."

- 
- These words were emblazoned in a hall at the Sandhurst Officer Training College in England.



Jesus said

You have heard that it was said,
'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.'
But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever
slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

(Matthew 5:38-39)



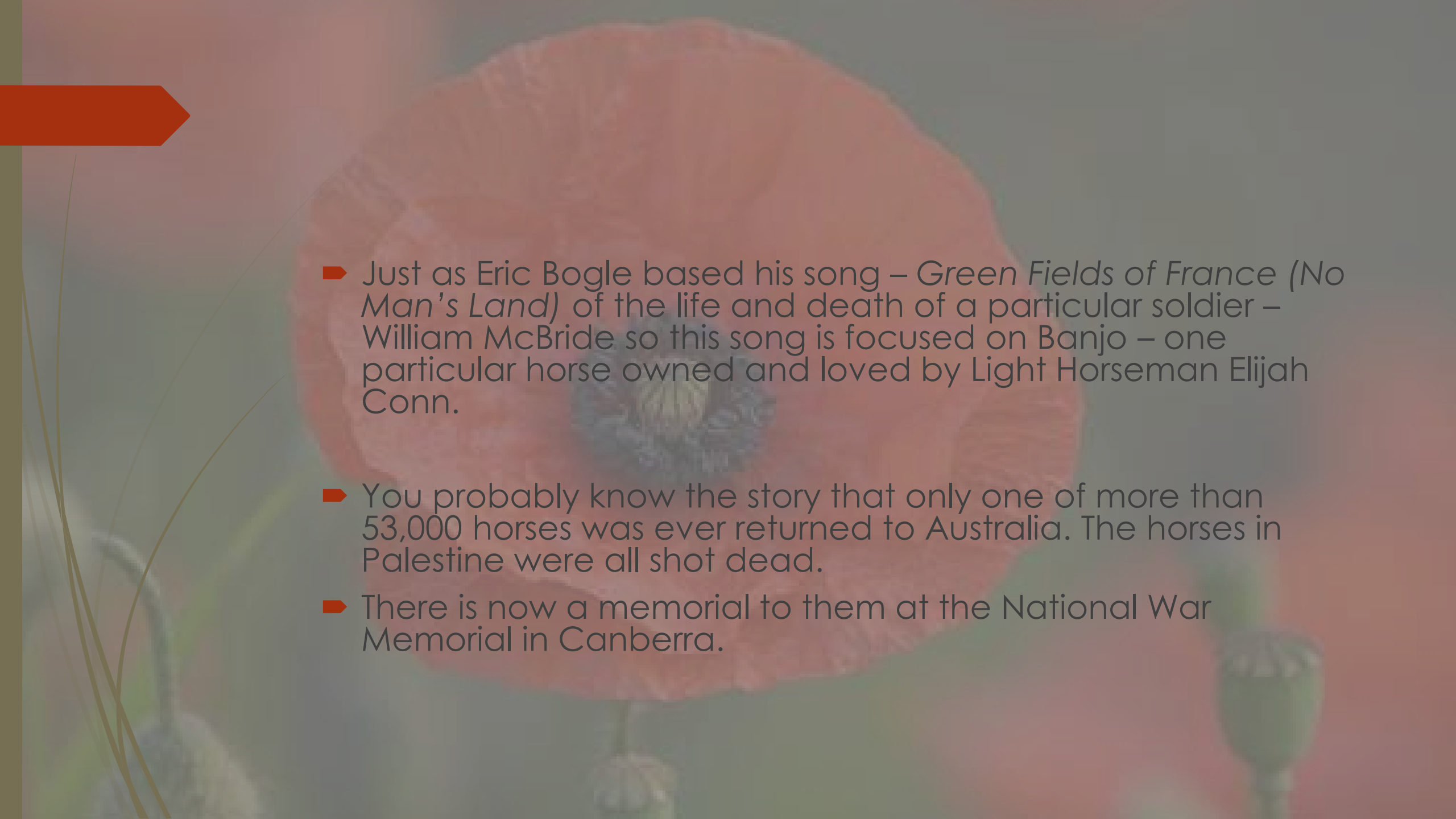
And again

“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.”

Matthew 26:52 New International Version (NIV)

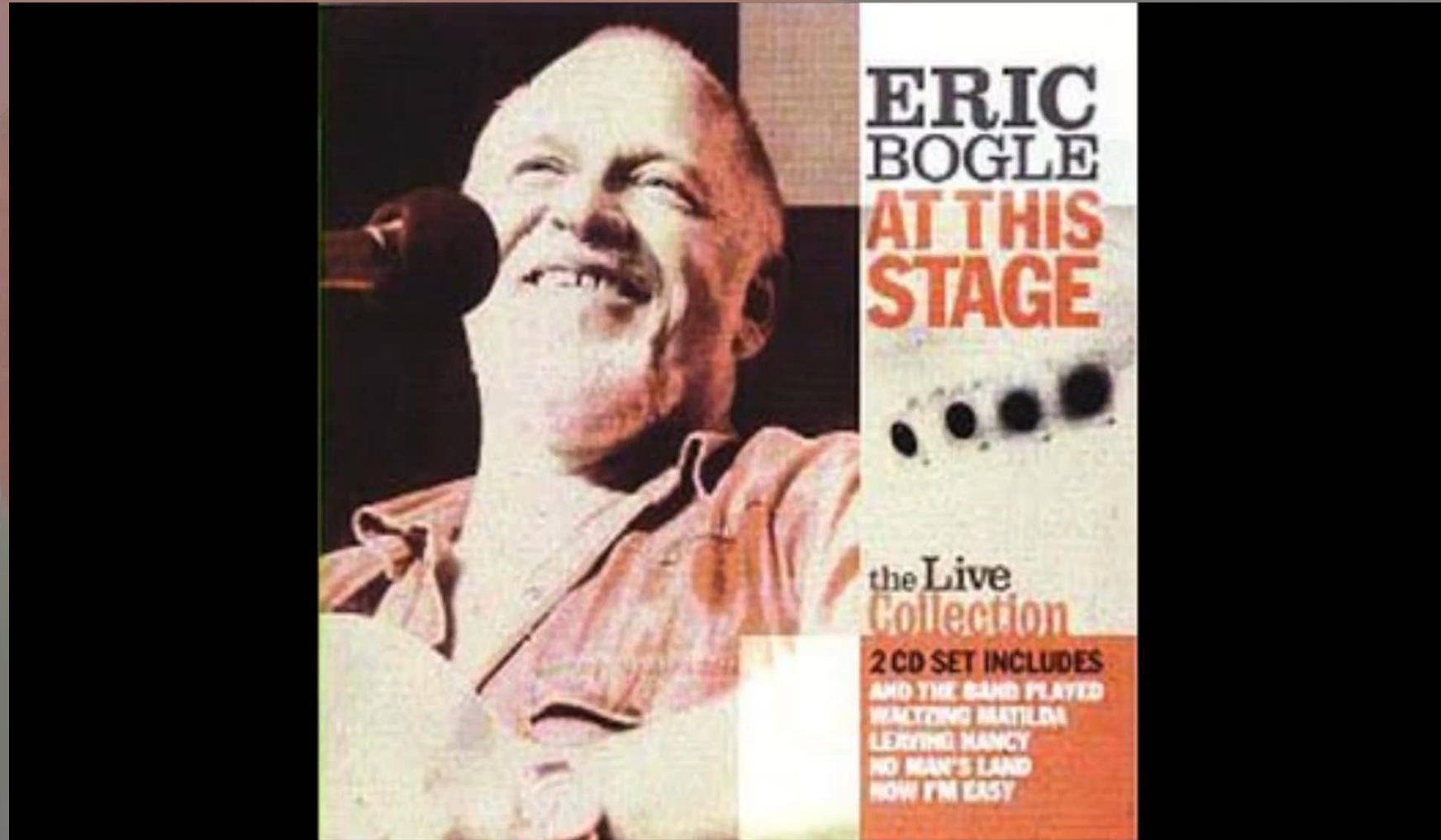
Love for Enemies

- Matthew 5:43-48 New International Version (NIV)
- ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- 
- ▶ Just as Eric Bogle based his song – *Green Fields of France* (*No Man's Land*) of the life and death of a particular soldier – William McBride so this song is focused on Banjo – one particular horse owned and loved by Light Horseman Elijah Conn.
 - ▶ You probably know the story that only one of more than 53,000 horses was ever returned to Australia. The horses in Palestine were all shot dead.
 - ▶ There is now a memorial to them at the National War Memorial in Canberra.

Not only people

Click on song
"As if he knows"



All of God's creatures suffer from war

Eric Bogle sings of one famous story of the aftermath of World War I



Not just Jesus God has been telling his people forever

Why will we not listen?

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

God's Final Word: His Son

- ▶ He spoke His unchanging Word through his prophets, but we listened not.
- ▶ **1** In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

Hebrews 1:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

- ▶ Hymn lyrics – *Keep the Faith* #41

God has spoken by His prophets,
Spoken His unchanging Word.

Each from age to age proclaiming
God, the One, the righteous Lord.

**they shall beat their swords into
plowshares**



**Not the last word,
but it is for today**



they shall beat their swords into plowshares

- This bronze statue was donated to the United Nations in New York by the USSR in 1959. Some see that as ironic as the 'Empire' many saw as Godless reminded the so-called Christian nations of Isaiah 2:4.
- It is a perfect symbol for the aims of both the United Nations and Christ's followers.



**Pray silently in response to
what you have seen and heard today**



Remember all who have perished and suffered
and are still suffering from war.
Bring them all to our loving God and Saviour for succour.



beating swords into plow shares

- As we observe a minute of silence please offer your own ANZAC Day prayers of thanks and supplication.
- I shall then close the prayer.
- Dear Father, we give you thanks and praise that despite the awful reality of suffering which we, your perfect creation, inflict on each other while you still love each person.
- We cannot easily discern the good from the evil and yet you continue to love all humankind whether good or evil.
- Teach us that love which your Son showered on us.
- Teach us to share that love as we think of the victims and perpetrators of the awful conflicts of the past and of today.
- Help us to work towards beating swords into plow shares in all that we think, say and do.
- Bless us in Jesus name. Amen



Down by the Riverside

- ▶ Louis Armstrong with – *Down by the Riverside*

The old Gospel song from Isaiah 2:4

Click on song
“Down by the
Riverside”

