

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



The poppy

The poppy is a familiar symbol, worn by many of us each year. One of the few things that survived in the battlefields of Northern France during World War I was the poppy, whose bright and cheerful resilience in the face of such horror brought hope and comfort to the soldiers fighting there. After the War, paper poppies were sold to help wounded soldiers and their families. The Royal British Legion, the national custodian of Remembrance, instigated the first Remembrance Day in 1921. Today, the Legion makes and distributes over 36 million poppies each year. The money raised by selling the poppy is still used to care for veterans of all ages and their families.

Memorials

War memorials exist all over towns and villages in the UK. Many were put up in memory of the men who fought in World War I (1914–1918) and added to after the end of World War II (1939–1945). War memorials were usually built by the communities in which the men who were killed lived and worked. Their purpose was to be a permanent reminder of the men's sacrifice and the loss to society.

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire is one of the UK's main focal points for Remembrance and contains many types of memorials to those involved with or affected by conflict, including the Armed Forces Memorial. On the walls of this

memorial are inscribed the names of Service men and women serving in the British Forces who have been killed whilst on active service since 1945.

Armistice Day

World War I officially ended on the eleventh hour on the eleventh day on the eleventh month, 1918 – Armistice Day. The act of a Two Minute Silence began on the anniversary of Armistice Day in 1919 by those who did not want to forget the millions killed, injured and affected. Today millions of people stop what they are doing and observe a Two Minute Silence at 11am on 11 November each year in the memory of those who have been affected in all conflicts.

1 Poppies growing in Flanders fields, Belgium

2 HRH Prince William of Wales KG lays a wreath at Camp Bastion, the main military base in Afghanistan, in memory of all those who have lost their lives in the ongoing conflict

3 Remembrance is for everyone

4 D-Day veterans visiting the beaches of Normandy

5 The Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire

In Flanders Fields

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

Lt Col John McCrae (1872–1918)