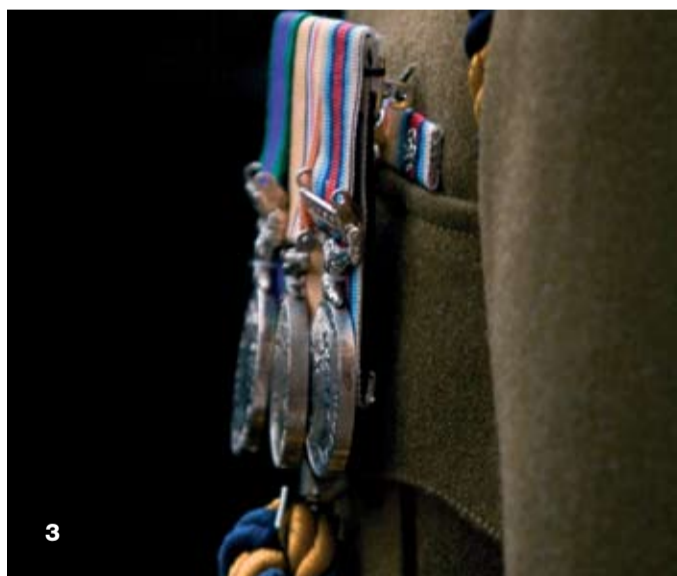


THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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LEGION



- 1 The Royal British Legion provides help and support for Service men, women and their families
- 2 Every year, the Legion distributes poppies for Remembrance Day, raising vital funds to support their welfare work
- 3 The Royal British Legion is the national custodian for Remembrance, protecting the memory of all those who have fought in wars or been affected by conflict
- 4 The Legion provides essential care for young veterans, such as Mark Stonelake, who was injured by a roadside bomb while on active duty in Afghanistan
- 5 Remembrance is for everyone

The Royal British Legion

The British Legion was set up in 1921, formed from a number of ex-Service organisations. Many of the men returning from war in 1918 found themselves in difficult circumstances. Unemployment was high and some were unable to work because of their injuries, both physical and mental. There was no welfare state and many ex-Service men, their families, and the families of those who had died, found themselves destitute and starving.

The Royal British Legion's mission was to help provide for the 20 million people who qualified for its support. The founders of the Legion believed that the purpose of the new organisation was not just to look after those who had suffered as a result of the recent war, but also to prevent further sacrifice by reminding and informing the nation

of the human cost of war and working actively for peace. The Legion is the national custodian of Remembrance.

Caring for families

Every day the Legion carries out activities that help veterans of all ages and their families. Last year it pledged millions of pounds for specialist centres to help injured Service men and women coming back from Afghanistan. The Legion also runs care homes for elderly veterans and their partners, provides short-term breaks for 4,500 people, awards emergency grants, answers 300,000 calls each year, represents 3,500 pensioners at tribunals, helps nearly 3,000 people into employment and co-ordinates 200,000 visits to serving and ex-Service people in hospital.

Remembrance

The Legion is not linked to any political party or religious group but it does actively campaign on issues that affect Service men and women and veterans such as those suffering from Gulf War Syndrome or the effects of nuclear testing.

Every November, the Legion continues to distribute poppies and organise Remembrance Day events and services. Through its vital welfare work, it continues to support those in most need and conveys the importance of Remembrance to everyone from politicians to school children, reflecting on the cost of war and why we should remember those that suffer because of conflict.

The Exhortation

**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.**

**From 'For the Fallen'
by Laurence Binyon**