



REMEMBRANCE

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.*

From 'In Flanders' Fields' by John McCrae



Memorials

War memorials exist all over towns and villages in the UK. Many were put up in memory of the men who fought in the First World War (1914–1918) and were often added to after the end of the Second World War (1939–1945). Others have been built to commemorate more recent conflicts. If you look, you will see them in town squares, high streets, old factories and cemeteries. War memorials were usually erected 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 loss to society.

The **National Memorial Arboretum** in Staffordshire is also 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 over 16,000 names of Service men and women killed on active Service since 1945.

Armistice Day

The First World War officially ended on the eleventh hour on the eleventh day on the eleventh month, 1918 – Armistice Day.

Approximately nine million people had been killed. Millions more were injured and families were destroyed. A number of groups were determined not to forget what had happened or the sacrifice that so many had made. The act of a **Two Minute Silence** began on the anniversary of Armistice Day in 1919. In 1921 The Royal British Legion was formed and 'Remembrance Day' was formally adopted as a national day of Remembrance. Millions of people stop what they are doing and observe a Two Minute Silence at 11am on 11 November each year in memory of those who have died in all conflicts.



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 the First World War was the poppy, whose bright and cheerful resilience in the face of such horror brought hope and comfort to the soldiers. After the War, paper poppies were sold to help wounded soldiers and their families. The Royal British Legion, the national guardian of Remembrance, instigated the first **Remembrance Day** in 1921.

Today, the Legion makes and distributes over 36 million poppies each year.

The poppy is worn as a symbol of Remembrance of those who fought and were killed in conflict, as well as those still fighting and giving their lives today. It serves as a reminder for us to value the peace and freedom we enjoy.