

# 1918-2008: 90 Years of Remembrance



## Milestone tribute for 2008

This year sees the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War, marking a milestone Remembrance Sunday. The Royal Family will lead the nation in remembrance of those who died during the conflict, nine decades on from its end.

The Remembrance Sunday service at 11am on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November this year will be the 90th anniversary of the end of World War I. Remembrance Sunday is the day traditionally put aside to remember all those who have given their lives in war. It was originally conceived as a commemoration of the war dead of the First World War but after the Second World War, the scope of the ceremony was extended to focus on the nation's dead of both World Wars, and in 1980 it was widened once again to extend the remembrance to all who have suffered and died in conflict in the service of their country and all those who mourn them.

**Her Majesty the Queen leads the Nation's Remembrance Sunday commemorations at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Thousands of veterans from countless conflicts are joined for the annual two-minute silence, service and march-past by dignitaries from around the Commonwealth, the Prime Minister and leading politicians, military leaders, and representatives of many of the world's religions all gather to remember those the men and women who have paid the ultimate price, and died in action serving their country.**

**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 (1869-1943)

**On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the First World War ended. Remembrance Sunday is the day to remember all those who have given their lives for peace and freedom.**

More than one million British people lost their lives during the First World War.

# Remembrance 2008: events

With 11 November 2008 marking the 90th anniversary of the Armistice, this year's Remembrance is an occasion to remember those who died in the Great War. On 11 November 1918, the Armistice was signed between the Allied and German armies, ending the First World War – a global conflict that lasted four years, extinguishing millions of lives in what was described as 'the war to end all wars.'

## **Remembering 'The War To End All Wars'. 1918–2008: Ninety Years of Remembrance**

Remembrance Sunday is the day traditionally put aside to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. On this day people across the nation pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave Service men and women. In London, the Cenotaph Parade will take place in Whitehall.

"Remembrance Day gives each of us, from all walks of life, from every cultural background, and from every corner of the nation, the opportunity to stop, and reflect, and give silent thanks. For there are still those who today risk their lives for our sake. Whether in a church, or in a public place, whether standing at a war memorial or in private at home, let us acknowledge for two minutes, our debt to those who have gone before, and our responsibilities to those who come after us. What others have died for, let us now live for, lest we forget."

Each year, The Royal British Legion establishes a Field of Remembrance at Westminster, London and Cathays Park, Cardiff.

The Fields become a sea of Remembrance Crosses with scarlet poppies - a touching symbol of Remembrance and tribute to the memory of ex-Service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect their country.

This year we remember 1918-2008: Ninety Years of Remembrance is a BBC campaign to mark the 90th anniversary of Armistice. Events are being held across the country with the aim of unifying and personalising the act of remembrance and bringing World War One vividly alive in the present day.

**In 1999, for the first time, members of the Merchant Navy were 'allowed' to take part in the national Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. They were not officially invited previously because they had not been, what is termed as, 'under command'. However, in that very significant year members of the MNA marched at the event and were proudly led by the MNA's National Chairman at that time.**

**Perhaps it should be noted that had the armed services waited, as long for the Merchant Navy has done, for a signal to join them in their military gatherings in the North Atlantic, Western Approaches, Korea and the Falklands, there may very well have been no national service of remembrance to attend.**

**“If Blood was the price -  
We had to pay for our freedom  
Then the Merchant Ship Sailors  
Paid it in full”**

**Norman Date / Hon Secretary/ Merchant Navy Association Bristol UK**

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