

# Remembrance Day

## Useful websites:

[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

[www.poppy.org.uk](http://www.poppy.org.uk)

[www.bbc.co.uk/religion/remembrance](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/remembrance)

## Glossary

**Armistice** – When people decide to stop fighting

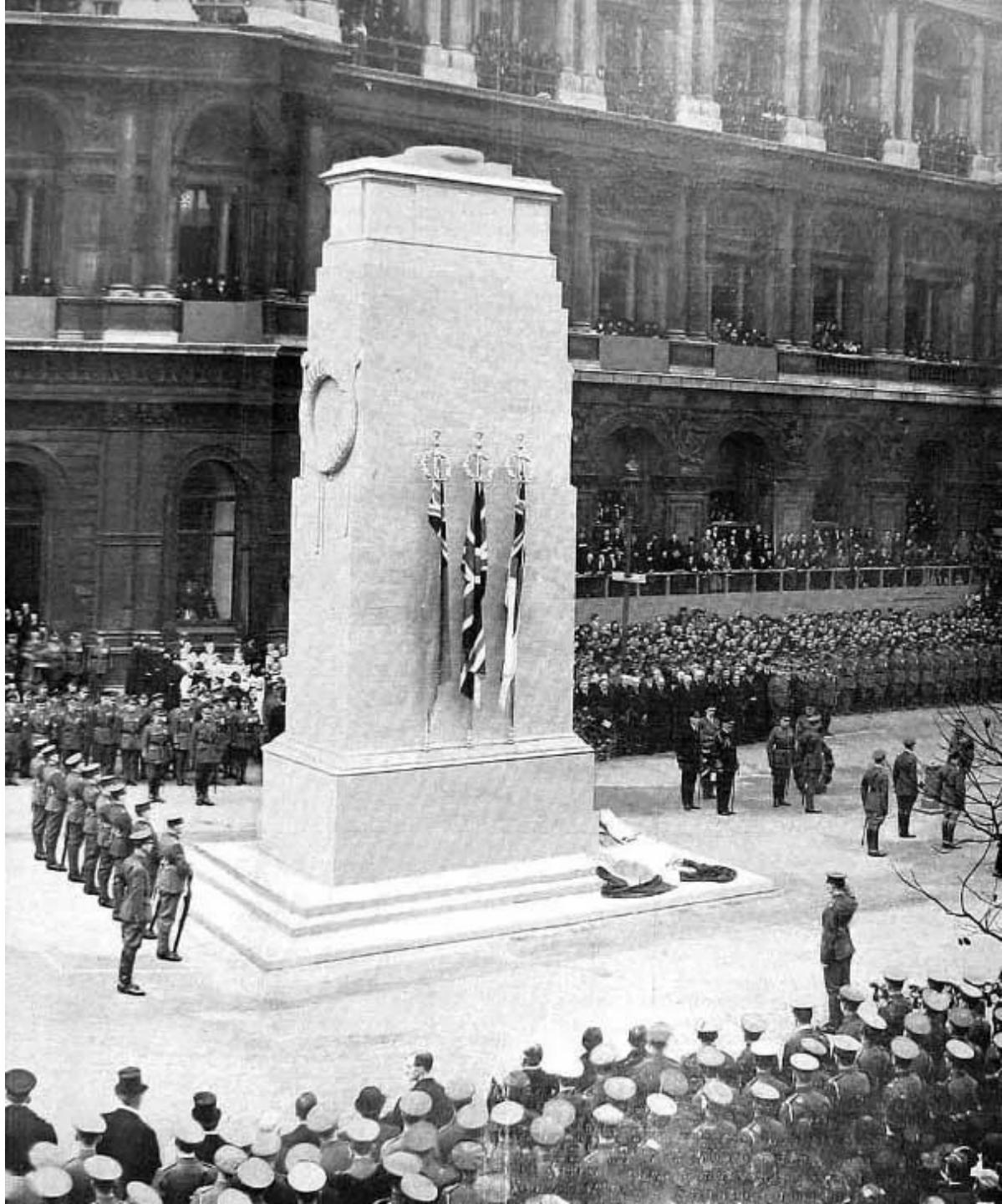
**Ceremony** – When people remember or celebrate an event

**War memorial** – A statue or plaque used to remember people who have died in wars.



'Remembrance day', sometimes known as 'Poppy Day' is every year on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Remembrance day was first held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919, exactly a year after the end of the First World War. This war lasted for four years and over 900,000 British soldiers died and nearly 9 million soldiers and civilians died overall.

Many years ago, 'Remembrance Day' was also known as 'Armistice Day', armistice means ceasefire which is what happens when people stop fighting. The first World War ended at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, one year later King George V asked people to keep silent for 2 mins to remember the anniversary of the end of the war. It was not until the end of World War II that it became known as 'Remembrance Day'. To this day, at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, all over the country special services are held at war memorials and churches. A day when many gather together as a sign of respect for the people who have died in wars. Before the 2 minutes silence, special music is played. This piece of music is called 'The Last Post' which has been used by the British Army for many years to mark the end of a soldier's working day. Today it is used to remember those who have died.



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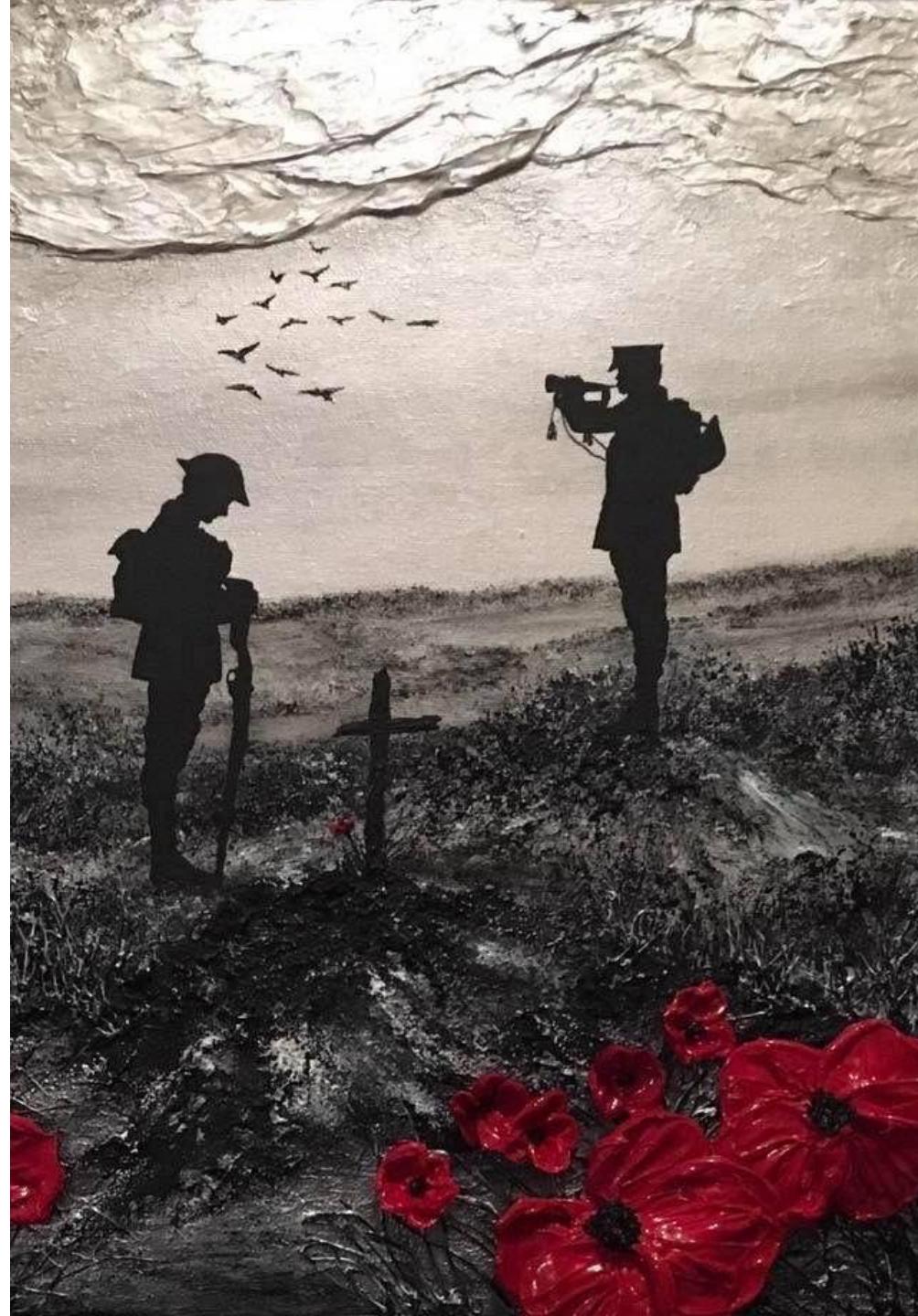
[Click on this link if you would like to hear the Last Post played by a student at Cardinal Newman School](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/292248827551580/videos/805225556253902/>

You may also hear The line "Lest we forget", this is often added as if were part of the ode **"For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyons**, and is repeated in response by those listening.

*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.*

The final line, "We will remember them", is often repeated in response. The sense of legacy from the quote "Lest we forget" and the need to acknowledge sacrifice is often why it is included.



With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night:

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are stary in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

*For the Fallen~Laurence Binyon (1914)*

We use 'Poppy Day' to think about the millions of soldiers, sailors and airmen who have died fighting for their country. We also remember the families who have lost people they loved. In Britain, the Queen and leaders within the government hold their remembrance service at the Cenotaph in London.





In Luton, this is held at the war memorial outside the town hall on both Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday.

The reason why we use poppies as a symbol for 'Remembrance Day' is because they grow in the areas of northern France and Belgium, on the battlefield's where many soldiers fought and died in WWI.



In Britain, paper poppies are sold by a charity called The British Legion. This group raises money for soldiers, sailors, airmen (and their families) who have been injured or killed whilst representing Britain in warzones across the world. The money goes towards helping servicemen receive expert advice, guidance, recovery and rehabilitation. You can help this cause by donating money are wearing your poppy on Remembrance Day. It is easy to forget that the soldiers who died on the WWI battlefields were ordinary men, some even teenagers. It is important to remember those who have died whilst serving their country in both old and new wars. A time to thank those who fought to protect our country, it is a sign of respect that will continue into the future.





Unveiling of the permanent Cenotaph in Whitehall by His Majesty King George V, 11 November 1920



Luton war memorial on Remembrance Sunday.



Poppy fields Somme Battlefield, France



Thiepval war memorial - France