

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day (or Armistice Day as it is also known) is a memorial day observed to remember the members of the armed forces who have died in war.

The first Remembrance Day was held at 11 O'Clock on 11th November 1919 to mark the 1st anniversary of the end of the First World War, when the fighting stopped at

The 11th Hour

Of the 11th Day

Of the 11th Month

At this time the nation stopped work and observed a minute's silence to remember those who had died in WW1.

After World War Two it was expanded to remember those who had died in all wars.

The Unknown Warrior

After the end of the First World War many War Memorials were built in towns across the British Isles to remember the fallen.

One of these memorials is the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

11th November 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior.



The idea of a Tomb of the Unknown Warrior was first conceived in 1916 by the Reverend David Railton

While serving as an Army Chaplain on the Western Front in France he had seen a grave marked by a rough cross which bore the pencil-written legend "An Unknown British Soldier".

Reverend Railton wrote to the Dean of Westminster Abbey in 1920 proposing that an unidentified British soldier from the battlefields in France be buried in Westminster Abbey "amongst the Kings" to represent the many hundreds of thousands who died. The idea was supported by the Prime Minister David Lloyd George.



Suitable remains were exhumed from various battlefields in France on the night of 7 November 1920. They were then placed in four plain coffins each covered by Union Flags.

Brigadier L.J. Wyatt, who did not know which battlefield any individual soldier had come from, closed his eyes rested his hand on one of the coffins. The other soldiers were then taken away for reburial.

The Unknown Warrior was taken from France to Westminster Abbey where it lay in State until 11th November.



Coffin of the Unknown Warrior Westminster Abbey 2011.20 IWM

The Burial was attended by King George 5th and the guests of honour were a group of about one hundred women. They had been chosen because they had each lost their husband and all their sons in the war.

The coffin was then buried only a few feet from the entrance, in soil brought from each of the main battlefields. Servicemen from the armed forces stood guard as tens of thousands of mourners filed silently past.

The grave was then capped with a black Belgian marble stone and engraved with an inscription made from brass from melted down wartime ammunition.

It is the only tombstone in the Abbey which it is forbidden to walk on.



A field of red poppies in the foreground, with a green field and hills in the background under a cloudy sky.

On every Remembrance Day the Last Post is played followed by a Two Minute Silence.

This normally happens at 11 O'Clock. However this year because of Covid we need to change how we do this.

You will now hear the Last Post. Please remain silent and show respect in memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Last Post



Extract from “For the Fallen”

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.

Robert Laurence Binyon