

The first to lose their lives serving the United Nations in the cause of peace

Count Folke Bernadotte

Count Folke Bernadotte headed the Swedish Red Cross during World War II. In 1948, he became the UN's first mediator in Palestine. Shortly before his plan for a political solution to the Palestine question was to be presented to the UN, he was assassinated in Jerusalem. In 1998, his family received the Dag Hammarskjöld medal.

Commandant René de Labarrière

The French officer, Commandant René de Labarrière, was the first peacekeeper to lose his life in a UN peace-keeping operation. Serving as a Military Observer in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation in Palestine, he was killed by a landmine on 6 July 1948. In 1998, his family received his Dag Hammarskjöld medal.

BAND OF THE BLUES AND ROYALS



In 1650, Parliament created a Regiment of Horse, renamed the Royal Regiment after the Restoration. As early as 1661, the Regiment had kettledrummers and trumpeters wearing heavily embroidered and gold laced frockcoats similar to today's state dress. The black velvet 'jockey cap' was introduced in Queen Victoria's reign. The Band itself began in 1805 when the king presented it with a set of silver kettledrums. In the early 20th century, it earned fame through the inspired compositions of its distinguished Director of Music, Charles Cousins who took it to France and Flanders during the First World War, reviving the spirits of many thousands. The band is one of only two mounted bands in the British Army, providing music in both mounted and non mounted formats for State ceremonial events and military and civilian occasions. Based in Windsor, most of its 35 musicians play two instruments with a repertoire from Bach through to the latest West End Shows. They can perform as a Marching Display Band, Dance Band and Rock Band and there is also a very capable Symphonic Concert Band performing many concerts throughout the year.

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Lebanese army and UNIFIL mark International day of UN Peacekeepers

13 May 2013 - UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous lauded the efforts of UN "blue helmets" in maintaining peace along the so-called Blue Line separating Israel and Lebanon, adding that the work of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNFIL) was crucial in building confidence in the region. He commended Israel and Lebanon for their continued commitment to the cessation of hostilities and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 which ended the 2006 war between Israel and the Lebanese group Hizbollah and calls for respect for the Blue Line, the disarming of all militias in Lebanon, and an end to arms smuggling in the area.

The United Nations Association



UNA-UK is the UK's leading independent authority on the UN (www.una.org.uk). Independent of the UN system, it can be critical of its decisions and activities if needed and can call for reforms to better equip it to fulfil its fundamental functions; to maintain international peace and security, to promote development and to uphold human rights around the world. UNA-UK has recently published reports on the Responsibility to Protect, the prospects for a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine and the welcome Arms Trade Treaty, recently adopted with overwhelming approval at the UN General Assembly in April 2013. See www.una.org.uk Today's International Peacekeepers Day conference and remembrance ceremony will be the tenth organised by its Westminster Branch.

For information on previous ceremonies, visit www.unawestminster.org.uk



International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers



Remembrance Ceremony

The Women of World War II Memorial
1.00pm, 22 May 2013

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

Remembrance Ceremony

The wreath-laying party will march from the Royal United Services Institute led by the Colour Guard of the United Nations Veterans Association

Statement: Baroness Onora O'Neill, CBE

We gather to pay tribute to the 100,000 men and women who wear the blue berets and blue helmets of United Nations Peacekeepers and those who served before them. On this International Day of Peacekeepers, we honour their professionalism, dedication, courage, and the memory of those who lost their lives in the cause of peace.

We remember the more than 3,000 Peacekeepers who died in 67 peace-keeping missions since they were first deployed in 1948. The dangers are still acute, as we saw in the DRC recently when a convoy was targeted and on the Golan Heights when peacekeepers were captured and since released.

Today we meet at the Memorial to the Women of World War Two. The monument is dedicated to all the women who served our country and the cause of freedom in uniform and on the home front. It is not by nature a purely military memorial. It depicts the uniforms of women in the forces alongside the working clothes of those who worked in the factories, hospitals, the emergency services and the farms. When the war ended most women hung up their uniforms, which the memorial depicts, and went home. That has never been an option for the Peacekeepers. They cannot hang up their berets and helmets as long as conflict and the danger of escalation remain a global challenge.

UN Peacekeepers are currently deployed in 14 countries across four continents. They come from 117 countries, large and small, rich and poor. By their deeds and example, they give their lives to those who foolishly regard the United Nations as nothing more than a talking shop.

We thank them and their governments represented here today for their enormous contribution to the cause of peace. They are not engaged in the pursuit of military victory. Theirs is the search for a lasting settlement of disputes and permanent end to bloodshed and suffering in countries torn in conflict.

Prayer: The Reverend Clare Herbert, *Lecturer in Inclusive Theology at St Martin in the Fields.*

The Last Post is called and the United Nations flag is lowered. After a short silence, the Reveille is called.

Wreaths

In memory of Count Folke Bernadotte, UN mediator in Palestine, assassinated 1948

Astrid Bernadotte, *Granddaughter*

In memory of UK servicemen and women

John Cooke, *UN Veterans Association (UK)*

In memory of Commandant Rene de Labarriere, the first UN fatality

Captain Philip Stonor, *RN Retd, former Naval Attache, British Embassy, Paris*

In memory of those from 120 nations who have lost their lives in the cause of peace

Sarah MacIntosh, *Director of the Directorate for Defence and International Security, FCO*

Major General Mark Poffley, OBE, *Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Capability and Force Design)*

Olivia Pinkney, *Assistant Inspector of HM Constabulary*

and members of the Diplomatic Corps

Representing

The widows of UN Peacekeepers

Mrs Anne Hartley, Vice Chairman, *War Widows Association*

UK Civilian Staff

David Irwin, *HM Revenue and Customs*

The United Nations Association

Natalie Samarasinghe, *Acting Executive Director, UNA*

The Youth of the World

Pupils from Grey Coat Hospital School for Girls and Westminster City School for Boys

Closing Prayer: Flight Lieutenant Emily McCullough, *RAF Leuchars, UK Armed Forces Humanist Association*

Closing statement: Baroness Onora O'Neill

Here is the heart of London where the General Assembly of the United Nations first met in 1946 and in the presence of those who have served in United Nations peacekeeping operations in many countries, we commit ourselves to the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United Nations Charter. The struggle for peace and justice goes on. We send out thanks and best wishes to the UN Peacekeepers who serve that cause in all our names.

The Colour Guard will lead the procession back to the Royal United Services Institute.

Students from the Grey Coat Hospital School for Girls and the Westminster City School for Boys will serve as marshals throughout the ceremony.

United Nations peacekeepers: Keeping the peace, protecting the people

Today, there are 93,000 uniformed UN peacekeeping troops from 116 nations including 12,500 police, serving in 14 UN operations on four continents. About 3500 women peacekeepers serve in the military and police. These are joined by 5,700 international civilians and more than 13,000 local civilian staff. The UN is the largest multilateral contributor to post-conflict stabilisation worldwide. Only the US deploys more military personnel to the field. Approved resources for the year ending 30 June 2011 totalled about £5 billion. In 2005, UN peacekeeping operations involved 161,000 military and police personnel using 864 flights on 200 long-term charter aircraft, moving in all 700,000 passengers to various missions. In that year, the UN deployed 220 medical clinics and 21 military hospitals.



Following an ambush, Nigerian peacekeepers in Darfur learn of the death of four colleagues and injury to eight others. October 2012



Uruguayan peacekeepers in the DRC land near Uvira, South Kivu, to protect commercial navigation against piracy. October 2012

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

A total of 3,108 peacekeepers from 122 nations have lost their lives in service. Of these, 103 were British. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was first observed on 29 May 2003, the date in 1948 when the first UN peacekeeping mission, its Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine. On this day, we pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations, as well as to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. We remember them together today as, unlike those who died for their country in battle, each might have been from one's own country.

Women Make Excellent Peacekeepers

From 1% in 1993 to today's 4% of military personnel and 10% of police, women serve in all areas of peacekeeping, making a positive impact on peacekeeping environments, supporting the role of women in building peace and protecting women's rights. They can perform the same roles, to the same standards and under the same difficult conditions, as their male counterparts. It is an operational imperative that the UN recruits and retains female peacekeepers. They act as role models in the local environment, inspiring women and girls in often male-dominated societies to push for their own rights and for participation in peace processes. Three women lead UN peace operations and there are three all-female UN police units deployed, Indian in Liberia, Bangladeshi in Haiti and Samoan in Timor.



Policewomen march at the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur commemorating the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. May 2011

The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

The Medal is a posthumous award to members of UN peacekeeping operations who have lost their lives in service under the control and authority of the UN. The 3" x 2", clear glass crystal ellipsoid is grit-blasted with the name and date of death of the recipient, the UN symbol and the inscription "The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal. In Service of Peace" in English and French. Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary-General (1953-1961) died in a plane crash while on a peace mission in the Congo fifty years ago. In September 2013, the Hammarskjöld Commission, a voluntary body of international jurists, will report on whether evidence now available would justify the UN in reopening its inquiry into the cause of Hammarskjöld's death (GA Resolution 1759 (XVII), 26 October 1962) See www.hammarskjoldcommission.org



Bangladesh all female police unit arrives in Haiti 2010