

About those we remember:

Count Folke Bernadotte

Count Folke Bernadotte, head of the Swedish Red Cross during World War II, led a relief expedition to Germany, saving 30,000 concentration camp prisoners. Serving as the UN's mediator in Palestine, he was assassinated in Jerusalem in 1948, becoming the first member of United Nations Staff to be killed in the line of duty. The wreath will be laid by his grandson.

Commandant René de Labarrière

The French officer, Commandant de Labarrière, was the first United Nations peacekeeper to lose his life. Serving as a Military Observer in Palestine, he was killed by a landmine in 1948.

Dame Margaret Anstee

Serving the United Nations for over four decades (1952–93), Dame Margaret was the first woman to be appointed UN Under-Secretary-General, in 1987. She served as the Secretary-General's Special Representative to Angola and the first woman to head a UN peacekeeping mission. She maintained close links with her old school, the Chelmsford County High School for Girls and with the nearby Anglo-European School, both participating in today's ceremony.

About the ceremony:

The Band of the Welsh Guards

The Band was formed in 1915. It has toured extensively, recently to Spain, Australia, Belgium, Egypt, the USA and Canada, and the Balkans. The Band provides musical support today through the kind permission of its Director of Music, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Roberts.

The United Nations Association

The United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) is the only charity in the UK devoted to building support for the UN among policy-makers and the public.

We believe that a strong, credible and effective UN is essential if we are to build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. We push for government support for the UN, find ways to make it work better, and demonstrate why it matters to people everywhere.

This annual ceremony and accompanying conference is organised by the United Nations Association and the Royal United Services Institute, together with the UNA Westminster branch which first organised it in 2004. The ceremony in London witnesses the world's largest assembly of diplomats marking this important United Nations anniversary.

More information at www.una.org.uk, search #Peacekeepers17 on twitter.



UNA-UK

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

Remembrance Ceremony

The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London
1.15pm, 24 May 2017

The Band of the Welsh Guards and the Colour Guard of the United Nations Veterans Association will lead members of the diplomatic corps and other wreath-layers from the Royal United Services Institute to the Cenotaph.

The Ceremony

Speeches:

David Wardrop, Chair, Westminster United Nations Association

The Revd Nigel Cowgill, Chair, London District, Methodist Church

Bugler sounds *Last Post* and UN flag dips. After a period of silence, the bugler sounds *Reveille*.

Wreaths are then laid in the following order:

In memory of Count Folke Bernadotte
Count Edward Bernadotte

On behalf of former UN servicemen and women

Kieran Ryan, Chair, UN Veterans Association

In Memory of Commandant René de Labarrière

HE Mrs Sylvie Bermann
Embassy of France

On behalf of Her Majesty's Government

Alok Sharma, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office

On behalf of Her Majesty's Armed Forces

General Sir Christopher Deverell,
Commander of Joint Forces Command
of the United Kingdom

On behalf of Her Majesty's Police Forces

Sir Thomas Winsor, HM Chief Inspector
of Constabulary

Speeches:

Mrs Geetha Maheshwaran, Shree Ghanapathy Temple

David Wardrop

After the ceremony, the Colour Guard of the United Nations Veterans Association 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.

On behalf of Embassies and High Commissions in London

Diplomats and military attaches
representing one hundred embassies
and high commissions

On behalf of the widows of UN peacekeepers

Baroness Garden of Frognal

On behalf of former UN civilian staff

David Irwin

On behalf of the United Nations Association

Tessy de Luxembourg

On behalf of the British Association of Retired UN Civil Servants

David Mitchels

On behalf of the Royal United Services Institute

Dr Karin von Hippel

In memory of Dame Margaret Anstee

Students from the Chelmsford County
High School for Girls and the
Anglo-European School

On behalf of the Youth of the World

Students from the Grey Coat Hospital
School for Girls and the Westminster City
School for Boys

About United Nations Peacekeeping



The UN's 112,000 peacekeepers operate in some of the most fraught regions across the globe. They stand between civilians and the forces of violence, between crisis and peace. Their bravery and commitment exemplify the UN's mission "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

UN peacekeeping operations cost around \$7.7 billion a year which makes up around half a percent of global military spending. The UN's 16 missions have a proven record of conflict prevention, and various studies have shown that the presence of peacekeepers significantly reduces the risk of renewed warfare and that the more peacekeepers are, the fewer the civilian deaths*

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

3,553 UN peacekeepers from 119 nations have lost their lives; of these, 104 were British. The International Day was first observed in 2003 on 29 May, the date in 1948 when the first mission began operations in Palestine, to pay tribute to all those who died in the line of duty.

Peacekeeping and the UK

Once the largest contributor of troops to UN peacekeeping missions, the UK currently deploys around 720 peacekeepers: 380 in South Sudan (UK troops run a field hospital and engineering programme), 280 in Cyprus, and 60 acting as advisers in other missions, predominantly Somalia. The UK is the sixth largest financial contributor to peacekeeping.

*Fortna 2004; 2008, Doyle and Sambanis 2006; Gilligan and Sergenti 2008; Hultman et al. 2014