

# Remembrance Day

*"Lest we forget"*



# Remembrance Day

*11th November*

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the fighting of the First World War stopped.





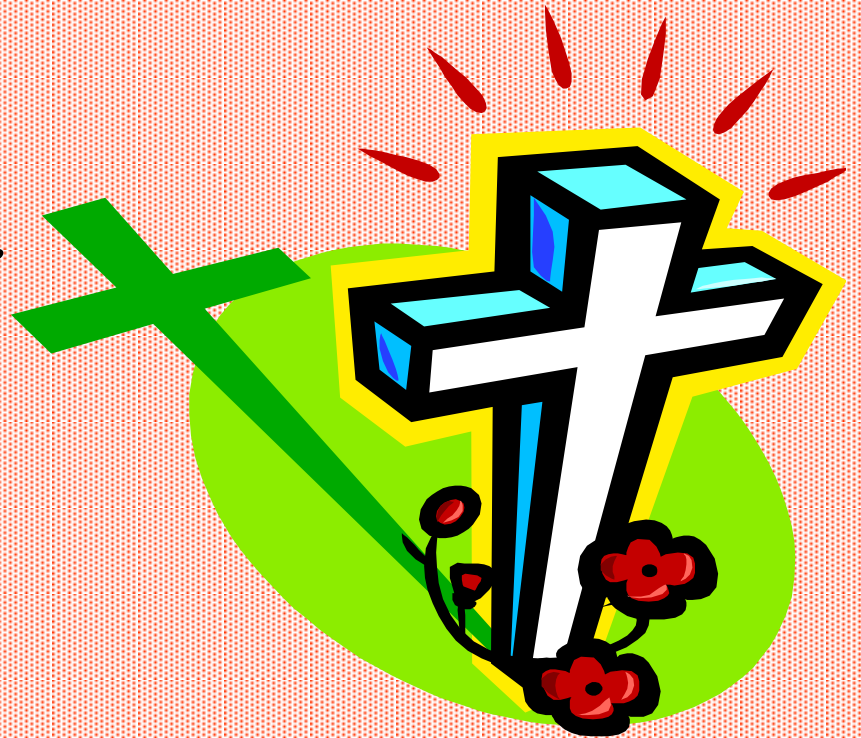


In 1919 an Australian journalist, Edward George Honey, wrote to the London Evening News and suggested that this time should be marked by a respectful silence to remember those who had died.

King George V read the letter and issued a proclamation which called for a two minute silence.

Remembrance Day takes place on the second Sunday of November or the Sunday nearest the 11th November.

We are silent at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month each year.





On Remembrance Day a number of services and parades take place.

The Queen, government representatives and soldiers march to the Cenotaph (empty tomb in Greek) in London and lay wreaths.

A two minute silence is held to remember all those who have died for their country in the First World War and all wars since.

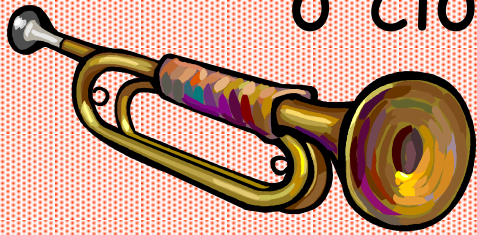


"So that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

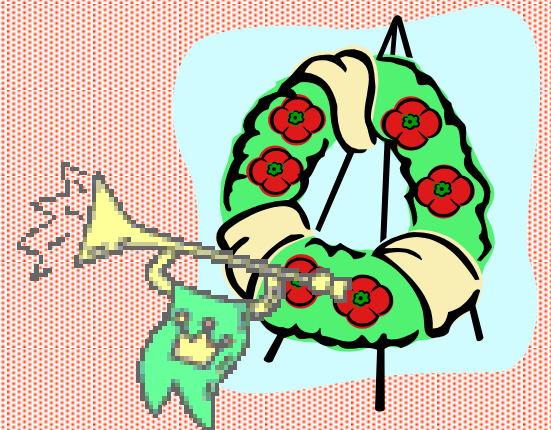




The "Last post" is played on a bugle to introduce the two minute silence at 11 o'clock and "Rouse" is played at the end.



Other commemoration services are held in churches and at war memorials throughout Britain.






## Why do we see the symbol of the poppy?

"In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below."

*John McCrae 1915*



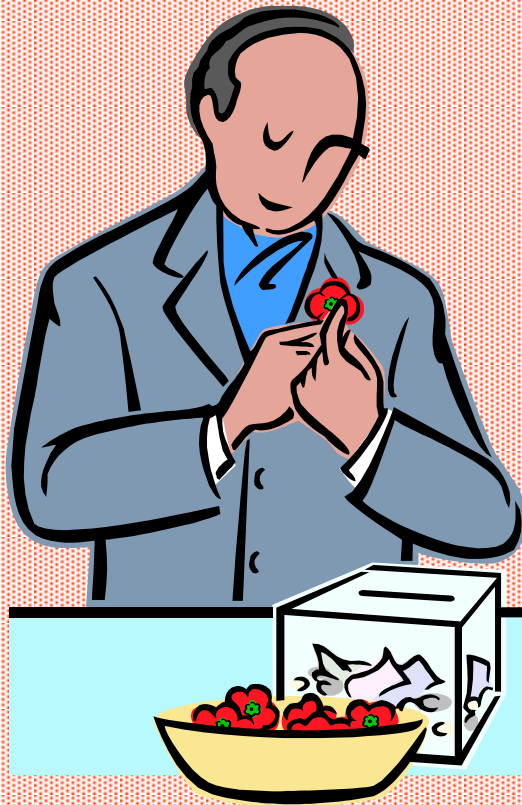




An army surgeon called  
John McCrae wrote  
this poem, "In Flanders'  
Fields" and today it is  
read at Remembrance  
Services around the  
world.

It has become the  
inspiration for people  
to wear artificial  
poppies as a sign of  
remembrance.





These are now sold on behalf of The British Legion, which is a charity dedicated to supporting people serving in the armed forces and war veterans.

People buy and wear the poppies both to give money, and as a sign of respect for those who fought.





So, Remembrance Day is also known as Poppy day. Poppy seeds which had lain dormant for many years in the battlefields in northern France bloomed after the earth was disturbed and became a symbol of new life and loss.

White poppies are also sold  
and worn as a sign of  
respect and as a symbol of  
peace.





VE (Victory in Europe)  
day marks the end of  
the second world war  
in Europe on the 8th  
May 1945.

Massive celebrations  
took place in Britain -  
and this day is still  
commemorated as a  
reminder of those who  
died during the  
Second World War.





On Remembrance Day we remember all those who have fought for peace in the past and all those fight for peace today.



# In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead.  
Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*John McCrae*



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