

The National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas is the UK's year-round
Centre of Remembrance.

It is a living and lasting memorial to commemorate and celebrate:

- ❖ Those who have given their lives in the service of their country**
- ❖ All who have served and those who have suffered as a result of conflict**
- ❖ Others, who for specific or appropriate reasons are commemorated on the site.**



Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness

Where the Act of Remembrance is observed on every day of the year. Visitors to the Chapel and surrounding areas are invited to stop in silence at 11am to remember those who have lost their lives in conflict.

Their names will live for evermore...



NATIONAL
MEMORIAL
ARBORETUM

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This is a transcript of the Homage played in the Millennium Chapel,
read by the former BBC presenter, Peter Donaldson:

"Good morning. This is a special announcement. In a few minutes' time, we will be observing a silence in this Chapel and in the Leonard Cheshire Amphitheatre. We ask you to pause in silent tribute to the memory of the 80 million people who lost their lives in wars throughout the world in the last century. We will remember especially all those who died in the defence of these islands who were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace and freedom.

The idea of a two minutes' silence appears to have been suggested first in article by an Australian journalist, Edward Honey, in the London Evening News on 8th May, 1919. On the 4th November that year, the Cabinet received a letter in support of the suggestion from Sir Percy Fitzpatrick whose son had been killed in France in 1917. Sir Percy suggested that a silence be observed on the anniversary of the end of the 1914-1918 war in memory of those who had died in the service of their country. King George V agreed and issued a personal request that on 11th November there would be, for two minutes, a complete suspension of all normal activities. Then, a ceremony was held every year at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, but the practice was suspended in 1939 on the outbreak of the Second World War. After the war, the ceremony was moved to the nearest Sunday to 11th November which was designated Remembrance Sunday.

P.T.O.



The National Memorial Arboretum Company Limited

is part of the Royal British Legion Group

Registered office: Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire DE13 7AR
Registered in England Company No. 2927443 VAT No. 806 6187 19 Charity No. 1043992



Since 1995, the Royal British Legion has campaigned with increasing success for the reinstatement of the two minutes' silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month; the moment the guns fell silent at the end of the war to end all wars. Here at the Arboretum, we observe a silence, preceded by the playing of the Last Post, and followed by Reveille, every day of the year. During the silence, a shaft of light from the bearing and angle of the sun on 11th November will shine on the altar as a symbol, and in the hope of permanent peace and freedom.

(Last Post is sounded by Buglers of the Royal Marines.) Those who feel capable are invited to stand from the Last Post to Reveille.

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.

When you go home, tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

(Reveille sounds.)

END

Transcribed by Lynne Barkas - January 2007

The silence is preceded by an introduction by BBC Newsreader Peter Donaldson, and a recording is played of the Last Post and Reveille by the band of the Royal Marines.



The Storyteller

In the corner of the chapel the Essex Woodcarvers have created 'The Storyteller,' this depicts a group of twelve children in modern dress listening to the same words that the apostles themselves heard.



The altar cloth was commissioned by The Royal British Legion Women's Section, design is based on the theme taken from the book of Revelations:
"The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations".

Three crosses hang on the wall behind the altar.
One is the Sword of Sacrifice that is present at every Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.
The other two are made from elms destroyed by Dutch Elm disease and represent the thieves' crosses.



One of the 'Twelve' Apostles' carved on the trunk of a Douglas Fir Tree.

Twelve in total and they help support the Chapel which is constructed of wood.

**The Millennium Prayer
which is just outside the Chapel door.**



**Boys' Brigade
Memorial Garden.**



The Polar Bear Association Memorial was the first monument and sculpture to be erected at the National Memorial Arboretum, it was dedicated on the 7th June 1998. It is a tribute to the 49th Infantry West Riding Division.





THE ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL

The centrepiece of the Memorial is two large bronze sculptures, representing loss and sacrifice.

A serviceman is raised aloft on a stretcher by comrades.

On either side, family members look on - a mother clasped by a child and an older couple clutching each other in anguish. It bears witness to the cost of armed conflict to those left behind - the families, loved ones and friends who live with the pain and consequence of their loss for the rest of their lives.



The dead body of a warrior is being prepared for burial by female and Gurkha soldiers. The figure before the double doors points to a world beyond where the warrior will rest as another figure chisels the name on the memorial.





THE INSCRIPTION READS:

**A SHAFT OF SUNLIGHT FALLS AT THE
ELEVENTH HOUR ON THE ELEVENTH DAY OF
THE ELEVENTH MONTH.**

Fourth from the bottom, R.G. Skelton ex-MET who was sadly killed in a helicopter crash.

JEFFERY R

COOPER MD

PHILLIPS DEA

SCOTT LR

FLINN TD

SKELTON RG

TIMMS R

BOLTON T

MACFIE AG



The empty wall...

...sadly waiting for more names.





General views of the grounds.

The smaller building on the right is the Chapel.



Another
of the
many memorials.





The RNLI memorial has been landscaped as pebble, shingle and sand beach.

The figure is of a lifeboat man in his 19th-century oilskins and cork lifejacket.

**Memorial to the
Women's Auxiliary Air Force 1939 - 1945.**





AGUILA MEMORIAL

Erected in memory of the twenty one Wrens
and one Naval Nursing Sister who were lost
when SS Aguila was torpedoed
19th August 1941

This memorial is dedicated to all who
served in the Women's Royal Naval Service



The
Fire & Rescue
Service





THE
FLEET AIR ARM
MEMORIAL.





Viewing The Armed Forces Memorial from the riverside walk.



'SHOT AT DAWN'

During the First World War some 306 British and Commonwealth soldiers were shot for desertion or cowardice. Most of them were sentenced after a short trial at which no real opportunity for defence was allowed.

'Shot at Dawn' is modelled on a seventeen year old from the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, who was shot at Ypres in 1915 aged 17.



On each post there is a name, country, date and age.

On 7th November 2006,
the British Government agreed
to give a posthumous pardon
to all of those executed for
military offences in the
First World War.



The Royal Artillery

Memorial Garden.





ROLL OF HONOUR

A PROUD TRIBUTE
TO THOSE MEMBERS
OF THE SHOWMEN'S
GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN
WHO MADE THE
SUPREME SACRIFICE
FOR KING AND COUNTRY
IN THE WORLD WARS

1914 ~ 1918

1939 ~ 1945

WESTERN SECTION

W. J. LAWRENCE, R.A.F. 1122 SECTION 1 J. J. TAYLOR, ESSEX TROOP
JOHN GRAHAM, WILTS. REGT. ALBERT HAMLIN, GLOUCESTER REGT.
L. Capt. CHAS. HENDERSON IN W. HENDERSON
LAC 17th Bn. 1st Cavalry Regt. 1918

MIDLAND SECTION

JOSEPH CROYDON, EAST SURREY REGT.
W. OWEN, SOUTH STAFFS REGT.
FREDERICK MARSHALL RYAN
IN SATTIN HORNS REGT.
HARRY JONES, 3rd BATTN. STAFFS REGT.
WILLIAM STUART DAVIES, R.A.F.
ALFRED CHADWICK
ROYAL LANCASHIRE REGT.

Showman's Guild of Great Britain.



THE POLISH SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN MEMORIAL

A dedicated memorial has been erected in recognition of the contribution made by Polish service men and women to the Allied Forces during the Second World War.





THE BASRA MEMORIAL WALL

Rededicated to 178 UK personnel and one MoD civilian killed during Operation Telic, the name given to UK operations in Iraq from 2003 to 2009.

Inside the

FEPOW MEMORIAL BUILDING.



Allied victory

On 6 August 1945 the Americans dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. On 9 August Nagasaki was destroyed by a second bomb. On 15 August Japan surrendered. The war was over. The men and women imprisoned in hell for three and a half years were free.

But for many their ordeal was far from over. They had survived but their physical and mental health was fragile and for some it was all but destroyed.

Most of the survivors believe dropping the atomic bombs was justified to prevent a prolonged war. Secret Japanese documents have also revealed plans to exterminate prisoners who did not die through starvation or disease.



The deadly mushroom cloud of the atomic bomb caused devastation at the Japanese city of Hiroshima. More than 140,000 died in the two atomic bombings and thousands more died of radiation injuries.

A Japanese official surrenders to the Allies. In the center, surrounded by Allied soldiers, some American flags are visible. The Japanese official is being escorted to the prison camp.

Men were unashamedly crying, others were hysterical with delight. Others looked blank, not able to grasp that the nightmare was over. Suddenly, England seemed much nearer.

Later released (left) looking at the Japanese flag.





