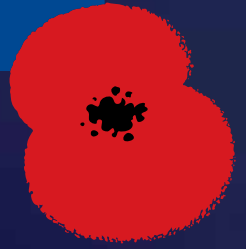


THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

LEARNING PACK 2015 | 2016

KEY STAGES 1-4
HISTORY, ENGLISH & CITIZENSHIP

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION





Dame Jacqueline Wilson, DBE, FRSL, wrote her first novel at the age of nine. One of the nation's favourite authors, Jacqueline has won countless awards, sold millions of books worldwide and from 2005 to 2007 was the Children's Laureate. She lives in Kingston upon Thames.

It always makes me cry when I watch the special ceremony in London on Remembrance Sunday. The British Armed Forces veterans march so determinedly, very proud to have fought for their country. I always buy a poppy because I know the money raised means The Royal British Legion can help support these valiant men and women. My Grandad was a soldier in the First World War and saw so many of his friends dying on the battlefields of France. That war haunted him throughout his life. He couldn't help remembering.

I thought of him when I wrote my 1914 based novel 'Opal Plumstead'. Many children wrote to me asking why my book had such a sad ending. I think we need to remember that all wars have very sad consequences. These resources help children learn about past conflict. Perhaps they'll also learn how to create a more peaceful future.

Jacqueline Wilson



01

The work of the Legion & Remembrance

The essential welfare work of the Legion, campaigns and current issues. What Remembrance means, the story of the poppy and the importance of Remembrance today. Pages 02 | 11



02

Legacy: over 100 years of conflict

The history of the First and Second World Wars and the impact of recent conflicts. How they have shaped the world today, including the role of women and attitudes towards diversity. Pages 12 | 25



03

Lesson ideas, group debate & activities

Topics for lessons and learning and group activities based on the themes introduced in the pack. Pages 26 | 31

Welcome to The Royal British Legion's Learning Pack 2015 | 16. This pack should be used with additional resources on the Legion website: www.britishlegion.org.uk as well as the two DVDs and posters in the back pocket of this pack. Together the resources support History, English and Citizenship for key stages 1-4, as well as older students.

Designed to work within the National Curriculum, these resources allow teachers, and others working with young people, the flexibility to cover a range of topics within key subject areas. This may also include work outside the classroom and cross-curricular projects and activities.

The Royal British Legion's learning resources contain in-depth historical information, downloadable classroom activities, lesson plans, assembly ideas and witness testimonies via case studies. From peacetime operations to international conflict, wartime heroes to world leaders, students can see how past and present conflicts have shaped the world today and affect the lives of ordinary people now. To reflect the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the Centenary of the First World War, in particular the 2016 centenary of the Battle of the Somme, additional information and resources have been included both within this pack and on the Legion website.

Topics covered by the learning resources support current areas of the National Curriculum for the following:

- History**
 - Commemorative days and anniversaries
 - First World War
 - Second World War
 - Britain since 1930
 - Local history study
- Citizenship**
 - War, conflict and peace
 - Identity and diversity
 - Challenging racism and discrimination
 - The identities behind Britain today
 - Issues supporting rights and responsibilities

- English**
 - Reading, writing and spelling
 - Vocabulary, grammar and comprehension
 - Writing and learning poetry
 - Learning through discussion and debate

These Remembrance-focused materials are provided free of charge to schools and learning groups as part of the Legion's commitment to promoting Remembrance and its charitable work to younger people. For further free copies of this pack or to order a pack in the Welsh language, please visit the Legion's website: www.britishlegion.org.uk

Front cover:
Tower of London poppies at night.
© Tower of London (HRP) and
Paul Cummins/Tom Piper

THE WORK OF THE LEGION & REMEMBRANCE



Easily-accessible 'Pop-in' centres across the UK
There are 16 Pop-in Centres across the UK. Help is also available online via www.britishlegion.org.uk and via our Freephone 0808 802 8080.

Much-needed holiday breaks for Service families
The Legion offers breaks to those recovering from an illness, bereavement or other life-affecting events, in its own centres and at partnership centres.



Help at home for disabled veterans
Part of the vital Legion welfare support is the provision of a free handy person service for those unable to carry out small repairs and minor household alterations.



Support for bereaved families
The Legion helps bereaved partners and families through the inquest process with expert legal advice and assistance, as well as providing emotional support.

Residential care & nursing homes
The Legion has six care homes across the UK, each providing long term nursing and personal care in high quality environments.

Recovery and rehabilitation for injured personnel
The Battle Back Centre in Lillieshall offers sports and adventurous activities for wounded, injured and sick Service men and women.



Dementia and respite care
All of the Legion's care homes offer respite care and four of them provide specialist dementia care services.

WWW.BRITISHLEGION.ORG.UK

Serving personnel, ex-Service men and women and their families, make, and have made, incredible sacrifices to meet the demands of being part of the British Armed Forces community. The job of The Royal British Legion is to support them all, now and for as long as it is needed.

Who we help
The Legion is there for all members of the British Armed Forces community, not just serving members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, but also ex-Service men and women (veterans), their carers and families. Millions of people in the UK and overseas are eligible to call on the Legion for help and half the people helped by the Legion are below retirement age.

England, Scotland and Wales has supported the Legion's campaign and committed to delivering the terms of the Covenant in their regions. This has resulted in better overall Armed Forces welfare and the securing of significant improvements in compensation for those who have suffered injury and bereavement. The principles of the Covenant are now enshrined in law.

Campaigns
Since its formation in 1921, the Legion has always campaigned for a better deal for the men, women and families it represents. In 2007, the Legion called on the British Government to honour the Military Covenant with our Armed Forces, recognising its lifelong duty of care to those making a unique commitment to their country. Today, the campaign has achieved its objectives: every Local Authority in

How funds are spent
The Royal British Legion is the UK's biggest Armed Forces charity. It provides practical, emotional and financial support to all members of the British Armed Forces past and present, and their families. Apart from the extensive campaigning activities mentioned above, the Legion also organises the Poppy Appeal, is one of the UK's largest membership organisations and is recognised as the nation's custodian of Remembrance.

SERVICE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL CLUBS

The Royal British Legion is affiliated to a Service children's organisation that operates through school clubs, currently established in 120 schools with over 7,500 members. The aim of the clubs is to provide a mutual network of support and comradeship to help young people deal with the additional pressures faced as part of a British Service family due to frequent moving, deployment or injury. By providing a range of activities in a positive environment, the clubs ensure that children can get to know others in a similar situation, share their experiences and concerns and benefit from the mentoring of older members. Raising understanding and awareness of life as a Service family amongst the general public, is a central part of the organisation's work.



THE JACKSON FAMILY

Harley Jackson is nine and has two younger brothers aged four and three. His stepdad is in the British Army and has had several recent, lengthy tours of duty overseas. Apart from the extended absence, the family have also recently been through an especially difficult time.

Harley attends a school where around a quarter of the pupils are from Forces families; he also receives support from the Legion-affiliated Service Children's School Club which helps him both in school and at home. Being involved in the club means that he always has someone to talk to when things are difficult and is given attention and time to ensure he feels supported and valued, as well as having lots of fun with other club members.

The Legion also provided practical support for the family when they moved home, helping with a rental deposit, vouchers for food and Christmas presents for the boys, as well as a stair gate and tumble dryer.

"The help from the club really brought out Harley's confidence. Without the Legion's support, I would have been lost, it made such a positive difference to the family Christmas." Zoe Jackson



Legion-affiliated schools' clubs support 7,500 children from British Service families across the UK, USA, Germany and the Falklands.

WWW.BRITISHLEGION.ORG.UK

REMEMBRANCE

2016 marks 100 years since the Battle of the Somme, a catastrophic battle that cost an estimated 620,000 British and French casualties during the First World War.



The Poppy is:

- A powerful symbol of Remembrance and hope
- Worn by millions of people
- Red for the natural colour of field poppies



© IWM (© 2016)



A series of national commemorative events are planned in 2015 to honour the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, including VE and VJ Days.



The Poppy is not:

- A symbol of death or blood
- A sign of support for war
- A reflection of politics or religious faith

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Remembrance is for everyone affected by conflict, past and present.



Wearing a Poppy:

- Is a personal choice
- Is not compulsory
- Is appreciated by all those it helps



The Royal British Legion is the national custodian of Remembrance, facilitating national, regional and local commemorative events and promoting Remembrance widely to communities across the UK.

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.

Lt Col John McCrae



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over £106,000, a small fortune at the time. In 1920, Major George Howson, himself a decorated veteran of the First World War, set up a factory in London where five disabled ex-Service men began making poppies. Three years later they moved the Poppy Factory to its current site on Richmond Hill where today those working there, many of whom are from the ex-Service community, produce millions of poppies, wreaths and Remembrance symbols to meet demand from across Britain.

How we remember

Remembrance is part of modern British life, culture and heritage. Embedded in the public calendar, most people associate Remembrance in Britain with **Remembrance Sunday** and 11 November, **Armistice Day**. This is when millions of people stop what they are doing and observe a **Two Minute Silence** at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, commemorating the original Armistice of 1918 which subsequently led to the end of the First World War.

Remembrance 100 years ago reflected the harsh reality that almost every family and community in Britain had been directly and very personally affected by the First World War. Remembrance in Britain today reflects many of the changes brought about 100 years ago. It also connects those who have died and been affected by the many conflicts since the First World War, including more recent conflicts such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan. Remembrance is something that touches people of all ages and backgrounds, faiths and political opinions. Everyone can be involved and take part in Remembrance activities, whether public or private, formal or informal, collective or individual. The humble poppy remains unchanged – a universally-recognised symbol of Remembrance and hope, allowing us to remember the past whilst looking ahead to a brighter future.

The Legion is responsible for the **Poppy Appeal**, the **Festival of Remembrance** and the **march past the Cenotaph** each year.

During the annual Poppy Appeal, which starts at the end of October and lasts until 11 November, over **40 million poppies** are distributed. The poppy lies at the heart of the Legion's identity – each and every one is a symbol of Remembrance and hope and, every year, millions of people make the personal decision to wear one.

The story of the Poppy

During the **First World War (1914-1918)** much of the conflict took place in Western Europe. Countryside that had once been beautiful was devastated by bombs and lengthy battles. The landscape turned from green fields to mud, bleak and barren land where little or nothing could grow. Bright red Flanders poppies, however, somehow survived and thrived in the chaos and destruction around them. Though delicate in appearance, they were in fact resilient, growing in their thousands and turning the muddy landscape into a sea of red. In the spring of 1915, a Canadian doctor called Lt Col John McCrae, mourning the recent loss and burial of a close friend, was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now-famous poem called '**In Flanders Fields**'.

McCrae's poem inspired an American academic, Moira Michael, to make handmade red fabric poppies which were then brought to England by a French lady, Anna Guerin. The (Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, ordered several million of the poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. They sold out almost immediately and that first ever '**Poppy Appeal**' raised



THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round Centre of Remembrance and is part of The Royal British Legion family of charities.

History often focuses on specific battles or conflicts and this is a vital part of putting past events into context. Remembrance, however, focuses on all those individuals, families and communities affected by conflict. Trying to remember all those involved can be difficult as their names add up to millions. This is where **memorials** are important as many of them record the names of those who were killed. Memorials also serve as a community focal point for Remembrance activities and are often a physical means of identifying local families impacted by war.

In Alrewas, Staffordshire, the **National Memorial Arboretum** is an outdoor site that contains a large and varied number of memorials to commemorate those who have given their lives for their country and those who have suffered as a result of conflict. The site reflects the contribution of the Armed Forces and organisations connected with conflict from the First World War through to the present day.

The Arboretum uses trees and plants as well as plaques, statues and other symbols to remember those affected by war. There is a **Garden of the Innocents** for children affected by conflict, including a tree dedicated to

Anne Frank, as well as memorials to those who lived and worked on the **Home Front** during the Second World War, e.g. the Bevin Boys.

At the heart of the Arboretum is the **Armed Forces Memorial** which commemorates the 16,000 men and women of the British Armed and Merchant Services killed in conflict, as a result of terrorist action or on training exercises since 1945. The memorial is a nationally-significant focus for Remembrance and was designed by **Liam O'Connor** with sculptures by **Ian Rank-Broadley**. The figurative sculptures represent loss and sacrifice and were specifically designed so that, at 11am on 11 November each year, the sun's rays stream through a doorway in the sculpture, illuminating the bronze wreath at the centre of the memorial.



A young student enjoying a Poppy Activity Workshop at the Arboretum, a fun and interactive hands-on session where students learn about the history of Remembrance.

Open 364 days a year

The Arboretum welcomes visitors of all ages and abilities.



The Shot at Dawn Memorial

For students

The Arboretum has an extensive learning programme for schools and young people, supporting curriculum-based objectives.



The RAF Association Silver Eagle



The Armed Forces Memorial

Over 300 memorials and 30,000 trees

The Arboretum is a unique living Remembrance on 150 acres of mature woodland.



Daily 11am Act of Remembrance

The Arboretum is the only place in the UK that holds a daily 11am Act of Remembrance in its multi-faith chapel.

Understanding Remembrance

The Arboretum offers a range of opportunities for developing an understanding of Remembrance, memorials and the impact of conflict.



The Burma Railway Memorial



The Armed Forces Memorial

THE LEGION'S FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY PROJECTS

4 August 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the day Britain entered one of the costliest conflicts in history – the First World War – with fighting continuing until 11 November 1918, Armistice Day.

The Royal British Legion was founded by veterans of the First World War who adopted the poppy as their symbol of Remembrance and hope. Today the Legion is at the forefront of First World War Centenary commemorations, creating events and opportunities for people to come together in Remembrance of events a century ago.

The Legion is involved in a number of commemorative First World War Centenary projects at national, regional and local levels across the UK. An update on some of these projects is provided here, however more details can be found within a downloadable booklet on the Legion website: www.britishlegion.org.uk. There are many diverse and innovative projects for all ages and interests so do check out the website for the full range of projects and inspirational ways to get involved.



The Tower of London Poppies

From August to November 2014, a major artistic installation entitled 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' saw the Tower of London's moat filled with over 888,246 ceramic poppies, each representing a British or Colonial fatality in the First World War.

Created by renowned ceramic artist Paul Cummins and stage designer Tom Piper, the project was led by Historic Royal Palaces. The Royal British Legion was involved from the very early stages of the project and the charity's permission was given for the use of the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance and hope, as the core theme of the installation.

Millions of people visited the Tower of London to view the installation and to reflect on the human cost of the First World War. The Legion was fortunate to be one of six Service charities to benefit from the sale of the ceramic poppies – the total raised was over £9.5 million.

14-18 Legacy

The 14-18 Legacy promotes greater understanding of the war and the development of a giving spirit in young people aged 11 to 18. It aims to raise £1 million for The Royal British Legion by 2018, and has raised over £80,000 to date. www.britishlegion.org.uk/14-18-legacy



Centenary Poppy campaign

From an idea conceived by members of the Greenhithe and Swanscombe Branch of the Legion, this project has ensured that the UK will be covered in red Flanders poppies throughout 2014-2018. Thanks to funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund, free poppy seeds were sent to schools in 2014 and have been successfully planted and nurtured.



National Memorial Arboretum

The UK's national Centre of Remembrance has launched a series of special activities to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. These include a WW1 Discovery Trail, Poppy Workshops for all ages and abilities, poetry recitals and special school programmes. Visit www.thenma.org.uk for details.



'Only Remembered': Michael Morpurgo

Michael Morpurgo has curated a collection of stories whose sales help support the Legion. Perfect as a useful tool for pupils studying English, History and Citizenship. www.randomhouse.co.uk



EVERY MAN
REMEMBERED



Every Man Remembered

A Legion partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. To date, over 150,000 Service men and women have been remembered – help us to commemorate all 1,117,000 who died in the First World War.

LEGACY: OVER 100 YEARS OF CONFLICT



"Today almost every one of us, whatever our racial, ethnic, national or religious roots, is directly connected to the First World War. After all, the war of 1914 became global and total: it was hard to escape its impact wherever you were."

Professor Sir Hew Strachan, 2014



The First World War

Four years of war

For Britain, the First World War began on 4 August 1914 and ended on 11 November 1918. The formal Peace Treaty was signed in 1919. When war broke out, the British Government asked for 100,000 volunteers to join the Army: 750,000 applied in the first month.



65 million fought

65 million men from 30 different countries fought in the First World War. British Forces included over 15,000 men from British colonies in the Caribbean – 185 of them were killed, 697 injured and a further 1,071 died of sickness. Many of the wounded returned to Britain for treatment.

After the Germans invaded Belgium and France, a defensive line of trenches and front lines was established. Starting in Belgium it ran south all the way to Switzerland. This line was known as the **Western Front** and is the area where the majority of British troops fought. It was also where the **Battle of the Somme** took place almost exactly 100 years ago.



628 awards for extreme bravery

The Victoria Cross, the highest military award, was awarded 628 times in the First World War. Recipients included Jack Cornwell, just 16 when he remained at his battle post despite suffering fatal injuries.

First World War battles were also fought beyond Western Europe. In Gallipoli, British troops, along with Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) Forces, attacked Turkey in the Dardanelles, beginning in February 1915 with British Naval action. Allied Forces were defeated at Gallipoli and suffered over 200,000 casualties. The defeat led to a change of command at the top and the decision was made to evacuate the Allied Forces, resulting in arguably the one successful aspect of the campaign. Today there are **31 Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries** on the Dardanelles.

Young soldiers

It is estimated that around 250,000 British boys lied about their age in order to join up. The youngest was found to be just 12 and was duly sent home. Average life expectancy in the trenches was six weeks, considerably lower if you were a junior officer or a stretcher-bearer.

Over nine million lives lost

More than nine million fighting men were killed during the conflict, one third of them through disease. At least 750,000 were British – including the British Colonial military fatalities, the figure increases to over 888,000.



Jack Cornwell



The Battle of the Somme

Almost exactly 100 years ago, one of the most famous battles of the First World War, the Battle of the Somme, began on 1 July 1916. It is most famous because of the loss of 19,000 British troops killed in a single day (from a total of 58,000 casualties) – the first day of the battle. No other conflict, before or since, can state such a statistic.

The battle began with an attack on a 30km front in France, north of the Somme river, between the towns of Arras and Albert. Fighting raged for almost five months, from 1 July to 18 November 1916. Originally planned as a joint British and French offensive, its aims were both to exhaust the German forces and to gain territory. At the start of 1916, however, the Battle of Verdun had drained France of most of their troops, thus the Somme attack became predominantly British and, in addition, was brought forward from August to relieve the pressure on the French.

Sir Douglas Haig, the new British Commander in Chief, took over the planning and execution of the attack and worked with General Rawlinson, whose Fourth Army was to lead the assault. In preparation for the attack, the

British bombarded the German lines for eight days in June 1916. They intended to destroy the German defences so that the British could attack over 'no man's land' and capture the German lines. The Germans, however, had built heavy concrete bunkers together with ferocious barbed wire barriers – the British bombardment failed to destroy either. Many of the poorly-constructed British munitions failed to work and the eight-day British assault alerted the Germans to the impending attack – they were armed, ready and solidly defended by concrete and barbed wire.

The British, having been led to believe there would be little enemy opposition, were pushed back by the German machine guns or simply mown down as they crossed no man's land, leading to the infamous statistics relating to

the highest number of deaths ever on a single day of battle. Despite the losses, the British and French continued the attack. German troops were reinforced from Verdun and despite occasional Allied victories (Pozières was captured by the Australians in July) most advances were rarely followed up and were quickly lost again.

Poor weather, including snow, finally stopped the Somme offensive on 18 November 1916. During the attack, the Allies had gained approximately 12km of ground at an estimated cost of 620,000 casualties (420,000 British, 200,000 French). The Germans lost around 500,000 men.

Over the top

Going 'over the top' at the Somme was ironically the first taste of battle for many British troops. A large number of them were part of 'Lord Kitchener's Volunteer Army' and had enlisted to show their patriotism.



The cavalry

Even after two years of conflict, British military faith was still being placed in cavalry attacks. A cavalry regiment was put on stand-by at the Battle of the Somme to 'exploit the hole in the German defences created by the British infantry attack.'



Weapons of war

The Battle of the Somme saw several different weapons being used, including mines, poisonous gas and machine guns. Some of the larger machine guns needed 12 men to operate them.



PALS

Many Pals battalions were formed, made up of men from the same villages or towns, who enlisted to serve together. These battalions suffered catastrophic losses, with whole units dying together, leaving their close-knit communities at home devastated.



The lost generation

The Battle of the Somme had dire political and social consequences in Britain. People spoke of "the lost generation" and many found it almost impossible to justify the loss of 88,000 men per mile of ground gained.

THE LEGACY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War is infamous for the number of lives it cost, however it also generated some extraordinary developments in medicine, warfare, technology and in the global political, social and cultural landscapes. It also laid the foundations of British Remembrance and saw the emergence of the poppy as a universally-recognised symbol of Remembrance and hope.

Medical advances

There is little doubt that the rapid advances in warfare during the First World War contributed to the millions of deaths, however it also left many hundreds of thousands of men severely injured, surviving the war with permanent, life-changing disabilities. The nature of trench warfare meant that the heads and faces of most of those fighting were especially exposed to enemy fire, with shrapnel in particular causing horrific injuries. During the war, both civil and military hospitals acted as theatres of experimental medical intervention, developing pioneering techniques that have positively influenced many modern surgical techniques used today.

Technology

The First World War was the first time aircraft were used in conflict, initially for reconnaissance but as pilots and engineers learned from experience, this led to the development of many types of aircraft, including fighters, bombers and ground-attack planes. The war also saw the arrival of the first tank, designed in 1915 and which initially saw combat at the Somme. Poisonous gas had also been developed and was used by both sides in the conflict, with devastating effects. British inventions included the tracer-bullet that left a visible phosphorescent trail after firing, pinpointing potential areas of attack and creating light over enemy lines at night.

Thankful Villages

Of the hundreds of thousands of cities, towns and villages in Britain, only 53 in England and Wales were fortunate enough not to have anyone from their communities die in the war. They were known as 'Thankful Villages' where 'all those who left to serve came home again'. Not one Thankful Village exists in either Scotland or Ireland, where every single community lost someone to the war. War memorials were erected all over Britain and several of the Thankful Villages (13 of which became 'double thankful villages' after the Second World War) also constructed memorials to remember their community's good fortune and gratitude.

Memorials to the missing

Men who died in the war were buried close to where they fell, resulting in the creation of military cemeteries across the world. The Tyne Cot (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) Cemetery in Belgium has almost 12,000 graves alone, over 8,000 of whom are unidentified – it is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world. Monuments erected to commemorate the missing include the Menin Gate at Ypres, Thiepval and Gallipoli. The Cenotaph in Whitehall, central London, was erected in 1919 as a temporary structure but replaced the following year by a permanent stone Cenotaph. Its name literally means "Empty Tomb" in Greek.

Language

Another legacy of the war was the influence of trench language that contributed many words to modern English language: 'lousy' and 'crummy' reflected the lice that infested the soldiers, as well as words like 'dud' (something that doesn't work) and 'blotto' (heavily intoxicated). Bits of toilet paper floating across the battlefields were given the nickname 'trench butterflies' or 'bum fodder' leading to the word 'bumpf' used today.

Ironically, many of the more serious issues facing soldiers and their families after the First World War – injury, permanent disability, homelessness, poverty and a nation challenged economically, still exist today. Members of the British Armed Forces community, 100 years on from the First World War, deal with regular risk and sacrifice. The Royal British Legion is here to support them and provide life-long care, today and for as long as it is needed.



A Heinkel He 111 bomber flying over East London during the Battle of Britain, 1940

Operation Overlord

D-Day, 6 June 1944, codenamed 'Operation Overlord' was the largest amphibious attack from water to land, in history. 156,000 British, US and Canadian troops landed in Northern France and broke through the German defences (over 370,000 Allied Forces in total were involved in the Battle of Normandy). Over 2,500 casualties were recorded on the first day alone, however ultimate success meant the beginning of the end for the Nazi regime.

Right: Landing craft on Juno Beach, Normandy, 6 June 1940

The Holocaust

One of the most significant events of the war was the Holocaust, the Nazi's systematic murder of over six million people. The Nazis targeted Jewish people, Roma (Gypsies), disabled people, Slavs and Poles, the majority of whom were persecuted and murdered.



Right: Landing craft on Juno Beach, Normandy, 6 June 1940

The most destructive conflict in history

The Second World War killed more people, damaged more property and cost far more financially than any other war. Total casualties are estimated from 50 to 70 million people.



The Blitz, London 1941

A global war

The war spread across Europe, into Africa, the Middle East, the Far East and the Pacific. In 1941 the USA joined the Allies following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. The longest battle, the Battle of the Atlantic, lasted five years, eight months, & five days from 1939 to 1945.

Pearl Harbour, 7 December 1941



Allied victory

8 May 1945 marked VE Day (Victory in Europe) however the Second World War was not yet over. Thousands of Allied Forces were still fighting in the Far East against the Japanese and thousands more were suffering unimaginable hardship and persecution as Prisoners of War. It was not until 15 August 1945 that the official Allied Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) was declared, marking the global end of the Second World War.

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THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Just 21 years after the end of the First World War, a Second World War began in September 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Of the Western European countries opposing Germany, only Britain succeeded in avoiding invasion. By October 1939, British men between the ages of 20 and 41 were required to register, ready "to be called up into the Services".

Shortly after the war began, it was often described in Britain as 'the phoney war' with few actual signs of conflict – civilians who had fled London at the first signs of trouble started drifting back to the capital. Gas masks were distributed as people waited for 'the real war' to begin in earnest. On 10 May 1940, **Winston Churchill** replaced **Neville Chamberlain** as Britain's Prime Minister and the same day, Germany invaded France, Belgium and Holland (Denmark and Norway had already been captured). **The Blitzkrieg** began and the highly effective German forces drove the British Expeditionary Forces back, taking Paris along the way. British forces retreated and 226,000 of them, along with 110,000 French, were rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk by a multitude of various ships, many returning safely to the UK.

The Battle of Britain, which lasted from July to September 1940, was the first battle ever to be fought entirely in the air. The RAF was narrowly victorious and Britain was able, crucially, to postpone the German invasion plans. **The Blitz** of Britain's cities lasted throughout the war, claiming around 40,000 civilian lives and with places of national heritage (such as Buckingham Palace) being hit. The City of Coventry was almost completely destroyed.

In 1941 the war extended further globally, with Germany invading Greece and Yugoslavia, then Russia. The fierce Russian winter, however, crippled the German forces and when Russia fought back, the Eastern Front stagnated.

On 7 December 1941, the Japanese attacked the US Forces in **Pearl Harbour**. Germany promptly declared war on the US and Japan invaded the Philippines, Burma and Hong Kong – the **Pacific War** had started.

1942 saw fighting spread to Africa as well as further intense bombing of England and Germany. In the Pacific, Japanese expansion continued into Borneo, Java and Sumatra. The fall of Singapore to the Japanese resulted in over 25,000 people being taken prisoner. Many thousands of them would die in Japanese camps in the following years, including those forced to work on the construction of the **Burma and Sumatra railways**. Later that year the war turned – the US destroyed five Japanese warships and German forces were defeated by **General Montgomery's** troops at El Alamein in Africa.

In 1943, Germany surrendered to the Russians at **Stalingrad**, Hitler's first major defeat of the war. The work of the British code-breakers at **Bletchley Park**, combined with long-range aircraft, was having a considerable effect on the Allied efforts. The German fleet pulled back and the Italians surrendered alongside the German forces in North Africa. Italy's surrender in September prompted Hitler's invasion of Italy, slowing the Allied progression. In the Pacific, US forces gained victory over the Japanese at Guadalcanal while British and Indian forces together commenced their guerrilla campaign in Burma.

By 1944 the **Allied landings** in Anzio continued to apply pressure in Italy but the Germans counter-attacked and the mediaeval monastery of **Monte Cassino** was destroyed after Allied bombing. It took three battles for the Allies to capture the area, in large part due to the Polish forces in their midst. Rome was liberated by the Allies in June, just before **D-Day** and the Allied invasion of France.

Hitler's troubles were compounded when the Russians counter-attacked,

taking Bucharest, Estonia and Budapest. In the **Battle of the Bulge**, however, in the Ardennes region of France, the Germans killed 19,000 of the US forces which delayed the Allied march into Germany. In 1945, the concentration camp at **Auschwitz-Birkenau** was liberated, revealing the horrors of **the Holocaust** and the true scale of the murderous reality of the Nazi regime. German rockets continued to rain down on London and the British retaliated with the bombing of the German city of **Dresden**.

The Russians reached Berlin on 21 April 1945 and **Hitler committed suicide** a few days later. **Mussolini** was executed by partisans and Germany formally surrendered on 7 May. 8 May was declared **Victory in Europe (VE) Day**. In the meantime in the Pacific, the war had raged on. The British advanced in Burma, the US forces had invaded Iwo Jima, followed by the Philippines and Okinawa. The Japanese at last began to withdraw from China. **Harry Truman**, the new US President, sanctioned the use of atomic bombs on Japan. On 6 August, one was dropped on **Hiroshima** and three days later, another followed on **Nagasaki**. The Japanese surrendered on 14 August 1945. The Second World War was finally at an end. **Victory over Japan (VJ) Day** is commemorated on 15 August each year.

The Home Front

Back in Britain, day-to-day living changed enormously. Householders had to conform to '**Blackout**' restrictions, covering windows and doors to prevent showing the enemy where to drop bombs. Place names and street signs were dismantled or adjusted to confuse the Germans in case of invasion. By 1940, **rationing** had been introduced for food (sugar and sweets, tea, fruit, meat and dairy products) as well as cotton and petrol. Most people used every inch of outdoor space to grow additional food for themselves and their families. Thousands of people, mainly children, were **evacuated** from towns and cities and sent to live with strangers in the country or by the sea where it was regarded as safe from the German bombs. Women worked in jobs previously carried out by men and contributed enormously to the war effort.

THE LEGACY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Veterans from the Second World War who are still living are generally in their 90s or older. Many live with original war injuries and others with disabilities developed or exacerbated as a consequence of the war. Others face dealing with hidden disabilities such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), coping with the memories of wartime experiences and trying to manage the devastating effects of war that can affect everyday life.

Britain after the Second World War

Following victory in 1945, Britain suffered the repercussions of a global conflict and it took many years to restore its pre-war standards of living. An economic depression meant that **rationing** continued and low fuel stocks led to factories and other businesses unable to work at the levels demanded for rebuilding a nation devastated by almost six years of war. Electricity was restricted and the winter of 1946/47 was one of the worst on record. The British Empire started its decline with India granted independence in 1947 and most of the rest of the Empire by 1970. The division of the continent of Europe into two separate blocs (broadly Communist and non-Communist) led to the USA and Russia assuming super-power proportions and the slide into the Cold War.

The 1950s saw a steady flow to Britain of immigrants from Commonwealth nations, mainly the Caribbean and the Indian subcontinent. Most of these people remained in Britain and made lives for themselves and their families, contributing to the multi-cultural British society of today. Britain was also one of the founder members of the **United Nations**, formed in 1945 and four years later part of **NATO** which originally comprised ten Western European Countries, including Britain, along with the USA and Canada. Membership of NATO for Britain meant a smaller but better-equipped force, able to deal with a wide variety of tasks across the globe.

The Second World War still impacts life in Britain today; we are a changed nation socially, economically, politically and

culturally. 70 years on there are unresolved issues and, for certain communities, unanswered questions and understandable resentments. The Japanese Government is often criticised for the atrocities sanctioned by its wartime regime and there remain organisations tasked with tracing Nazi war criminals to bring them to justice. For the veterans who fought in the conflict, for those left behind and for the families and descendants of those veterans, the effects of the war continue.

Today the needs of the Armed Forces community from the Second World War generation are as diverse and varied as the individuals themselves. The Royal British Legion offers care, support and very practical assistance to veterans of all ages, and their families, for as long as that help is needed. Elderly, frail or disabled veterans and widows can choose full-time, permanent residential or nursing care or remain in their own homes. They may need specialist help from dementia nursing professionals or require day or respite care in a safe and comfortable environment. Alternatively, living in their own homes, they may need occasional, reliable assistance with a range of tasks. They may require handyman services or need pension advice, they may be lonely and want some company or wish to attend a local Remembrance event. The Legion is there to meet all these needs, all year round.



Memorial to the Far East Prisoners of War

Over 50,000 British troops were captured by the Japanese in the Second World War – 12,433 of them were killed or died in captivity. This memorial commemorates those who died, those who lived through the persecution and suffering of the camps and those still living with the effects of those experiences. This building is located at the National Memorial Arboretum.



Veterans march past the Cenotaph



Veterans at a rehabilitation centre in Roehampton, 1944



VE Day celebrations at a Legion Care Home



William Stoneman D-Day veteran

Squadron Leader William Stoneman was a rear gunner on D-Day. His job was to fly behind the enemy lines, dropping decoy parachutists to confuse the enemy.

"The idea was to confuse the Germans. The decoy men we

dropped exploded on impact with the ground and left the enemy uncertain about what was happening. We were terrified but we weren't going to let that stop us. We knew the future of everything depended on victory.

After all those hours of deafening noise, I now suffer from deafness and tinnitus. But just as we did all we could to help the lads on the beaches, the Legion has done all they can for me. They secured me a Disablement War Pension, provided me with special hearing aids and helped me through a very stressful time when my wife fell ill."



Aron Shelton

Aron Shelton was seriously injured in 2007 by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Afghanistan – his close friend Thomas was killed in the same incident. Aron's left leg was amputated the following year and his right leg was permanently and severely damaged.

Aron was helped by the Legion who supported his claim for benefits he had initially been denied – he is now both a member of the Legion and works for the organisation, fundraising for the Poppy Appeal and speaking to school children in his area. He has also become a devoted father.

"I used to be a rebel, now I'm proud of who I am, what I've done, the friends I've lost and those still Serving to keep us all safe."

Conflicts since 1945:

Palestine	1947
Malaya	1948
Yangtse	1949
Korea	1950
Canal Zone	1951
Kenya	1952
Cyprus	1955
Suez	1956
Oman and Dhofar	1962
Aden and Radfen	1964
Borneo	1965
Northern Ireland	1969
Falklands	1982
Gulf 1	1991
Balkans	1999
Sierre Leone	2000
Afghanistan	2001
Gulf 2	2003

Not forgotten

There are over 16,000 names on the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.



1968

There has been only one year (1968) since the end of the Second World War when a British Service person has not been killed.



Emergency assistance

Medics and reserivists from the British Armed Forces responded rapidly and effectively to the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone – over 110 medically-trained personnel were sent there in October 2014.

£40 million

The Royal British Legion raised over £40 million in 2014 to support thousands of people from the British Armed Forces community eligible for its charitable help.

RECENT CONFLICTS

Sadly conflicts around the world continue today, for many reasons. The British Armed Forces, however, have undergone major changes since 1945.

National Service ended in 1963 following a reduction of Britain's colonial commitments and the development of a nuclear deterrent. Britain's membership of the **United Nations** and **NATO**, together with rapid technological advances, have resulted in a smaller but better-equipped force, able to deal with a variety of tasks.

Increasingly British Forces have taken on peacekeeping roles including recent projects in **Sierra Leone** tackling the Ebola crisis, peace support in other African countries, defence support and training in **Afghanistan** and a tri-service presence in the **Falkland Islands**.

As the nature of conflict has changed, so too have the advances in medical support, technological and transport developments as well as public understanding of the needs of the British Armed Forces community. Injured Service men and women, who would almost certainly have died in earlier conflicts, survive today. They have the immediate back up and assistance of superbly-trained Forces medical experts and later the rehabilitation and recovery programmes funded or managed by, amongst others, The Royal British Legion. Bereaved families are supported by the Legion, given legal expertise to guide them through inquests and offered immediate practical assistance through the bleakest of times. Respite care, family holidays and long-term family support remain at the centre of Legion welfare services, helping the Armed Forces community live on.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT



Left: Violette Szabo & Odette Churchill
Below: Noor Khan

Special Operations Executives (SOEs)

Violette Szabo and Odette Churchill, Special Operations Executives in the Second World War, were both captured and tortured whilst fulfilling their secret roles. Violette Szabo was executed by the Germans at Ravensbruck concentration camp. Both women received the George Cross for their exceptional courage.

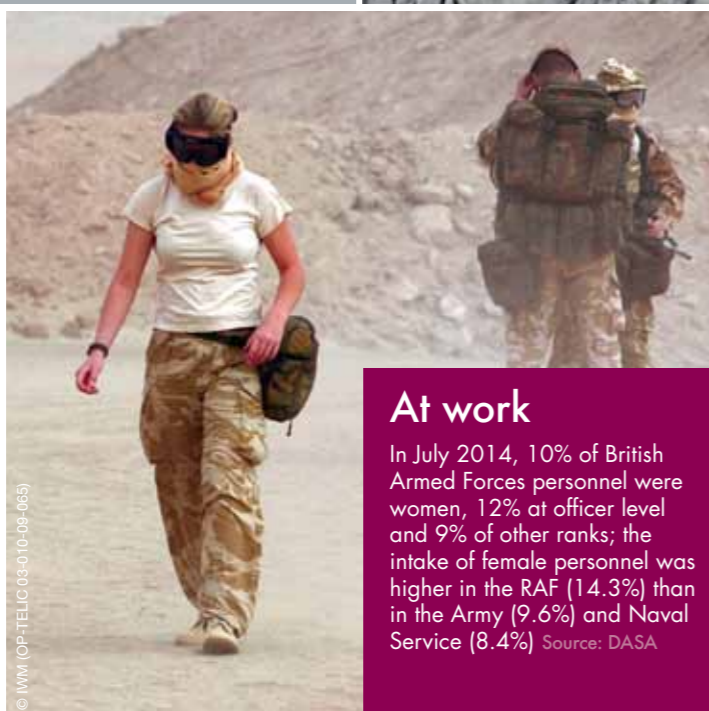


© The National Archives



At home

Many women are directly affected by conflict today, as the wives or partners of men serving in the British Armed Forces. They can face long periods of separation and times of great tension, knowing their loved-ones are in danger. Daily family life is often seriously impaired.



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At work

In July 2014, 10% of British Armed Forces personnel were women, 12% at officer level and 9% of other ranks; the intake of female personnel was higher in the RAF (14.3%) than in the Army (9.6%) and Naval Service (8.4%) Source: DASA

The First World War

Before the First World War, about the only task that women were permitted to undertake was the role of nursing, as epitomised by **Florence Nightingale** and **Mary Seacole**. War changed everything and by 1918 the number of British women in employment had increased by 1.5 million, many playing active roles linked directly to the conflict. Their number included 57,000 **WAACs** (members of the **Women's Auxiliary Army Corps** set up in 1917) who, though not allowed to take part in active combat, served in France and Britain, fulfilling essential medical, clerical and other jobs.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAINS)

was established in 1902, replacing the Army Nursing Service. Exclusively open to women and along with the QAINS Reserve and Territorial Force Nursing Service, they were immediately mobilised for duty within a week of the First World War being declared. Only a few years earlier in 1909, the **Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD)** was formed in Britain to 'act as support in times of war' – their foresight was remarkable.

One of the few female casualties of the First World War is buried at Lijssenthoek Cemetery in Belgium, alongside the men with whom she worked – hers is the only female grave amongst 10,000. **Nellie Spindler**, born in 1891, was a nurse from Wakefield serving at a tented medical clearing station close to the Belgian front line. She was hit by a fragment from a German shell and died less than 20 minutes later aged just 26.

The Second World War

During the Second World War, women's roles were extended in both military and civilian arenas. Apart from nursing roles in hospitals near the front lines, women in Britain were based at radar stations, military camps and dockyards, all targets for German bombing campaigns. By 1943, 90% of single women and 80% of married women were directly involved in war work. **The Women's Land Army**, formed in 1939, meant that women took on vital jobs to support the war effort and feed those at home by working on farms, labouring and taking on many of the roles previously filled by men. 37 Women were also recruited as **SOEs (Special Operations Executives)** including **Violette Szabo, Odette Churchill** and **Noor Inyat Khan**, whose secret and highly dangerous missions overseas comprised sabotage and subversion.

Women in the Armed Forces today

Today women play leading roles across the British Armed Forces, their roles equal to many of their male counterparts, except in hand-to-hand combat, though this is likely to change in the near future. In December 2014, the then Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon, announced that he wanted to end the Army's ban on women serving in frontline infantry roles. "There are women flying fighter bombers at the moment over Iraq and I don't think it is right now to exclude women from considering any role that they want to apply for... it is wrong to restrict the entry of women into any branch of the Armed Forces. It has been done already in the frontline for police, for example, where women are serving in firearms units and smashing down doors."

"There are women flying fighter bombers at the moment over Iraq and I don't think it is right now to exclude women from considering any role that they want to apply for... it is wrong to restrict the entry of women into any branch of the Armed Forces. It has been done already in the frontline for police, for example, where women are serving in firearms units and smashing down doors."

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon, December 2014

Edith Cavell

Edith Cavell was an iconic figure from the First World War; a British nurse executed by the enemy for protecting and assisting her countrymen during conflict. Working in Brussels nursing the wounded from both sides, she instructed her staff to "take no part in the quarrel – our work is for humanity". After refusing to hand over Allied soldiers to the German forces she was arrested, charged and later executed by firing squad, despite protests from Britain and the USA. One of her last comments was "patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone". Her compassion, professionalism and forgiveness have inspired millions since her death. www.cavellnursestrust.org



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Samantha Bowen

Samantha Bowen joined the British Army at 16 and became a gunner in the Royal Artillery. In 2006, Bowen was on tour in Iraq when an attack against her base by Iraqi insurgents resulted in her suffering near fatal shrapnel wounds. "It was such a shock. About 10 minutes after I was injured, I was losing so much blood because the shrapnel from the mortar went right through my leg, cutting all the nerves. I dragged myself across the ground, heading to the shower blocks in darkness – not a big distance but it hurt like hell. I banged on the door and a padre opened up. They called for the medics but it took 20 minutes or more before they could get to me. The padre kept me going, kept me alive – that night, when I needed him, he was there."

For over 100 years, men and women from all over the world have served both within and alongside the British Armed Forces. Thousands left their homes, families and countries to fight for a nation they had never seen, often simply to bring honour and glory to their communities. Many faced issues of racism, ignorance and lack of understanding of their cultural, social and religious differences.



Walter Tull

Born in Kent in 1888, the son of a Barbados carpenter and a white English mother, Walter Tull became a professional footballer and played for Clapton, Tottenham and Northampton. As part of the 1st Football Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, Tull was given officer status and made a Second Lieutenant, an extraordinary achievement for someone with his background at the time. Killed on 25 March 1918, his men tried to retrieve his body but failed – he has no marked grave. His Commanding Officer described him as “brave and conscientious” and added “we have lost a faithful officer and personally I have lost a friend”.



Johnson Beharry

Johnson Beharry was awarded the Victoria Cross in 2005 for valour in the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces, the first VC recipient for 20 years. Born in Grenada in the West Indies, Beharry joined his regiment in 2001 and was trained to drive armoured vehicles. In Iraq in 2004, Beharry carried out two acts of great heroism, saving the lives of his comrades – both in direct face of the enemy, under intense fire, at great personal risk to himself (he sustained serious injuries). “Beharry displayed extreme gallantry and unquestioned valour, despite intense direct attacks, personal injury and damage to his vehicle in the face of relentless enemy action.”

The First World War

During the First World War, over one million ethnic minority troops contributed to the British Allied Forces. Wherever Britain had established colonies, local regiments were formed and went on to serve across the world. Troops came from **India, Africa** and the **Caribbean** to join others from **Canada, Australia** and **New Zealand**, strengthening the Allied Forces and making an immeasurable difference to the outcome of the war. As well as ethnic diversity, there was historic religious diversity in the British Forces. **40,000 British Jews** fought in the First World War and men from **Hindu, Muslim, Sikh** and **Buddhist** faiths also fought as part of the Empire troops.

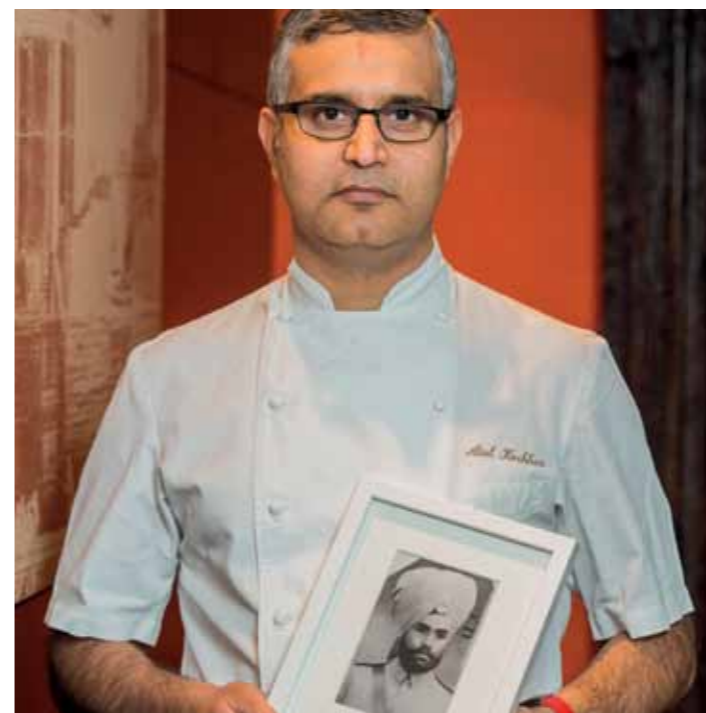
The Second World War

In the Second World War, nearly **three million ethnic minority troops** volunteered to fight in the Army, RAF and Navy. The Indian subcontinent contributed the largest volunteer Army in history to the Allied cause. Of a total population of 384 million, over 2.5 million Service men and women volunteered. 700,000 of them fought at Burma, others served in the North African campaign, in Eritrea, Abyssinia, Iran, Iraq and the Far East and of course at Kohima. Hundreds of thousands of **Indian women** served in the Naval Service and Auxiliary Corps. It is estimated that a further 14 million Indian people took part in other forms of war work. **Five Sikh soldiers** were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military award for bravery, in recognition of their actions in battles in Burma.

Gurkhas, renowned for their extraordinary bravery, have been an integral part of the British Forces for 200 years, fighting in all major conflicts including Afghanistan. **130,000 Gurkhas** fought in the Second World War, their bravery resulting in ten Victoria Crosses. The inscription on the Gurkha Memorial in central London reads: “**Bravest of the brave, most generous of the generous, never had a country more faithful friends than you.**” (Words of Professor Sir Ralph Turner MC.)

Some **375,000 men and women from African countries** also served with the Allied Forces in the Second World War, taking part in campaigns in the Middle East, North and East Africa, Italy and the Far East. Men of the 81st and 82nd West African Divisions served with great distinction against the Japanese in Burma.

Today black and minority ethnic (BME) men and women make up 7.1% of the UK Regular Armed Forces. The Army has the highest proportion of BME Regular Forces (10.3%), followed by Naval Service (3.5%) and RAF (2.1%).



Atul Kochhar

Michelin starred TV chef Atul Kochhar remembering Manta Singh of the 15th Ludhiana Sikhs, hit by a bullet whilst rescuing his friend.
Pictured left



Amber Rose Revah

At the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, thousands of Indian soldiers fought as part of a total Allied Force of 40,000 – the Indian troops suffered enormous losses in the form of 4,200 casualties.

Five high-profile British Indians lent their support to a Legion event to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Neuve Chappelle. They are pictured here commemorating all those Indians who fought, were injured and died in the battle.

Lord Bilimoria

Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, CBE DL, founder of Cobra Beer, remembering Subedar Major Thakur Singh Bahadur who was awarded the Military Cross by King George VI in recognition of gallantry.
Pictured right



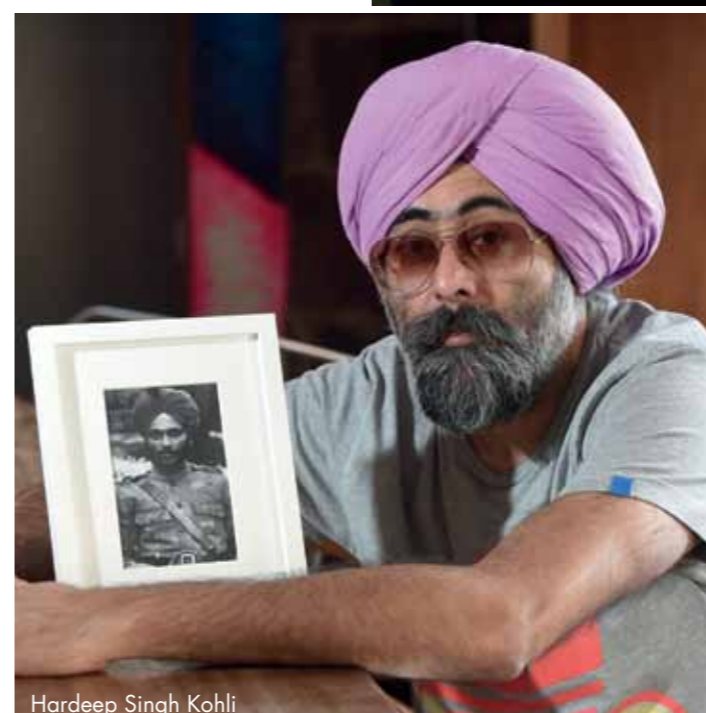
“I am aware of the sacrifices that have been made, I feel that we have a strong obligation to remember, be forever grateful and inspired by these men.”

Lord Bilimoria



Nasser Hussain

Former England cricket Captain Nasser Hussain commemorating Bal Bahadur, who rescued a colleague during the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, 1915 and returned to rescue another, but was badly wounded when hit by a German bullet.
Pictured above



Hardeep Singh Kohli

LESSON IDEAS

GROUP DEBATE

& ACTIVITIES

Diversity

These questions relate to the Diversity section of this pack. Additional information can be found in the enclosed DVD set.



1. Indian cyclists during the Battle of the Somme, 1916
2. West Indian troops in Britain: Two motor cyclists: Sapper Hibbert (left) and Corporal Simmons, both from Jamaica, serving with the Royal Engineers at Clitheroe, Lancashire, 1941



3. Nand Singh, in the 1/11th Sikh Regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery during the Second World War.



4. Private Joseva Saqanagonedau Vatubua, from Fiji, served with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and was killed in 2011 while serving in Afghanistan.



5. Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry VC carrying the Olympic Torch, 2012

YOUNGER STUDENTS

- Imagine you are a soldier from a Caribbean country who has enlisted to fight with the British Forces in the First World War. Write a letter home, describing a day in your life and giving examples of what you are doing and how you are feeling.

OLDER STUDENTS

- What kinds of issues would soldiers from diverse ethnic communities have dealt with, fighting within and alongside British Forces in the First World War?
- How have things changed in 100 years and why?

ALL AGES

- Find out about Johnson Beharry. Where was he born, what job does he do in the British Army, what happened to him? List three positive things he has done since he was injured – try and find images to reflect your selection.

- Find out how many countries sent men to fight alongside and within the British Armed Forces during the First and Second World Wars. Try and find specific case studies of men from a few of these countries. What sort of challenges did they face?

- Why do you think someone would fight for a country they have never lived in?

- Joseva Vatubua was from Fiji and part of British Forces in Afghanistan. Find out about his life, background and family.

- Why would men from certain countries be especially suited to fighting with the British in different conflicts? Consider their backgrounds, cultures and upbringing including education, personal expectations and even the geographical landscape of their home countries.

- Research Walter Tull. Why do you think he was made an officer when this was such an extraordinary event for someone of his background?

- What do you know about the Gurkhas? List ten things about them and find some images to support what you have found.

- Choose two VC recipients from the last 100 years who were not born in Britain but who achieved this highest award for their actions. Write about them and compare their stories.

These questions relate to the Work of the Legion & Remembrance section of this pack. Additional information can be found in the enclosed DVD set.



1.

1. Serving personnel enjoying the company of a D-Day veteran
2. A garden of Remembrance
3. VJ celebrations in London, 1945
4. The National Memorial Arboretum at night
5. Millions of people, both young and old, make the personal decision to wear a poppy in Remembrance each year
6. Students scatter poppies in the fountain during Silence in the Square, London

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



3.



2.



4.



5.



6.



A young girl admires the 20,000 flags with messages to D-Day heroes planted near Asnelles

ALL AGES

- Organise a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum and book in with the learning team there. Why not try a Discovery Trail or a fun and interactive 'Poppy Activity' workshop? www.thenma.org.uk/learn
- Find out about the poppy and the story behind it. What does it mean to you personally? Write a poem or a piece of prose to reflect your thoughts and ideas.
- Plan a fun summer activity with family and friends to commemorate 70 years since VJ Day and celebrate the end of the Second World War against Japan, in the Far East. Choose some Second World War ration recipes to make your party even more realistic.
- Design your own war memorial to reflect your thoughts on Remembrance today. Who are you commemorating and where will your memorial be located?
- Create your own First World War Centenary Remembrance project: it could involve planting poppy seeds, baking poppy cupcakes, researching family or local community connections to the war or supporting an existing project in your area. Check the Legion website for ideas and inspiration.
- Why not extend your Remembrance activities this year and hold a special event for the Legion? You could have a 'dress red and black' day to reflect the colours of the poppy or make ceramic poppies like the ones at the Tower of London.



OLDER STUDENTS

- Why is Remembrance significant today?
- How does Remembrance link to the role of the Armed Forces in modern Britain?
- How did the First World War affect life today, giving examples?
- Does Remembrance have to be sad? Explain your answer and describe how Remembrance affects your thoughts and feelings.
- Why do you think people felt Remembrance was so important after the First World War? Do you think that differs for people today?
- Find out about The Royal British Legion as a membership organisation. What important roles do members play and how does this help the public understand the work of the charity?
- List five things that The Royal British Legion does, all year round. Include something about the people helped by the Legion.
- Find out about VE Day and VJ Day. Why are they special days in the British calendar? Talk to people in your family or community who remember those days and ask them to tell you about their experiences.

ACTIVITIES

- Find out about the men and women in the British Armed Forces today:
 - What sorts of tasks are they asked to fulfil?
 - How does life for their family and friends differ from those of people outside the forces?
 - How does Remembrance connect them to the British public?
- Find out about the 'Unknown Warrior'. How was he selected, where is he buried and what is the tradition that links him and British Royal brides?
- Find out who lays the wreaths of poppies at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday. Describe what you think of when you see the veterans marching past afterwards.
- Research the different medals from various conflicts involving British Forces. What are the key differences between them? Why not design your own medal - what is it for and who do you think should receive it?
- Find out about the different monuments and memorials in London or in your local area. Who do they commemorate and what do they make you think about when you see them?

The role of women

WWW.BRITISHLEGION.ORG.UK

These questions relate to The Role of Women in Conflict section of this pack. Additional information can be found in the enclosed DVD set.



1. Women's Army Auxiliary Corps mechanics at work at Abbeville, France, 1917

2. A female gas lamp cleaner outside Victoria station, Manchester, 1917

3. Wrens working at a naval exchange station, Scotland, 1942



2.



4.

4. Female Service personnel fulfil key roles in the British Armed Forces

5. UK Armed Forces personnel working closely with a local community in Afghanistan



5.



3.

YOUNGER STUDENTS

OLDER STUDENTS

ALL AGES

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What jobs did women do in the First and Second World Wars in Britain?
- What kind of jobs can women do in the Armed Forces today?

- Compare and contrast the role of women in conflict 100 years ago and today.
- How did women contribute to the British war effort in the First World War, both at home and closer to the battlefields?
- How have technological and other developments improved the lives of women in the last 100 years? Give some relevant examples to support your answer.

- What was life like for women on the British Home Front between 1918 and 1945?
- How did life change for most women after 1945?
- How do women today benefit from changes made in the last 70 years?
- Find out about memorials to women in London. Who do they commemorate, what do they look like and why is the design appropriate? Check out monumenttowomenwhitehall.com to start your research.

- What issues do you think women in the Armed Forces might face today and how do you think they may choose to deal with them?

Injury & disability

WWW.BRITISHLEGION.ORG.UK

These questions relate to both World War sections and the Recent Conflicts section of this pack. Additional information can be found in the enclosed DVD set.



1.



3.

1. Disabled First World War veterans at Roehampton using their newly-fitted artificial limbs

2. Wounded British troops, evacuated from the Normandy beaches, June 1944

3. Battleback Centre in Lillieshall

4. Legion-funded rehabilitation, recovery and sports activities for wounded, sick and injured veterans



2.



4.

OLDER STUDENTS

ALL AGES

- Research the kinds of disabilities that men who fought in the First and Second World Wars experienced. What kinds of treatment, rehabilitation and practical support were available to them? How does this differ from support for injured veterans today?

- Find out about a Legion project to help veterans and their families, e.g. the Battleback Centre in Lillieshall, Bravo 22 Company, Galanos House. Briefly describe the project, explain who it helps and include your personal opinion about it.
- Write a letter to a disabled veteran (this could be someone elderly and frail or a much younger veteran); make it as positive and supportive as possible and include your own encouraging thoughts and how you personally overcome challenges in your life.

- Discuss how attitudes to disability have changed in the past 70 years.
- Check the Legion website and DVDs for case studies of injured veterans and their families. Watch their stories and make a note of your thoughts and reactions. Which do you remember best and why?

USEFUL NUMBERS & WEBSITES

The Royal British Legion

Haig House
199 Borough High Street
London SE1 1AA
www.britishlegion.org.uk
Helpline: 0808 802 8080

Poppy Appeal

01622 717172

The Poppy Factory

020 8940 3305

Poppy Scotland

0131 557 2782
www.poppyscotland.org.uk

Remembrance Travel

01473 660 800
www.remembrancetravel.org.uk

National Memorial Arboretum

Croxall Road, Alrewas
Staffordshire DE13 7AR
01283 245100
www.thenma.org.uk



Imperial War Museum

020 7416 5000
www.iwm.org.uk

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

www.ushmm.org



National Memorial Arboretum

The National Archives

020 8876 3444
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk



Commonwealth War Graves Commission

01628 634221
www.cwgc.org

The London Jewish Cultural Centre

www.theholocaustexplained.org

Bruce Castle Museum

(Haringey Culture, Libraries and Learning Service)
020 8808 8772
www.haringey.gov.uk

Veterans UK

Helpline: 0808 1914 218
www.veterans-uk.info

Bletchley Park

01908 640404
www.bletchleypark.org.uk



Menin Gate

National Army Museum

020 7730 0717
www.nam.ac.uk

The Gallipoli Association

www.gallipoli-association.org

Wiener Library

020 7636 7247
www.wienerlibrary.co.uk



Bletchley park

The Gurkha Museum

01962 842832
www.thegurkhamuseum.co.uk

Thiepval Visitors' Centre

8 Rue de l'Ancre
80300 Thiepval, France
00 33 (0)3 22 83 14 18
www.historial.org

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