

Who do we remember?

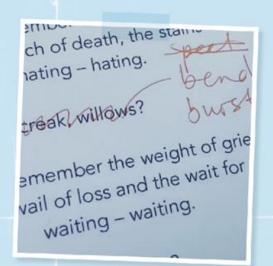
We remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth.

We pay tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services.

We acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.















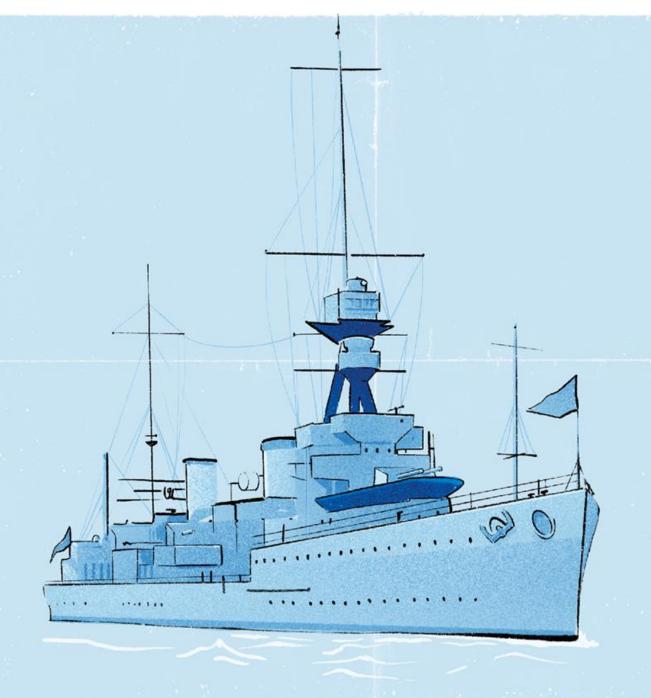


Two minute silence:

BILL MARKS REMEMBRANCE ON HIS DOORSTEP

Having been forced to shield at home with his daughter during the Covid-19 pandemic, former Able seaman Seymour 'Bill' Taylor, 95, said he would be remembering his comrades on his doorstep.





Bill served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, and was part of the D-Day operation, with HMS Emerald defending Sword, Gold and Juno beaches, shelling the enemy from the deck, before his ship was hit by an unexploded bomb and it had to be anchored back to Portsmouth.

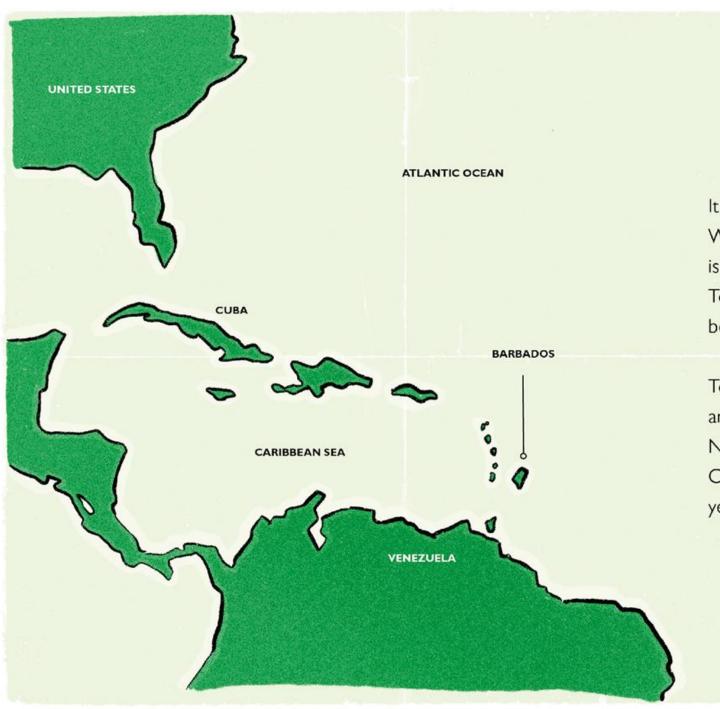
In 2020 Bill was unable to mark the 75th anniversaries of VE and VJ Day in person. But thanks to the use of modern technology including video calls, Bill still managed to be a part of the anniversaries from home.

"Although I won't be able to march up to the local memorial this year to remember those we have lost, I will proudly observe the silence on my doorstep and wear my poppy, as I do every year, with pride."

Military parades: BARBADOS

In October 1915, the British West Indies Regiment (BWIR) was formed. At that time many Caribbean islands were still part of the British Empire.





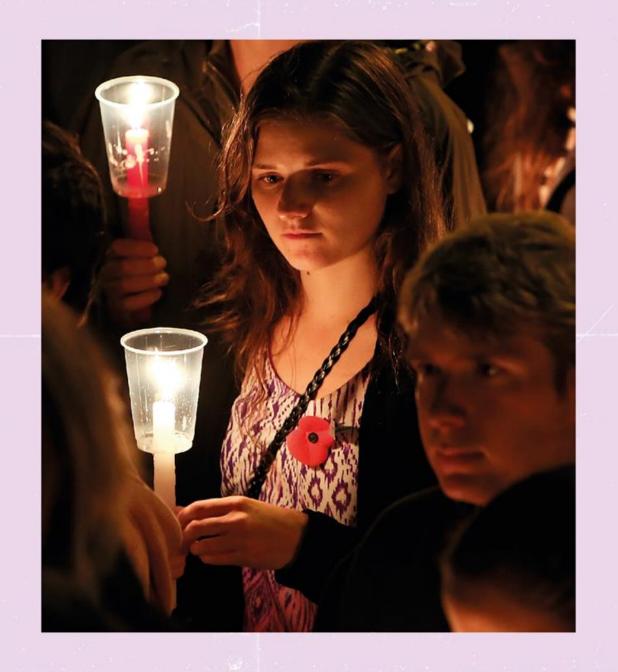
It's estimated that tens of thousands of people from the West Indies joined the war efforts but the total number is not known. Many feel their story has been erased. Today stories of West Indian service and sacrifice are still being rediscovered.

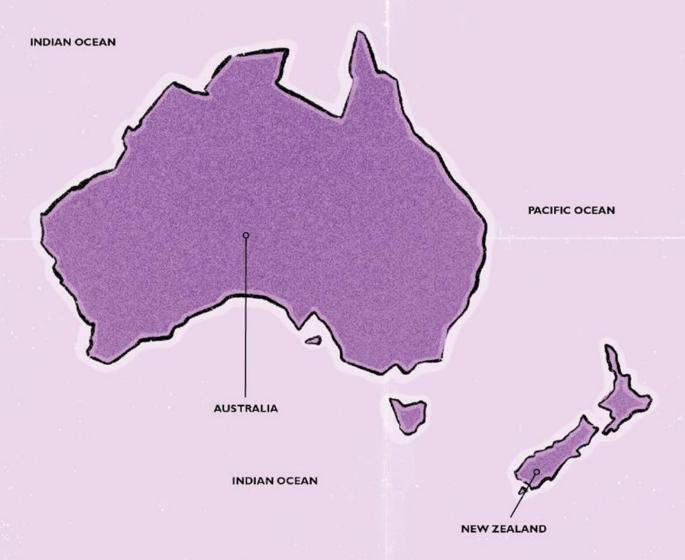
Today Barbados is part of the Commonwealth and Remembrance Day is commemorated on 11th November each year. There are similarities in the ways Commonwealth countries mark Remembrance each year.

Marking a special day:

ANZAC DAY IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

On 25th April, Australia and New Zealand commemorate Anzac Day. On that day in 1915 the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli, their first campaign of the First World War. The first Anzac Day was held in 1916 in honour of those killed at Gallipoli. It has now become a public holiday and grown to commemorate all Anzac forces who have ever served.



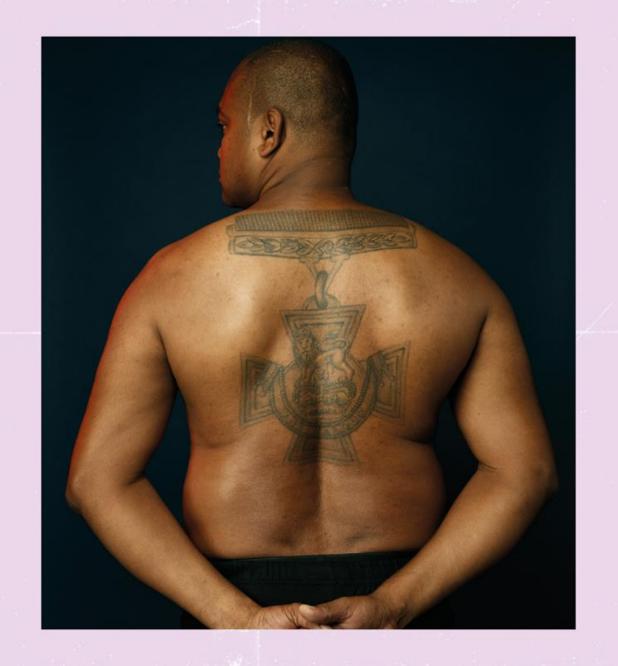


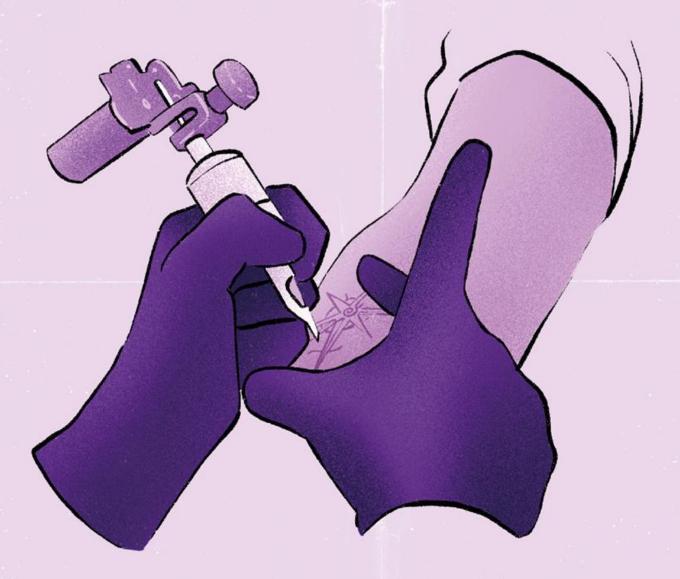
The day begins with a Dawn Service, representing the time of day that the Anzac forces landed on the Turkish peninsula. This is followed by another service midmorning and then the Anzac Day March.

In 2020, public events were cancelled, but many still commemorated the day. People were encouraged to "Light Up the Dawn" by going to the end of their driveway with a candle at around 6am. The local radio stations would then play the Last Post, recite the Ode, hold a minute's silence, and then play the Reville and the Australian anthem.

Tattoo of Remembrance: SERGEANT BEHARRY

Tattoos are a significant and permanent act of Remembrance in the British Armed Forces. Inked onto the skin, they commemorate friends, illustrate personal sacrifices and mark the lasting bonds formed with the people they serve alongside.





Sergeant Johnson Beharry was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry given to members of the British military, for extreme heroism while serving in Iraq in 2004. He is one of only five living recipients of the award.

"Maybe I was brave, I don't know. At the time I was just doing the job, I didn't have time for other thoughts."

Johnson has worn his actual Victoria Cross on only three occasions; for the Queen, at his wedding and when he met Harry Patch, the last British First World War veteran. He says he is overcome by guilt when wearing it, reminded that so many other brave friends never came home alive. As a result he loaned his medal to the Imperial War Museum but had the image of it tattooed on his back so he could always carry it with him.

Symbols

Special days

- 11th November
- · Polish commemoration of Monte Casssino
- · Anzac Day in Australia & New Zealand

Flowers

- The poppy in the UK and much of Europe
- Marigolds are worn in India and Pakistan
- The cornflower, known as Bleuet de France, in France

Life and death

- · Laying wreaths
- · Service for the unknown warrior

Monuments

Stone memorials

- Cenotaphs
- War cemeteries
- · Lists of 'the fallen'

Living monuments

 The Remembrance Glade at the National Memorial Arboretum

Art and architecture

- · Coventry Cathedral
- Poetry
- Paintings

Sound & movement

- The Cenotaph march-past
- Two-minute silence
- Dancing and music
- Bugle call
- Festival of Remembrance

What next?









Since 1921, the ways that we mark Remembrance have remained largely unchanged. Over the last year we have seen more than ever how acts of solidarity and time for reflection can unite communities. Can you think of ways to observe Remembrance that could last for the next 100 years?

YOU ARE AMAZING!