



# The Field of Remembrance

Westminster Abbey, Thursday 9th November 2023



## Foreword

### Welcome to the 95th Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

With the ongoing war in Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East, it is as vital as ever to acknowledge the sacrifices made by those who serve and particularly those that came before us. The Remembrance period brings context to current difficulties and a moment for collective and individual reflection.

It is an honour to invite Her Majesty The Queen to lay a personal Cross of Remembrance this year and for her to conduct a review of the Plots.

The work of our production veterans continues in Richmond and their hard work, combined with the efforts of all the volunteers who helped lay out this year's Field of Remembrance, allows this important tradition to endure.

This year a total of 308 plots have been laid out in the names of military associations and other organisations, including new ones to represent the Single Service Widowed Associations and the RAF Benevolent Fund. Remembrance crosses and symbols are provided so that veterans and members of the public can plant a tribute in memory of fallen comrades and loved ones.

Following the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, we have updated the large

display wreaths with the Tudor Crown and are immensely grateful to the signwriters at Wadworth Brewery in Devizes for their painstaking work and wonderful attention to detail.

In recent years, Covid-19 restrictions made it impossible to allow public access to the Field. While we are delighted restrictions are no longer necessary, we encourage all visitors to maintain appropriate distance when viewing the plots and planting tributes.

The Field of Remembrance will remain open for members of the public to pay their respects between the 9th and 19th of November.



## Order of service

**10:50am** Her Majesty The Queen will arrive at the Field of Remembrance and be met by The Dean of Westminster Abbey, The Very Reverend David Hoyle.

**10:55am** Prayers are offered.

Her Majesty will lay a personal Cross of Remembrance.

The Last Post will be sounded by a Bugler from the Band of the Irish Guards.

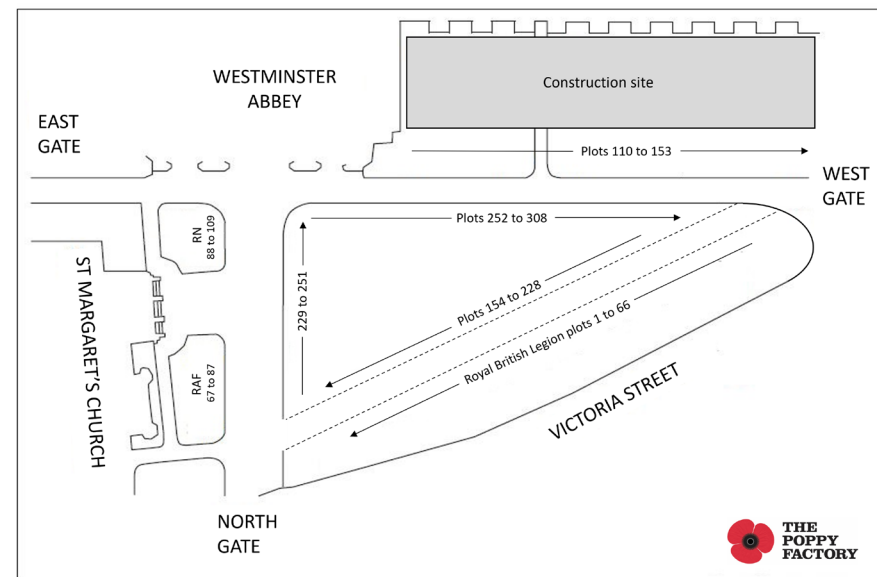
Exhortation to Remembrance by Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis CBE DL, President of The Poppy Factory.

**11:00am** A two-minute silence followed by Reveille.

**11:05am** Her Majesty will be invited to review the plots.

*All those present are asked to remain in position until Her Majesty has completed the review and departed from the Field of Remembrance.*

## Memorial plot map



Plots are listed in alphabetical order at the back of this programme.





## Origins of the Field of Remembrance

**When Major George Howson MC set out to establish an enterprise that employed disabled veterans from the First World War, he had modest expectations.**

In May 1922, after receiving £2,000 from the British Legion to open a poppy-making factory, Howson wrote to his parents: "If the experiment is successful it will be the start of an industry to employ 150 men. I do not think it can be a great success, but it is worth trying."

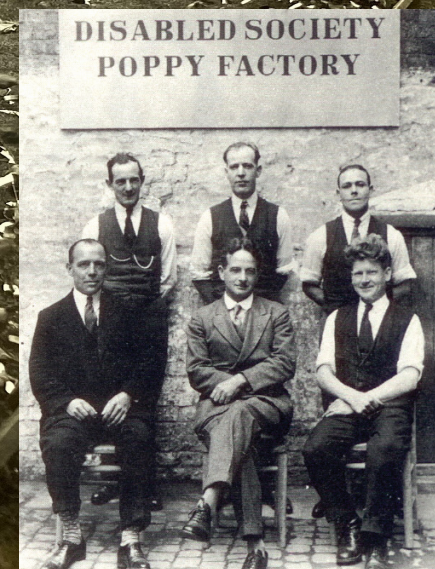
Howson's modesty was misplaced. The Poppy Factory as a charitable enterprise was an immediate success. By 1931, the factory was making nearly 30 million poppies a year and a community of 320 men, women and children lived on its estate in Richmond-upon-Thames.

In 1928, the charity's founder, Major George Howson MC, suggested using the grounds of Westminster Abbey as a place where anyone could plant a poppy in memory of a loved one.

In that first year over 30,000 poppies were planted in the grass, to be replaced in later years by crosses and other tributes. Another Remembrance tradition had been established.

Alongside its hand-crafted production work, The Poppy Factory continues to organise and lay out the Field of Remembrance. This year, more than 35,000 tributes were carefully plotted and planted by a team of staff and volunteers.

The charity's support now reaches far beyond the factory into communities across England and Wales, each year supporting hundreds of ex-Forces job seekers on their journey into all kinds of employment each year.







## The Poppy Factory: Supporting veterans and families

### Veterans Employment Service

The veterans we support into employment nationally face complex barriers including some form of health condition or disability. Initially, we must focus on removing these barriers, supporting each veteran to improve their stability, health and wellbeing.

We work with veterans to help them find meaningful employment. This is achieved together by developing a personalised plan. Important practical steps may include committing to training, completing job applications, attending interviews and volunteering to build confidence and skills.

Our Employment Consultants are experienced problems solvers. They understand how to remove barriers and help veterans prepare for work, guiding them through the process and building trust and independence.

### Navigator Service

Many of the veterans who seek our support can be a long way from being work-ready, with many difficult barriers to overcome. They may not have left their home or local area in a very long time. In recognition of this, we launched the Navigator service in April 2023.

Navigator helps veterans to engage in meaningful activity that enhances their health and wellbeing and in doing so, supports them to become work-ready.

The service offers 6 months of focused support initially. The aim is always to achieve a primary goal that is set by the veteran. Once this goal is achieved, if appropriate, they will be referred on to the Veterans Employment Service.



### Families Employment Service

It is not only veterans whose lives are influenced by time in the Armed Forces. Service can affect an entire family.

We launched our Families Employment Service in April 2023 in partnership with The Ripple Pond, who offer wraparound support to families of veterans and serving personnel.

Our service is available to any adult family member supporting or caring for a member of the Armed Forces community who has, or has recovered from, a health condition. This includes 'chosen family', separated partners and parents of veterans.

The service is suitable for anyone who is unemployed and looking to move into employment, or who has difficulties in their current role as a result of their circumstances and needs help to keep their job or move to a new one.



### Carly's story

Carly had a successful career in the Army, rising to the rank of Corporal throughout her 13 years of Service. After leaving the Forces, Carly was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and struggled with homelessness. Following employment support, she is now ready to help other women who have served through the Everton in the Community Women Veterans programme.

Carly said: "I left the Army in 2010. It felt like the right time for me. I enjoyed my time in Service and I'm proud of getting to the rank of Corporal. I've had a hard time in recent years.

"I was referred to The Poppy Factory and without their help I wouldn't be where I am today. They've helped me with more than just employment, they've helped me move into a flat of my own and help me believe in myself again."



# Alphabetical index of memorial plots

	PLOT N°		PLOT N°		PLOT N°		PLOT N°
ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION	306	CONNAUGHT RANGERS	129	GLOUCESTER & GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENTS	165	KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS	295
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS	270	3RD/4TH COUNTY OF YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS)	201	GORDON HIGHLANDERS	290	KING'S OWN YORKSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY	161
AIR CREW ASSOCIATION	72	CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS	283	GREEN HOWARDS	174	KING'S REGIMENT	183
AIR GUNNERS ASSOCIATION	72	CRETE VETERANS AND FRIENDS SOCIETY (UK)	157			KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS	170
AIR SEA RESCUE	70	CZECHOSLOVAK VETERANS (MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION)	149	<b>GUARDS AND HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY REGIMENTS:</b>		KING'S SHROPSHIRE & HEREFORDSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY	162
AIRBORNE FORCES	244					KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION	256
AJEX - THE JEWISH MILITARY ASSOCIATION	259						
ALGERINES ASSOCIATION	100	DERBYSHIRE YEOMANRY	208	BLUES & ROYALS	236		
ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS	288	DEVONSHIRE & DORSET REGIMENT	168	COLDSTREAM GUARDS	229	LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS	172
ANYFACE ASSOCIATION	99			GRENADIER GUARDS	233	LANCASHIRE REGIMENT (PWV)	183
ARMY AIR CORPS	242	<b>DRAGOON GUARDS &amp; DRAGOONS:</b>		IRISH GUARDS	230		
ARMY CADET FORCE	142			LIFE GUARDS	237	<b>LANCERS:</b>	
ARMY CATERING CORPS	139	1ST THE KING'S DRAGOON GUARDS	228	ROYAL DRAGOONS (ROYALS)	235		
ARMY FILM AND PHOTO UNIT	141	1ST THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS	228	ROYAL HORSE GUARDS (THE BLUES)	234	ROYAL LANCERS (QUEEN ELIZABETH'S OWN)	193
ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS	136	3RD CARABINIERS (PRINCE OF WALES)	227	SCOTS GUARDS	232	9TH/12TH ROYAL LANCERS (PRINCE OF WALES)	193
ARNHEM CROSS	244	4TH/7TH ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS	226	WELSH GUARDS	231	QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS	193
ARTILLERY REGIMENT	282	5TH ROYAL INNISKILLING	226				
ARTISTS' RIFLES	246	LIGHT DRAGOONS	191	GURKHA BRIGADE	308	LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN	238
ASSOCIATION OF RAF WOMEN OFFICERS	68	QUEEN'S BAYS (2ND DRAGOON GUARDS)	228			LEINSTER REGIMENT	128
ASSOCIATION OF WRENS	96	ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS	226	HEREFORDSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY	162	LIGHT INFANTRY	167
AUSTRALIA	151	ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS (CARABINIERS AND GREYS)	227	HERTFORDSHIRE & BEDFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY	210	LONDON SCOTTISH & LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH	221
AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE	265	THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS (2ND DRAGOONS)	227	HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT	182		
		WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS	198	HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY	296	<b>LONDON REGIMENTS:</b>	
BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT	182			HOME GUARD ASSOCIATION	127		
BEVIN BOYS VETERANS	122			HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY	194	11TH FINSBURY RIFLES	215
BLACK WATCH	293	DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LIGHT INFANTRY	301			12TH RANGERS	215
BOMBER COMMAND	71	DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT	183	<b>HUSSARS:</b>		13TH PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT	218
BORDER REGIMENT	183	DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT	173			15TH PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN CIVIL SERVICE RIFLES	219
BRITISH KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION	256	DUNKIRK LITTLE SHIPS ASSOCIATION	254	KING'S ROYAL HUSSARS	192	16TH QUEEN'S WESTMINSTER RIFLES	220
BRITISH NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS ASSOCIATION	69	DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION	255	QUEEN'S OWN HUSSARS	225	17TH TOWER HAMLETS RIFLES	215
BRITISH PALESTINE POLICE ASSOCIATION	304	DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY	163	QUEEN'S ROYAL HUSSARS	225	18TH LONDON IRISH RIFLES	222
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY	124			ROYAL HUSSARS	192	19TH ST PANCRAS RIFLES	223
BRITISH SALONIKA ARMY (1915-1918)	239	EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	183	ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS	225	1ST BN THE LONDON REGT (RF)TA / 2ND BN THE LONDON REGT (RF)TA	213
BUFFS (ROYAL EAST KENT REGIMENT)	187	EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE YEOMANRY	207			1ST/2ND & 3RD/4TH ROYAL FUSILIERS TA	213
BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION	252	EAST SURREY REGIMENT	190	INDIAN ARMY - PRE 1947	307	21ST LONDON REGIMENT / 1ST SURREY RIFLES	215
		EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT	175	INNS OF COURT REGIMENT	196	22ND & 24TH THE QUEENS	215
		ESSEX REGIMENT	182	INTELLIGENCE CORPS	263	5TH LONDON RIFLE BRIGADE	214
CAMBRIDGESHIRE REGIMENT	182	ESSEX YEOMANRY (R.H.A.)	200	ITALY STAR ASSOCIATION	156	6TH CITY OF LONDON RIFLES (CAST IRON SIXTH)	215
CAMERONIANS (SCOTTISH RIFLES)	294			IRELAND (REGIMENTS OF)	134	7TH LONDON BATTALION (SHINY SEVENTH)	215
CANADA	150	FALLEN OF OTHER NATIONS	146			8TH POST OFFICE RIFLES	215
CHESHIRE REGIMENT	179	FAR EAST PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION	260	JEWISH MILITARY ASSOCIATION - AJEX	259	9TH QUEEN VICTORIA'S RIFLES	216
CHINDITS	250	FELLOWSHIP OF THE SERVICES	257	JEWISH INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP	258	CITY OF LONDON REGIMENT	215
CITY OF LONDON YEOMANRY	197	FIFE & FORFAR YEOMANRY	209			LONDON SCOTTISH & LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH	221
CIVIL DEFENCE	113	FIRE SERVICES	125	KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS)	201		
CIVILIANS KILLED BY ENEMY ACTION	112	FIRST AID NURSING YEOMANRY (THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S VOLUNTEER CORPS)	145	KING EDWARD'S HORSE	195	LONDON TRANSPORT	126
COASTAL FORCES VETERANS ASSOCIATION	88	FIRST ARMY (DJBELBS) ASSOCIATION	251	KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES & EAST AFRICAN FORCES	303	LONG RANGE DESERT GROUP	248
COASTGUARDS (HM)	97	FLEET AIR ARM	89	KING'S LIVERPOOL REGIMENT	183	LOYAL (NORTH LANCASHIRE) REGIMENT	183
COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES	117			KING'S OWN REGIMENT	183		
COMBINED CADET FORCE AND ARMY CADET FORCE	142	GALLIPOLI VETERANS ASSOCIATION	152	KING'S OWN ROYAL BORDER REGIMENT	183		
COMMANDOS	249	GLIDER PILOT REGIMENT	243	KING'S OWN ROYAL REGIMENT (LANCASTER)	183		



Alphabetical index of memorial plots

PLOT N°		PLOT N°		PLOT N°		PLOT N°	
MACHINE GUN CORPS	279	QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE	93	ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY FACTORY	241	ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS	286
MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS' ASSOCIATION	305	QUEEN'S LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	183	ROYAL COMMONWEALTH EX-SERVICES LEAGUE	111	ROYAL WELSH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION	286
MALTA G.C. & MALTA DEFENCES WWII	154	QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS	289	ROYAL CORPS OF ARMY MUSIC	140	ROYAL WESSEX YEOMANRY	212
MANCHESTER REGIMENT	183	QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS	292	ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS	285	ROYAL WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE	158
MEMORABLE ORDER OF TIN HATS	160	QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT	186	ROYAL DUBLIN FUSILIERS & LEINSTER REGT	128	RUSSIAN CONVOY CLUB	262
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION FOR FREE		QUEEN'S OWN WARWICKSHIRE &		ROYAL EAST KENT REGIMENT (BUFFS)	187		
CZECHOSLOVAK VETERANS	149	WORCESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY	205	ROYAL ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS	271	SCOUT ASSOCIATION	121
MERCHANT NAVY	98	QUEEN'S REGIMENT	190	ROYAL FLYING CORPS	75	SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS	291
MERCIAN REGIMENT	180	QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT (WEST SURREY)	190	ROYAL FUSILIERS (CITY OF LONDON)	172	SHERWOOD FORESTERS (NOTTS & DERBY)	178
METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCES	120	QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT	190	ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE BERKSHIRE & WILT-		SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY	178
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT	184			SHIRE REGIMENT	165	SHROPSHIRE YEOMANRY	203
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY	199	RAF POLICE ASSOCIATION	76	ROYAL GREENJACKETS	164	SINGLE SERVICE WIDOWED ASSOCIATIONS	224
MILITARY PROVOST STAFF CORPS	268	RECONNAISSANCE CORPS	276	ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT	189	SMALL ARMS SCHOOL CORPS	278
MONMOUTHSHIRE REGIMENT	286	REGIMENTS OF IRELAND	134	ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS	298	SOMERSET AND CORNWALL LIGHT INFANTRY	301
MONTE CASSINO SOCIETY	261	RHODESIA	302	ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT	293	SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY	301
		RIFLE BRIGADE	169	ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS / ROYAL ULSTER		SOUTH AFRICA	159
		RIFLES	166	RIFLES / ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS / ROYAL IRISH		SOUTH IRISH HORSE	130
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE		ROYAL AIR FORCE (ALL SQUADRONS/REGIMENTS/		RANGERS	135	SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	183
OFFICERS (NARPO)	120	ASSOCIATIONS)	74	ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS	135	SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT	177
NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE INSTITUTE	115	ROYAL AIR FORCE (RFC)	75	ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS	135	SOUTH WALES BORDERERS	286
NEW ZEALAND	153	ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND	85	ROYAL IRISH RANGERS	135	SPECIAL AIR SERVICE	245
NORMANDY VETERANS	253	ROYAL AIR FORCE / WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE /	68	ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT	132	SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE	277
NORTH IRISH HORSE	131	WOMEN'S AUXILIARY AIR FORCE		ROYAL IRISH REGT (18TH OF FOOT)	130	SPIRIT OF NORMANDY	253
NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT	177	ROYAL AIR FORCE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION	73	ROYAL LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	181	ST JOHN AMBULANCE	123
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT	182	ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION	72	ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT	182	STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT	177
NORTHERN RHODESIA REGT	303	ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT	182	ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS	284	SUBMARINER ASSOCIATION	90
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YEOMANRY	206	ROYAL ARMoured CORPS (DISBANDED UNITS)	280	ROYAL MARINES	91	SUFFOLK REGIMENT	182
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SHERWOOD RANGERS		ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT	275	ROYAL MERCIAN AND LANCASTRIAN YEOMANRY	211	SUSSEX AND SURREY YEOMANRY	202
YEOMANRY	204	ROYAL ARMY DENTAL CORPS	138	ROYAL MILITARY POLICE	267		
NOTTS & DERBYSHIRE REGIMENT	178	ROYAL ARMY EDUCATIONAL CORPS	269	ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS	129	TYNESIDE SCOTTISH	287
NURSES AND MIDWIVES	117	ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS	273	ROYAL NAVAL AIR SERVICE AND FLEET AIR ARM	89		
		ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS	272	ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION	102	ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT CGC	133
OLD CONTEMPTIBLES	240	ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS	266	ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE	101	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	147
ORDER OF ST JOHN	123	ROYAL ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS	136	ROYAL NAVY	95		
OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT		ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS & ROYAL CORPS OF		ROYAL NAVY MEDICAL SERVICE	92	V.A.D. (RN) ASSOCIATION	94
INFANTRY	171	TRANSPORT	274	ROYAL NORFOLK REGIMENT	182		
		ROYAL ARMY VETERINARY CORPS	137	ROYAL NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS	172	WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN	118
PARACHUTE REGIMENT AND AIRBORNE FORCES	244	ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT	165	ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS ASSOCIATION	119	WARWICKSHIRE & WORCESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY	
PERIOPERATIVE PRACTICE ASSOCIATION	116			ROYAL PIONEER CORPS	264	(QUEENS OWN)	205
POLICE FORCES	120	<b>ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PLOTS:</b>		ROYAL PIONEER CORPS JEWISH POW		WELCH REGIMENT	286
POLISH EX COMBATANTS ASSOCIATION	148	ARMY	1 - 5	FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION	155	WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT	175
POPSKI'S PRIVATE ARMY	247	DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT	6	ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY	282	WILTSHIRE REGIMENT	165
PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN REGIMENT OF YORK-		ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS	7	ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS	172	WOMEN'S AUXILIARY AIR FORCE (WAAF)	68
SHIRE	175	CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS	8 - 10	ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND	300	WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE (WRAF)	68
PRINCESS MARY'S ROYAL AIR FORCE NURSING		ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY	11 - 15	ROYAL SCOTS (THE ROYAL REGIMENT)	299	WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS (WRAC)	265
SERVICE	67	POPPY APPEAL	16 - 40	ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS	297	WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE (WRNS)	96
PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT	188	CROSSES RECEIVED AFTER THE CUT-OFF	41	ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT	185	WOMEN'S ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE	114
		THE FALLEN AND RECENT CONFLICTS	42 - 66	ROYAL TANK REGIMENT	281	WORCESTERSHIRE & SHERWOOD FORESTERS	
		RAF	77 - 84	ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY GEORGE CROSS	110	REGIMENT	178
Q.A.I.M.N.S & RESERVE WORLD WAR ONE	144	RAF REGIMENT ASSOCIATION	86 - 87	ROYAL ULSTER RIFLES	135	YORKSHIRE REGIMENT	176
Q.A.I.M.N.S. & RESERVE WORLD WAR TWO AND		ROYAL NAVY	103 - 109	ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE FUSILIERS	172		
Q.A.R.A.N.C	143						
Q.M.A.A.C. / A.T.S. / W.R.A.C.	265						





**The Poppy Factory wishes to thank the following:**

**The Dean and Chapter of Westminster  
The Clerk of Works, Westminster Abbey  
The Bugler from the Band of the Irish Guards,  
playing by kind permission of Maj Gen J M H Bowder OBE,  
the Household Division  
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An eclectic range of willing, able and  
weather-resistant volunteers**

**The Field of Remembrance is organised annually by The Poppy Factory and  
all proceeds are donated to The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.**

**The Poppy Factory, 20 Petersham Road, Richmond, TW10 6UR**

**[www.poppyfactory.org](http://www.poppyfactory.org) • 020 8940 3305**



**Reg Charity No. 225348**