



UNA-UK

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

**Remembrance ceremony marking
75 years of United Nations peacekeeping**

The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London

25 May 2023

The Ceremony

Address: David Wardrop, Chair, Westminster United Nations Association

Prayer: The Right Reverend Kenneth Nowakowski

Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London,
Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral

The bugler sounds Last Post, and the UN flag is lowered.

The bugler sounds Reveille.

Wreaths will be laid as follows:

In memory of Count Folke Bernadotte:

Astrid Bernadotte, granddaughter

In memory of Commandant René de Labarrière:

Colonel Xavier Rival, Air and Space Attaché,
Embassy of France

On behalf of former UN servicemen and women:

Kieran Ryan, UN Veterans Association

On behalf of serving UK Contingent

Deployments: Lt Col Perry Bishop, 21 Regiment,
Royal Engineers

On behalf of His Majesty's Government:

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister for the United
Nations

On behalf of His Majesty's Armed Forces:

Lt Gen Sir CRV Walker KCB DSO, Deputy Chief of
Defence Staff for Military Strategy and Operations

On behalf of His Majesty's Police Forces:

Andy Cooke, QPM, DL, HM Chief Inspector of
Constabulary

**Followed by Members of the Diplomatic Corps in
London**

On behalf of widows of UN peacekeepers:

Jilly Carrell, War Widows Association

On behalf of British UN civilian staff:

David Irwin, UK Civil Service

**On behalf of the British Association of Former UN
Civil Servants:**

Tekeste Tekie

**On behalf of the United Nations Association of
the UK:**

Marissa Conway, Chief Executive Officer, UNA-UK

On behalf of the Children of the World:

Pupils from the Grey Coat Hospital School for Girls
and the Westminster City School for Boys.

Prayer: Harmeet Singh Gill, Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Southall

Closing address: David Wardrop

Students from the Grey Coat Hospital School for Girls and the Westminster City School for Boys will serve as marshals throughout the ceremony.

United Nations Peacekeeping



More than 80,000 UN peacekeepers are currently deployed around the globe in some of the most fraught regions. They stand between civilians and the forces of violence, between crisis and peace. Their bravery and commitment exemplify the UN's mission "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

The UN's 12 current peacekeeping operations cost around \$7 billion a year, about a half percent of global military spending. UN Peacekeeping has a proven history of preventing conflict and atrocity crimes. Studies show that the presence of peacekeepers significantly reduces the risk of renewed warfare and the number of civilian deaths.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

On this day, we remember the 4,293 UN peacekeepers from 120 nations who have lost their lives serving in the cause of peace. Of these, 106 were British. This International Day was first observed in 2003 on 29 May, the date in 1948 when the first peacekeeping mission began operations in Palestine.

The UK in UN Peacekeeping

The UK currently contributes 394 troops, experts and observers to UN peacekeeping missions, and is the sixth largest financial contributor to peacekeeping deployments.

About those we remember

Count Folke Bernadotte

He led the Swedish Red Cross expedition to German concentration camps in early 1945 and was credited with liberating thousands of prisoners from many countries. After the war, the United Nations appointed him its Mediator in Palestine. Shortly after he tabled his peace plan in 1948, he was assassinated in Jerusalem, becoming the first member of the United Nations staff to be killed in the line of duty.

Commandant René de Labarrière

The French officer, Commandant de Labarrière, serving as a Military Observer in Palestine in 1948, was killed by a landmine, becoming the first United Nations peacekeeper to lose his life.

About the ceremony

The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines, Portsmouth Royal Marine Drummers date back to 1664, upon the formation of the Royal Marine Corps. It is one of five bands in the Royal Marines Band Service, and it has performed throughout Britain and overseas. Musicians and Buglers are fully trained operational military personnel, performing when required in medical support, driving ambulances and in logistics. The Band appears today with the kind agreement of Lt. Colonel Jason Burcham, Principal Director of Music, Royal Marines.

The UN Veterans Association All have served in the British or Irish Armed Forces on UN peacekeeping operations. Also present are contingents from the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, and 21 Engineer Regiment, all with recent experience in UN peacekeeping operations.

Ceremonial Lead: WO2 James L Glen, 1st Battalion Scots Guards

The United Nations Association of the UK

We are the only charity in the UK devoted to building support for the UN. We believe that a strong, credible and effective UN is essential if we are to build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. We push for government support for the UN, find ways to make it work better and demonstrate why it matters to people everywhere. We have coordinated this annual ceremony since 2004, working closely with the UK's UN Peacekeeping Joint Unit and the Westminster United Nations Association.