

The first to lose their lives serving the United Nations in the cause of peace

Count Folke Bernadotte

Count Folke Bernadotte headed the Swedish Red Cross during World War II. In 1948, he became the UN's first mediator in Palestine. Shortly before his plan for a political solution to the Palestine question was to be presented to the UN, he was assassinated in Jerusalem. In 1998, his family received the Dag Hammarskjöld medal.

Commandant René de Labarrière

The French officer, Commandant René de Labarrière, was the first peacekeeper to lose his life in a UN peace-keeping operation. Serving as a Military Observer in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation in Palestine, he was killed by a landmine on 6 July 1948. In 1998, his family received his Dag Hammarskjöld medal.

THE BAND OF THE LIFE GUARDS



The first record of the band dates from 1795 and in 1831, the 'Mounted Band of The Life Guards' marched past the King playing 'God save the King' on single valve Russian chromatic trumpets. Today, the Band performs in ceremonial duties as a mounted band and as a marching band. Its 35 musicians include many fine soloists, most of whom play two instruments. The band's repertoire ranges from Bach through to the latest 'West End' Shows. As well as recent tours to Cyprus, Bosnia and the USA, it performs regularly in London hotels and tours extensively as a concert band, marching band, orchestra and mounted band and also in Chamber Music groups. By tradition, a trumpeter is on duty 24 hours a day to sound the same calls that were played when the regiment was first formed. Every person in the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment is expected to know the calls and the times they are sounded. The band performs by kind permission of its Director of Music, Captain Kevin Davies.

The United Nations Association

UNA-UK is the UK's leading independent authority on the UN (www.una.org.uk). Independent of the UN system, it can be critical of its decisions and activities if needed and can call for reforms to better equip it to fulfil its fundamental functions; to maintain international peace and security, to promote development and to uphold human rights around the world. Today's International Peacekeepers Day conference and Remembrance ceremony will be the eighth organised on its behalf by its Westminster Branch. For information on previous ceremonies, visit www.unawestminster.org.uk



The United Nations Association is grateful to Land Rover for its support in this ceremony.



International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers



Remembrance Ceremony

The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London
1pm, 26 May 2011

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

Remembrance Ceremony

The wreath-laying party will march from the Royal United Services Institute led by the Colour Guard of the United Nations Veterans Association

Statement: David Wardrop, Chairman, United Nations Association, Westminster Branch

We gather here to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, to pay tribute to the men and women from countries across the world who serve selflessly and sometimes unrewardingly in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Let us remember those who have laid down their lives in lands far from their own in the service of peace. They came from one hundred and twenty countries. They are mourned in one hundred and ninety two. They chose to serve their country; their country chose them to serve the world, to serve us. They died in a country with which their own had no dispute. Each is mourned by a mother, a father, a widow, by family, by friends. And we have gathered here on this Day because we mourn them too.

In this window of calm in Whitehall, close to where the General Assembly of the United Nations first met in 1946, we reflect on the challenges we set ourselves then and the tasks that remain unfinished. Today, we comprise the largest gathering worldwide of diplomats, guests from many countries and those from this country marking this International Day. We encourage all nations to hold such gatherings, remembering not only their own sons and daughters but also those of other nations, serving all humankind. It is when we can do this, in marking this Day together, we may truly call ourselves the United Nations.

Prayer: Revd. Donald Prentice, *Former Senior United Nations Force Chaplain*

The Last Post is called and the United Nations flag is lowered. After a short silence, the Reveille is called.

Wreaths

Representing Mr Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Alain Le Roy, *UN Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping*

In memory of Commandant Rene de Labarriere, the first UN fatality

Rear-Admiral Charles-Edouard de Coriolis, *Defence Attaché, Embassy of France*

In memory of those from 120 nations who have lost their lives in the cause of peace

Conrad Bailey, *Head of Conflict Department, Foreign & Commonwealth Office*

Air Vice Marshal the Honourable David Murray, OBE RAF, *Defence Services Secretary*

Sir Denis O'Connor CBE QPM, *HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary*

In memory of Count Folke Bernadotte, the first UN mediator, assassinated in 1948

Colonel Lars Ericsson, *Defence Attaché, Embassy of Sweden*

Representatives of Embassies and Commonwealth High Commissions will lay wreaths on the East, South and West faces of the Cenotaph

Representing

The widows of UN Peacekeepers

Rosalind Campbell, *War Widows' Association*

UK servicemen and women

John Cooke, *UN Veterans Association (UK)*

UK Civilian Staff

David Irwin, *HM Revenue and Customs*

The United Nations Association

Philip Mulligan, *Executive Director, United Nations Association*

The Youth of the World

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

Prayer

Annabel Knight, *representative of the Baha'i community in the UK*

Closing statement

David Wardrop

Now we return to our homes and to our loved ones, to our work and our colleagues. As we remember those who set out to keep the peace, let us remember also those they have set out to protect; those who yearn for those three fundamental freedoms - the freedom from want, the freedom from fear and the freedom to live in dignity. And that one day, in lasting peace and in that larger freedom, they also may say as we here can say 'We too are the peoples, the peoples of the United Nations'.

The Colour Guard will lead the procession back to the Royal United Services Institute.

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 peacekeepers: Keeping the peace, protecting the people

Today, there are nearly 100,000 uniformed UN peacekeeping troops from 114 nations including 14,700 police, serving in 14 UN operations on four continents. About 3500 women peacekeepers serve in the military and police. These are joined by 5,700 international civilians and more than 13,000 local civilian staff. The UN is the largest multilateral contributor to post-conflict stabilization worldwide. Only the US deploys more military personnel to the field. Approved resources for the year ending 30 June 2011 totals about £5 billion. In 2005, UN peacekeeping operations involved 161,000 military and police personnel using 864 flights on 200 long-term charter aircraft, moving in all 700,000 passengers to various missions. In that year, the UN deployed 220 medical clinics and 21 military hospitals.



UN Peacekeepers in Côte d'Ivoire April 2011



Bangladesh all female police unit arrives in Haiti 2010

The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

The Medal is a posthumous award to members of UN peacekeeping operations who have lost their lives in service under the control and authority of the UN. The 3" x 2", clear glass crystal ellipsoid is grit-blasted with the name and date of death of the recipient, the UN symbol and the inscription "The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal. In Service of Peace" in English and French. Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary-General (1953-1961) died in a plane crash while on a peace mission in the Congo fifty years ago. In September, the United Nations Association, together with the University of London and the Hammarskjöld Foundation, will organize a conference in his memory titled *Dag Hammarskjöld, Africa and the End of Empire*.



UN demining engineer clears landmine in Afghanistan 2007



Ellen Margrethe Loj, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia inspects the honour guard of the Pakistani contingent shortly to receive the medals of honour in recognition for their service.



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In 1988, UN Peacekeepers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

