



UNA-UK

**International Day of
United Nations
Peacekeepers**

Remembrance Ceremony

**The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London
1.30pm, 23 May 2018**

The Band of the Irish Guards and the Colour Guard of the United Nations Veterans Association will lead members of the diplomatic corps and other wreath-layers from the Royal United Services Institute to the Cenotaph.

The Ceremony

Address: **David Wardrop**, Chair, Westminster United Nations Association

Prayer: **The Reverend Canon Joseph Hawes**, All Saints Church, Fulham

Bugler sounds *Last Post* and UN flag dips. After a period of silence, the bugler sounds *Reveille*.

Wreaths are then laid in the following order:

In memory of Count Folke Bernadotte

Count Bernadotte af Wisborg (grandson)

On behalf of UN servicemen and women

Kieran Ryan, Chair,
UN Veterans Association

In Memory of Commandant René de Labarrière

Colonel Vincent Tassel, Defence Attaché,
Embassy of France

On behalf of Her Majesty's Government

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of
State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office

On behalf of Her Majesty's Armed Forces

Air Vice-Marshal Alison Mardell,
Director of RAF Legal Services

On behalf of Her Majesty's Police Forces

Chief Constable Sara Thornton, Head,
National Police Chiefs Council

On behalf of Members of the Diplomatic Corps in London

On behalf of Widows of UN peacekeepers

Moira Kane, Secretary,
War Widows Association

On behalf of UK civilian staff

David Irwin

On behalf of the British Association of Retired UN Civil Servants

Dr Tekeste Ghebray Tekie

On behalf of the Soldiers for Peace International Association

Laurent Attar-Bayrou (French Veterans)

On behalf of the Royal United Services Institute

Dr Karin von Hippel, Director-General

On behalf of the United Nations Association

Tessy Antony, Princess of Luxembourg,
Patron

On behalf of the Youth of the World

Students of Grey Coat Hospital School for
Girls & Westminster City School for Boys

Prayer: **Imam Fadel Soliman**, Director, Bridges Foundation

Closing address: **David Wardrop**

The Colour Guard of the United Nations Veterans Association will then 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.



UNA-UK and RUSI are pleased to partner with the High Commission of Canada and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in support of this event.



KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
MEMBER 2018

About United Nations Peacekeeping



More than 110,000 UN peacekeepers are serving in some of the most fraught regions across the globe. 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 14 peacekeeping operations cost around \$6.8 billion a year, about a half percent of global military spending. UN Peacekeeping has a proven track record of preventing conflict and atrocity crimes. Academic studies have shown that the presence of peacekeepers significantly reduces the risk of renewed warfare and the number of civilian deaths.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

3,733 UN peacekeepers from 119 nations have lost their lives; of these, 104 were British. The International Day was first observed in 2003 on 29 May, when in 1948, the first UN mission began operations in Palestine. Now, annually, we pay tribute to all those who died in the line of duty.

Peacekeeping and the UK

Once the largest contributor of troops to UN peacekeeping missions, the UK currently deploys around 670 peacekeepers in 7 UN missions, principally in South Sudan, Cyprus, and Somalia with smaller deployments to the DRC, Mali and Libya. The UK is the sixth largest financial contributor to peacekeeping.

About those we remember:

Count Folke Bernadotte

Count Folke Bernadotte, head of the Swedish Red Cross during World War II, led a relief expedition to Germany, saving 30,000 concentration camp prisoners. Serving as the UN's mediator in Palestine, he was assassinated in Jerusalem in 1948, becoming the first member of United Nations staff to be killed in the line of duty.

Commandant René de Labarrière

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

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. Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary-General (1953-1961) died in a plane crash while on a peace mission in the Congo in 1961. At a meeting of the UN General Assembly in 1998, the families of Count Bernadotte and Commandant de Labarrière received these medals.

About the ceremony:

The Band of the Irish Guards

The Band of the Irish Guards was formed in 1900 and has toured all continents. It was the first band to play in the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. On Saturday, the Band entertained the crowds at Windsor Castle, there to witness the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. It appears with the kind agreement of its director of music, Captain Craig Bywater.

The United Nations Association

The United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) is the only charity in the UK devoted to building support for the UN among policy-makers and the public.

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.

The Westminster branch of the United Nations Association initiated this memorial service and associated conference held in the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in 2004. In recent years, they have worked closely with UNA-UK and the Royal United Services Institute to promote both events.

More information at www.una.org.uk. Search #Peacekeepers18 on twitter.