

# Remembrance 100: Why, How and Who

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# What is Remembrance?

In times of war and emergency, there are always people trying to help and protect others.

Remembrance is a time when we remember and give thanks for the people who help and protect others now, and who have done so in the past. We remember those who have been hurt or killed as a result.

Remembrance is hope for a peaceful future.



# Who do we remember?



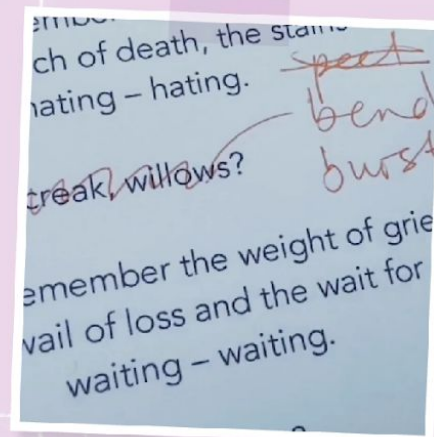
**Mervyn Kersh** was an evacuee when the Second World War broke out. He joined the army when he was 18. Later he was involved in the D-Day Landings.



**Nicole Brown**, 25, is a Trainee Paramedic and Naval Reservist in Birmingham. During the first national lockdown in the Coronavirus pandemic she worked as a paramedic to support the NHS.



# How do we remember?



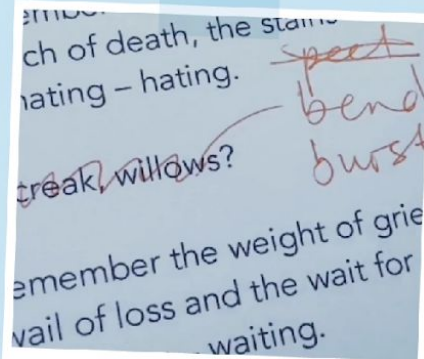
Which of these photos shows an act of Remembrance?



# How do we remember?



Visiting a monument or special place



Writing a poem



Two minute silence



Military parade



Marking a special day



Musical performances



Wearing a poppy

Which of these photos shows an act of Remembrance?



# How do we remember?

Visiting a monument or special place:

## THE SIKH WAR MEMORIAL

Sikh faith does not allow the use of idols or statues, as Sikhs are taught to worship only God, and that God has no physical form. So, in 1918 the idea of having a war memorial or a statue to commemorate the war dead was at odds with the Sikh faith. Instead, the Sikh communities used prayer to remember their dead.







In the early 2000s, as the centenary of the First World War approached, British Sikhs became concerned that the story of Sikh soldiers during the war, was at risk of being forgotten by non-Sikhs. They thought that a memorial would act as a reminder to the rest of the nation and would tell their story. One of the first Sikh war memorials was commissioned in 2002 in Coventry and more have followed, such as those in Huddersfield and Bristol.

In 2015, Captain Jay Singh-Sohal was part of the team that unveiled a new memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Unlike the Coventry war memorial, it has a figure, but one that was purposely designed to represent all soldiers rather than a particular individual. They used the publicity around the event to share the story of Sikh soldiers in the media.

# How do we remember?

**Writing a poem:**

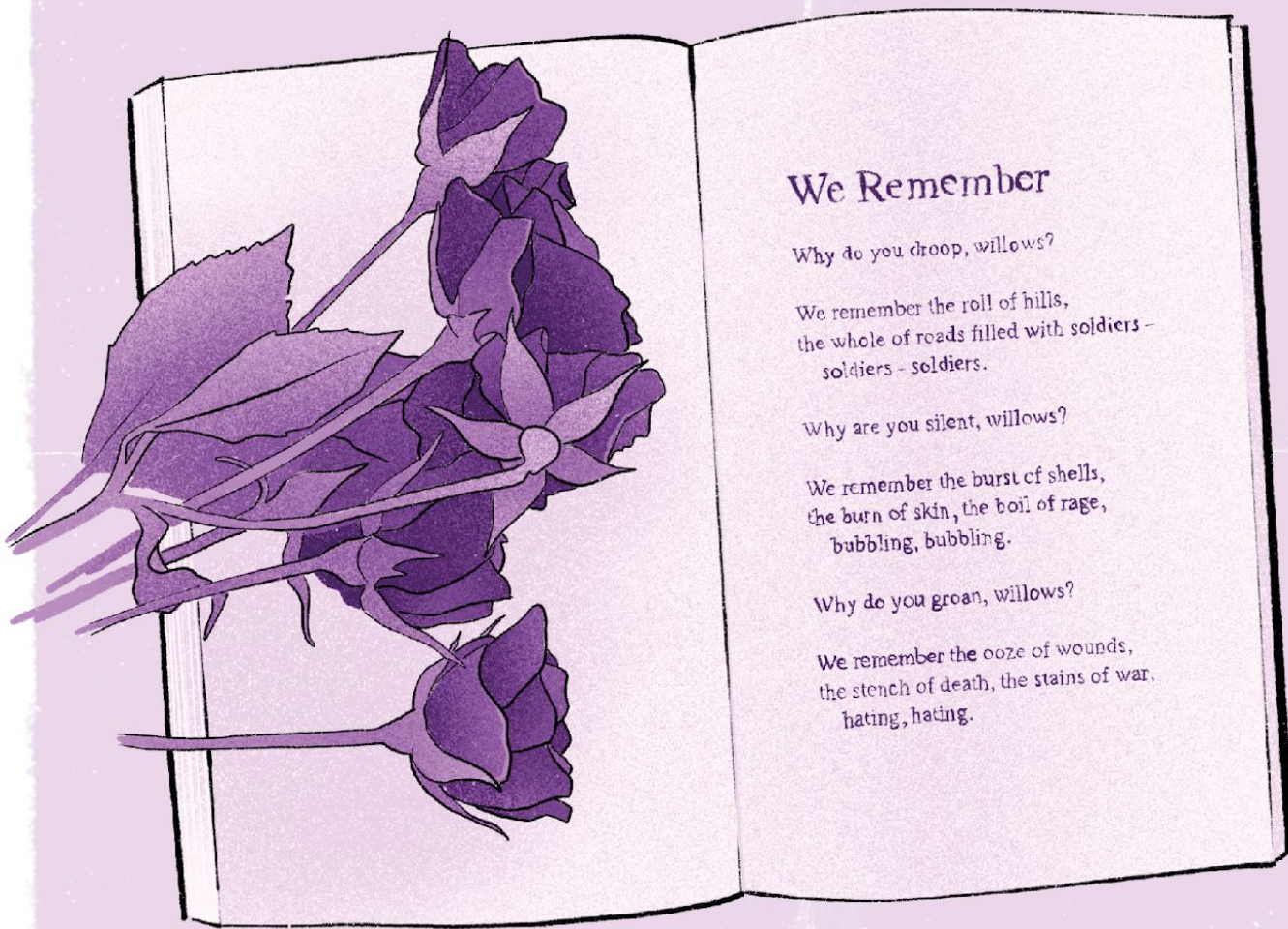
**LAURA MUCHA**

Poet Laura Mucha was one of the first people in the UK to visit the Remembrance Glade in the National Memorial Arboretum:

“I was really struck by just how many people have served and died. There were just so many names. The memorial served to remind me that my peace, safety and freedom is built on the sacrifice of others.”







## We Remember

Why do you droop, willows?

We remember the roll of hills,  
the whole of roads filled with soldiers -  
soldiers - soldiers.

Why are you silent, willows?

We remember the burst of shells,  
the burn of skin, the boil of rage,  
bubbling, bubbling.

Why do you groan, willows?

We remember the ooze of wounds,  
the stench of death, the stains of war,  
hating, hating.

She also reflected on her personal reasons for marking Remembrance:

“My grandfather served in the Second World War and I used to visit him at the local Royal British Legion club every week after school, so it felt very important to write this poem of Remembrance for him and for the other soldiers who didn’t make it back”

Laura wrote a poem of Remembrance which used the imagery and symbolism of the trees in the Glade to express the emotions of Remembrance.



# How do we remember?

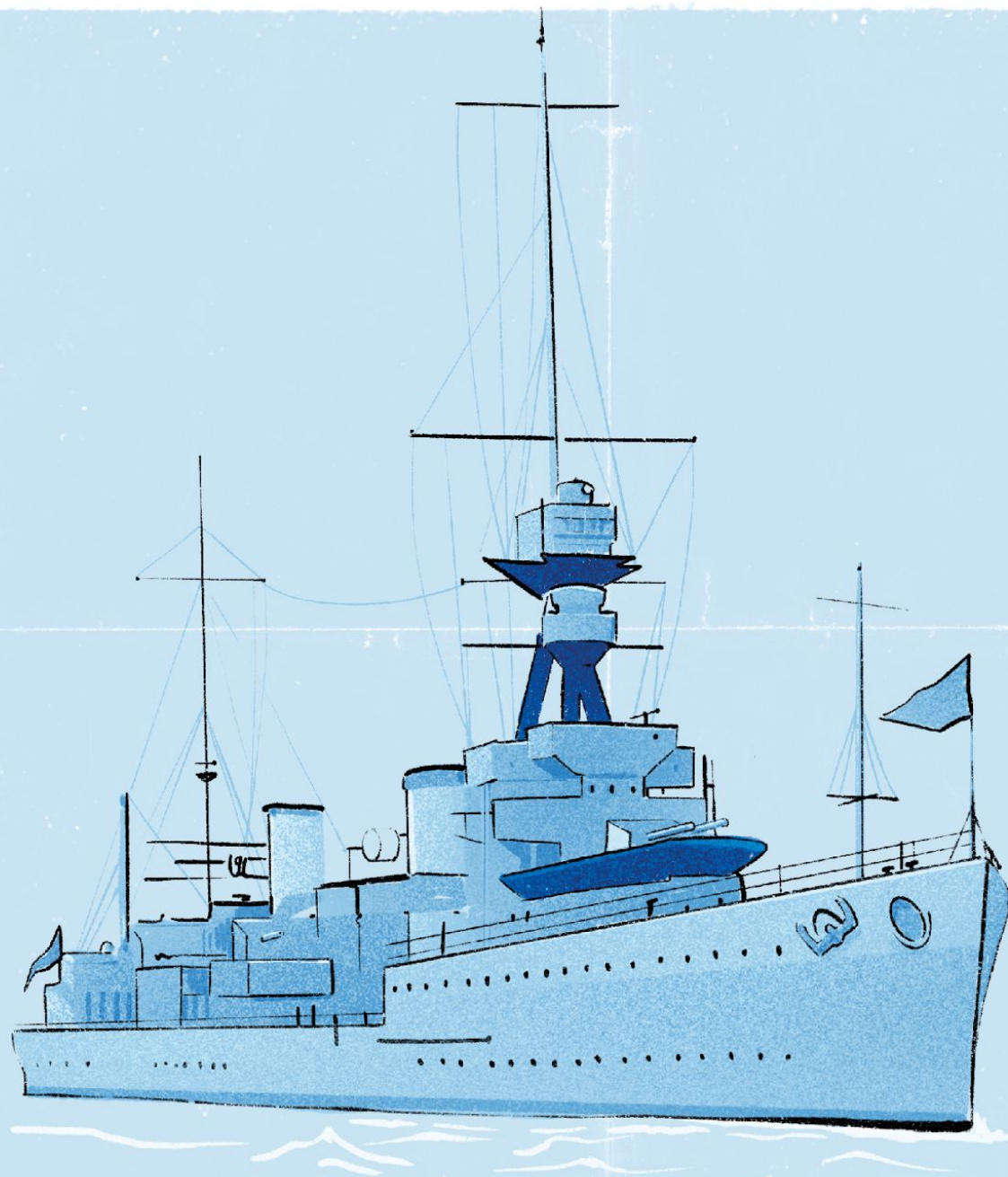
**Two minute silence:**

## **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 operations, 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 towed 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.”



# How do we remember?

## 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.



# How do we remember?

## 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.





INDIAN OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

AUSTRALIA

INDIAN OCEAN

NEW ZEALAND

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 mid-morning and then the Anzac Day March.

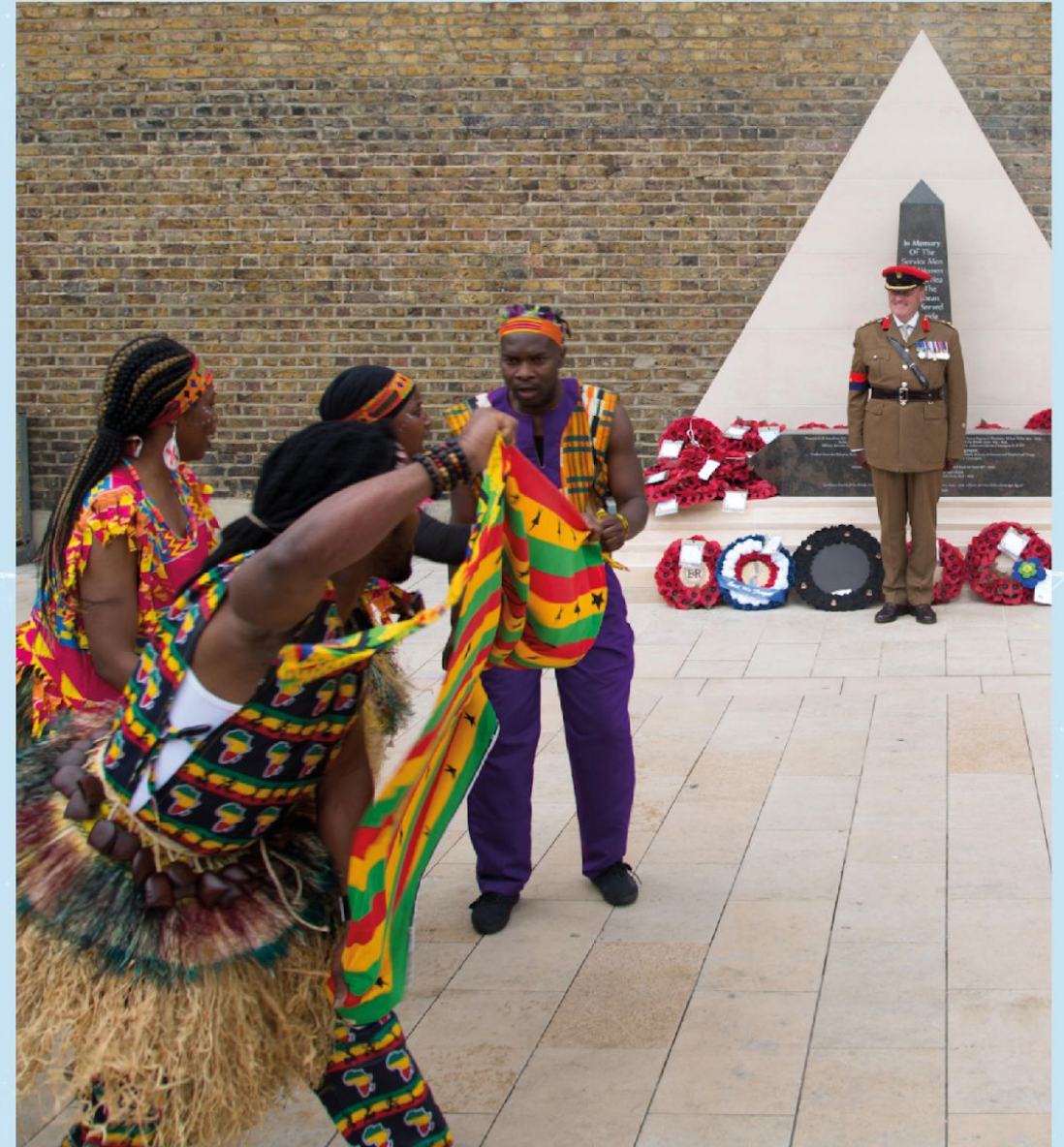
In 2020, public events were cancelled, but many still commemorated the day. People were encouraged to “Light Up the Dawn” by going to the end of their driveway with a candle at around 6am. The local radio stations would then play the Last Post, recite the Ode, hold a minute’s silence, and then play the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



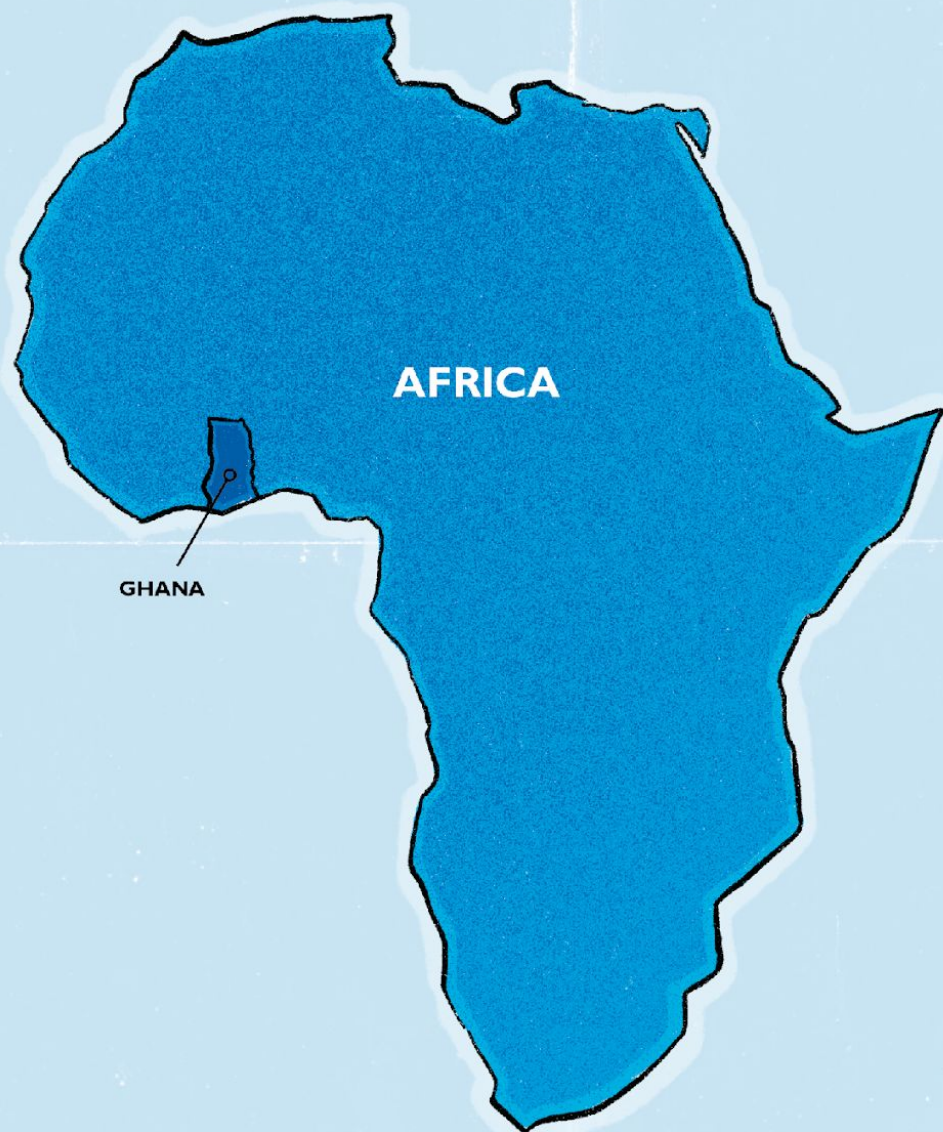
# How do we remember?

## Musical performance: **REMEMBRANCE DAY IN GHANA**

It is estimated that 65,000 people from Ghana served in the Second World War, mostly in India and Burma. They served as part of the British army because Ghana was part of the British Empire at that time.







In Ghana, Remembrance Day is marked on 11th November with a special service taking place at 11am.

Music plays an important role throughout the ceremony. There are similarities with UK Remembrance services such as hymns being sung and buglers playing 'The Last Post'. In 2020 the Ghanaian National Centre for Culture also incorporated Ghana's unique history and traditions by including a dance to honour veterans.



# How do we remember?

## **Wearing a poppy: THE LATE MRS JOAN BUNN**

Joan was a firewoman in the Second World War. Each year, before Remembrance Sunday, she took a wooden Remembrance cross to Mr Kerridge, who ran a butcher's shop in Wymondham town, Norfolk. He and his brothers served in the First World War, but his brothers Frank and Arthur were killed in action.







He would write their names on the cross and, when he could no longer do it himself, Joan did it for him. Joan would then place the cross in the small garden surrounding the town war memorial. Joan continued to perform this act of Remembrance as long as she was able to.

Joan also volunteered with the Wymondham branch of the Royal British Legion for many years. Mr Kerridge died aged 100 in 1999. When his coffin left Wymondham Abbey draped with his 'union jack', 14 members of the Royal British Legion formed a guard of honour.