

Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial 1990-2015

9 March 2017





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

I send my good wishes to all attending the Service of Dedication and the unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial, which recognises those involved in UK operations in the Gulf region, Iraq and Afghanistan between 1990 and 2015.

It is with pride that we honour the contribution of all those members of the armed forces and civilians who served our country – at home and abroad – while endeavouring to bring peace and stability to Iraq and Afghanistan. We shall be forever grateful to them for the part they played.

I am sure the new memorial will provide a fitting opportunity for all to reflect upon the events of that 25-year period, remembering the many examples of personal courage and achievement in adversity, and the great sacrifices that were made.

ELIZABETH R.



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A FOREWORD FROM PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY



Across the generations the UK has proudly honoured those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of this country.

So it is right that today, at this special commemoration, we dedicate a new memorial to honour the sacrifice of our own generation.

The missions in Iraq and Afghanistan called on hundreds of thousands of our military and civilian personnel to put their lives on the line in an heroic effort to help secure greater peace and stability in some of the most hostile environments that we have ever known.

Today we honour the extraordinary courage

and dedication of every one of those British men and women who stepped forward to answer that call. We pay tribute to those families who spent long periods apart and we stand with the friends and families of all who lost loved ones.

No matter how much time passes this memorial will stand, reminding all who pass that their rights and freedoms do not come for free, but are paid for by the hard work, determination and sacrifice of others. Through this eternal tribute we will ensure that the memory of the men and women who gave their lives for us in Iraq and Afghanistan will live on, long after we are all gone.

A FOREWORD FROM LORD STIRRUP, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The campaigns in Iraq from 1990 to 2009 and Afghanistan from 2001 to 2015 were complex and challenging. Over the course of those years, hundreds of thousands of British Military personnel and UK citizens ran great risks, endured great hardship, and worked tirelessly in support of the Government's objectives. They fought with great bravery to provide the security necessary for developments in governance and civil society; they delivered aid to hard-pressed communities; they helped local people to improve their infrastructure,

agriculture and industry; they expanded education and health care, and did much else besides. Some of them, alas, paid the ultimate price, and their sacrifice is movingly commemorated at the National Memorial Arboretum, while many others suffered severe injuries: we remember with gratitude their courage and devotion, and they and their loved ones remain ever foremost in our thoughts. But all of those who were involved gave unstintingly of their time and of their skills. They were called upon to serve, and they did so with selfless determination; they rose to their duty with a willingness and a level of commitment of which this country is rightly proud. They were military and civilian; they were from the public and private sectors; they were men and women from many different backgrounds and with many different skills; but they were united in their desire to give of their utmost in tackling the difficult and often dangerous tasks they faced. Duty and service are important concepts in any civilised society, and we in this country have always valued them highly; the men and women who contributed so much to the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan were the very embodiment of those enduring principles. This memorial is for them. The Trustees are grateful to all those who have so generously contributed to the building of the memorial.

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN MEMORIAL

The memorial commemorates the duty and service of British citizens who voluntarily put themselves in harm's way, protected our nation's interests far from the security of the UK, helped those in danger and worked to improve the lives of those in the Gulf region, Iraq and Afghanistan.

UK citizens, from a vast breadth of organisations across government, charities and non-governmental organisations worked tirelessly over many years to support the citizens of both countries. Some made the ultimate sacrifice during their efforts to lay the foundations for peace and stability.

The memorial in Victoria Embankment Gardens recognises the contribution of both Armed Forces personnel and civilians who served their country in Iraq and Afghanistan and who supported them back home. Importantly, it honours all those who worked on the humanitarian side of operations, whether in a military or civilian role including areas such as aid distribution, education and healthcare, infrastructure and governance.



The memorial is for these men and women and for their families, as a national monument recognising, praising and remembering with gratitude the unstinting and selfless commitment of all those, military and civilian, who served their country in support of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sculptor Paul Day designed the memorial, which features two large stones – one representing Iraq and the other Afghanistan – linked by a giant, two-sided bronze medallion depicting the theme of duty and service. One side of the medallion portrays the military effort and the other side pays tribute to the UK civilians and their contribution.

Today's guests are representatives of the many organisations that played a role in the conflicts and includes veterans, Serving personnel, civil servants, those who work for charities and non-government organisations, and politicians.





MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ATTENDING THE SERVICE

Her Majesty The Queen

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales

His Royal Highness The Duke of York

Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, the Honourable Lady Ogilvy

Earl of Ulster

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

The service is led by **The Chaplain of the Fleet, The Venerable Ian Wheatley CB QHC**, together with **The Chaplain General, The Reverend Doctor David Coulter CB QHC** and **The Chaplain-in-Chief, The Venerable (Air Vice-Marshal) Jonathan Chaffey QHC**.

The **Band of HM Royal Marines Collingwood**, the **Band of the Scots Guards** and **Band of The Royal Air Force** will provide music under the direction of **Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Roberts**. **The Queen's Piper** will support the Service of Dedication and greet **Her Majesty The Queen** at the memorial.

Music is also provided by the Metropolitan Police Choir, formed of serving and retired members of the Metropolitan Police Service, led by **Richard Fox**.

The unveiling ceremony in Victoria Embankment Gardens is led by the **Bishop at Lambeth and Bishop to the Forces, the Right Reverend Nigel Stock**.

Today's readers are **His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales**, who deployed twice to Afghanistan with the Army, **The Reverend (Wing Commander) Ruth Hake MBE**, who deployed to Afghanistan and whose husband Bryan Hake served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and **Miss Victoria Whittaker**, an MOD civilian who worked in Afghanistan and whose father Andrew Whittaker served on Operation Granby.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The following music is played from 10.25am:

Air from Rinaldo	<i>Handel Arr. Winterbottom</i>
Solemn Melody	<i>Walford Davies</i>
Consolation	<i>Trad. Arr. Haan</i>
I Vow To Thee My Country	<i>Holst Arr. Winterbottom</i>
O Magnum Mysterium	<i>Morten Layridsen Arr. Reynolds</i>
Supreme Sacrifice	<i>Harris</i>

At 10.40am, the drumhead is built and the Colour placed upon it. This flag represents all those who served this nation in the theatres of operation. Members of the **Royal Family** then arrive.

At 10.58am, all stand for the arrival of **Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh** for the playing of the National Anthem. Officers in uniform salute for the duration of the Anthem. *Please be seated.*

At 11am, the Service commences and **The Chaplain of the Fleet, The Venerable Ian Wheatley**, welcomes the congregation:

We meet in the presence of God to commemorate and give thanks for all those civilians and members of the military who have served on Operations in the Gulf region, Iraq and Afghanistan.

*Responses in **bold** are said or sung by all.*

We commit ourselves to work
In penitence and faith
For reconciliation between the nations,
That all people may, together,
Live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all
Who in bereavement, disability and pain
Continue to suffer the consequences of
Fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow
Those whose lives
In wars and conflicts past and present
Have been given and taken away.

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Read by

His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die,

A time to plant and a time to uproot,

A time to kill and a time to heal,

A time to tear down and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to mourn and a time to dance,

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them.

A time to embrace and a time to refrain,

A time to search and a time to give up,

A time to keep and a time to throw away,

A time to tear and a time to mend,

A time to keep silent and a time to speak,

A time to love and a time to hate,

A time for war and a time for peace.

The Chaplain General, The Reverend Doctor David Coulter CB QHC

prays:

Ever-living God

We remember those whom you have gathered

From the storm of war into the peace of your presence;

May that same peace

Calm our fears,

Bring justice to all peoples

And establish harmony among the nations,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

'I am with you'

by **Hannah Carpenter**, who wrote the poem for a loved one whilst he served in Afghanistan.

Read by

The Reverend (Wing Commander) Ruth Hake MBE

As I imagine what you are doing, I feel you by my side,
Like the morning when you left me, I wish I'd never cried,
For your shoulders were heavy with guilt and lots of sadness too,
Last words echoed inside my head of 'I'll be coming home to you.'
And there your kiss left mine until some distant day,
To be your last (you promised) that you shall never go away.
So I sit here looking out, on to fields so green,
Whilst you have only desert and views you will have only seen.
But rest assured I am with you, deep inside your heart,
I would always be your strength and angel, you knew that from the start.
To guide you through your dark days and help you with your thoughts
And have the loving memories that never can be bought.
You are with me every second; I hope you feel that too,
Because when I go to bed at night, all I feel is you.
Though I wake up in the morning and see the empty space,
A smile soon returns as a photo I have in place,
Just upon your pillow and there I say "Hello"
For I know you'll hear that coming and feel our loving grow.

Nearer my God to Thee

(Arr. Richard Fox)

Sung by

The Metropolitan Police Choir

A Reading from the Gospel of St Matthew, 5:1-12

Read by

Miss Victoria Whittaker

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
For they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
For they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
For they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against
you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

Prayers are led by the
Chaplain-in-Chief, The Venerable (Air Vice-Marshal) Jonathan Chaffey QHC

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the leaders of the nations,
That you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation,
That they may have discipline and discernment,

Courage and compassion.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

We pray for all civilians who have served in conflict.
We give thanks for their courage, their skill and their commitment.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,
That you may turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

We pray for the wounded and the captive,
The grieving and the homeless,
That in all their trials they may know your love and support.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

Most Holy God and Father,
Hear our prayers for all who strive for peace,
And all who yearn for justice.
Help us, who today remember the cost of war,
To work for a better tomorrow;
And, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,
Bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Act of Commitment

The **Chaplain General** leads the Act of Commitment.

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God,

We offer to you the fears in us

That have not yet been cast out by love;

May we accept the hope you have placed

In the hearts of all people,

And live lives of justice, courage and mercy;

Through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer

Amen.

Please stand for the Act of Remembrance.

Last Post

Silence.

Lament

Reveille

Final Blessing

The **Chaplain of the Fleet** gives the final blessing.

God grant to the living grace,
To the departed rest,
To the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth
And all people
Unity, peace and concord,
And to us and all God's servants,
Life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you all
And remain with you always. **Amen.**

Remain standing to sing the National Anthem:

**God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!**

David of the White Rock
Largo

*Arr. Cresswell
Handel*

The Queen's Piper plays as Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh departs to the memorial in Victoria Embankment Gardens for the short unveiling ceremony.

Please be seated as the unveiling ceremony, shown on screens, takes place. Accompanying music includes:

Hine e Hine
Rondo
A Quiet Moment
Rhosymedre

*Rangi Pai
Purcell
Sparke
Vaughan Williams*

Prayer of Dedication at the Memorial led by the Bishop at Lambeth and Bishop to the Forces, the Right Reverend Nigel Stock

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

Let us pray that this place be always a place of peace where troubles can be shared and laid down, fears recede, and memories treasured.

Amen.

To the Glory of God and in honour of the commitment and duty of all those both civilian and military whose service is commemorated here, we dedicate this memorial in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May this memorial commemorate the lives and service of all who took part in the Operations in the Gulf region, Iraq and Afghanistan as we acknowledge their sacrifices and dedication. May it remind us and all who pass by, of the bravery, commitment and selflessness of those who served. May it remain an inspiration to us and all who follow, to do our duty with courage and integrity in the service of God and all humankind, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Go forth into the World in peace;
Be of good courage;
Hold fast that which is good;
Render to no one evil for evil;
Strengthen the faint hearted;
Support the weak;
Help the afflicted;
Honour everyone;
Love and serve the Lord,
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

On completion of the ceremony at the memorial, the Colour is recovered and the Drumhead on Horse Guards deconstructed. Please remain seated until the clergy departs. During this, the band will play:

Spirit of Pageantry

Fletcher

Please stand for the departure of the Royal Family.

Mosul

IRAQ

The UK has been proudly at the forefront of a relationship between the Gulf and the West, supporting our shared prosperity and security. The relationship is of great historic significance and is fundamental to our shared future.

To defend mutual interests, threatened by Saddam Hussein invading Kuwait in 1990, the UK Armed Forces deployed on Operation Granby. On 17 January 1991, the United Nations launched the largest coalition of forces since the Second World War in response to the invasion of Kuwait. The British contribution involved the deployment of 53,000 UK personnel from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. The Royal Navy played a vital role intercepting missiles, clearing mines and preventing enemy vessels from posing a threat to the Coalition Forces. British Army troops, numbering around 34,000, were key to the mission as they joined the ground offensive and the Royal Air Force flew more than 6,000 sorties after the outbreak of hostilities. A temporary ceasefire was agreed just over a month later, on 28 February, with a formal ceasefire signed on 11 April.

Following the conflict, Saddam's regime violently persecuted minority groups in the country. British Forces played a leading role to protect the Kurdish population of northern Iraq, then subsequently participated in the No Fly Zones which successfully prevented Saddam from using his airpower to attack the Kurds in the north and the Marsh

Arabs in the south. The regime continually hindered agreed United Nations inspections. In March 2003, a combined force from the US and UK and others, invaded and rapidly defeated Iraq's military and paramilitary forces. Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, the last major stronghold of the regime, fell with little resistance on 13 April 2003. That spring, at the peak of combat operations under Operation Telic, 46,000 UK Armed Forces personnel were involved. Saddam was captured in December 2003 and subsequently turned over to Iraqi authorities.

Once Iraqis were free of Saddam's oppression, the Coalition's task was to help the formation of a democratic government able to govern for the benefit of the Iraqi people. What commenced was a longer second phase of involvement in which the Coalition sought to help restore law and order while being opposed by an insurgency. Iraq enjoyed its first truly democratic elections in 2005, and by summer 2006, the Iraqi government was able to begin taking the lead on security responsibility. But this was not achieved



without sacrifice; UK personnel endured separation from loved ones, some suffered life-changing injuries while many gave their lives in service to their country.

The UK has been at the fore of efforts to support the Government of Iraq to mitigate the humanitarian impact of these military operations, and to ensure that the population's basic needs have been met. UK aid has supported projects to improve education, public financial management and private sector development and provides life-saving humanitarian assistance.

The UK's six-year military mission in Iraq concluded on 30 April 2009, with around 150 troops remaining in a training capacity until May 2011. This led to a close and enduring bilateral relationship with Iraq.

Throughout the conflicts, professional and administrative staff across the NHS played crucial roles in supporting both the physical and mental injuries of all those deployed and those supporting UK efforts. These roles covered a full range of health issues and included front line acute care to home-based community and primary care, right through to an ongoing commitment to looking after the injuries of all personnel. NHS staff served in differing roles and were a mix of full-time, Reservists and volunteers who have had operational, in-theatre and home-based roles. Whether deployed in front-line or in support roles, all NHS staff members have and continue to uphold and deliver on their daily commitment and support to the Armed Forces Covenant.



AFGHANISTAN

Mazar-e-sharif

Over a 13-year period from 2001 to 2014, UK Armed Forces served on combat operations in Afghanistan in order to protect our national security by helping the Afghans take control of their own.

The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 killed nearly 3,000 people, of whom 67 were British. At the time, terrorist organisation Al Qaeda led by Osama bin Laden was headquartered in Afghanistan, under the protection of the Taliban regime. The UK government stood alongside international partners in condemnation of Al Qaeda's actions and in 2001 the UK, US, and allies launched military strikes against Al Qaeda training camps and the first UK elements deployed to Afghanistan and the wider region.

In 2002 the first contingent of coalition troops, under the banner of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), deployed to Afghanistan. In August 2003 NATO took control of ISAF operations, its first operational commitment outside Europe. The UK was part of the effort to expand ISAF into the north - this was designed to extend Afghanistan's Interim Authority beyond Kabul in the face of continued insurgency. In September 2005, the first parliamentary election in over 30 years was held in the country.

In 2006, UK forces deployed to Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan - one of the country's most volatile and violent

regions. Over the following two years the intensity of insurgent fighting grew and they widely used Improvised Explosive Devices. The nature of the insurgency, mixed with the cultural and social complexities of this province presented an exceptionally challenging environment to work in.

In February 2010, an operation was launched to eliminate the Taliban from central Helmand. This was the largest joint offensive, involving 15,000 British, American, and Afghan troops, facilitated and supported by overwhelming air reconnaissance, transport, and close air support.

From 2010 to 2014, the focus shifted from combating threats to building stability by assisting Afghanistan's own Security Forces and helping the country take responsibility for its own security. UK Servicemen and women helped to train, guide and mentor, with the result that the Afghan Forces have developed into credible and capable units.

In July 2011 British troops handed over responsibility for the security of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, to Afghan Forces. In June 2013, the Afghan National Army assumed control of all military and security operations in the country. The withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan began in May 2011 and troops left Camp Bastion (the UK's main military base) at the end of combat operations on 26 October 2014. The last logistical elements of operations were removed by 2015.

Over this significant period of involvement, more than 450 UK military personnel made the ultimate sacrifice with many others receiving life-long injuries.

The UK has played an important role in supporting Afghanistan as it emerged from Taliban leadership. The role of the UK would not have been possible without the efforts of hundreds of civilian staff working in challenging conditions in Helmand and Kabul. The support the UK provides on issues such as security, development and governance is crucial to building a stable, more prosperous and peaceful state.

The UK provided important assistance on issues such as health, education and job creation. UK support has helped to ensure more than 7.2 million children now attend school, 39% of whom are girls, and has helped create more than 100,000 jobs. UK aid has been committed to improving lives of girls and women in Afghanistan with investments in economic empowerment, education, addressing violence against women and security and political participation.





THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Board of Trustees was formed to lead the delivery of the Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial. Former Chief of Defence Staff (2006–2010) Lord Stirrup, who has strong links with the three conflicts, is chairman of the board. His fellow trustees include former Chief of Defence Staff (2001–2003) Lord Boyce and former Chief of Defence Staff (2003–2006) Lord Walker and the memorial's sculptor, Paul Day. The Government has supported the initiative for a new memorial from the outset and is responsible for the unveiling event, on behalf of the trustees.

A fundraising appeal for the memorial was launched in The Sun newspaper on Remembrance Sunday 2014. The Government committed financial support via LIBOR funding and numerous companies and individuals made generous donations towards it. Atkins supported the trustees in enlisting the sculptor and has managed the delivery of the memorial successfully, through design and construction.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion has generously supported a reception for guests and is a key delivery partner for today's event.

The Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community through thick and thin - ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten. Through its welfare work, the Legion helps the British Armed Forces, younger and older veterans and their families to live on to a more hopeful future. The Legion is also the national custodian of Remembrance, passing on the torch of Remembrance to future generations.

The Legion has supported Serving personnel, veterans and their families throughout the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and will continue to do so for the rest of their lives. It will also ensure that the memories of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country live on.





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