

“Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them.”

George Elliot

Remembrance Service 2021

Humanist And Non-religious in Defence (HAND) network



Humanist
And
Non-religious in
Defence



Non-Religious Pastoral
Support Network

Remember me

Read by Gianfranco Mansi, MOD faith & belief champion

Duty called and I went to war
Though I'd never fired a gun before
I paid the price for your new day
As all my dreams were blown away
Remember me

We all stood true as whistles blew
And faced the shell and stench of Hell
Now battle's done, there is no sound
Our bones decay beneath the ground
We cannot see, or smell, or hear
There is no death, or hope or fear
Remember me

Once we, like you, would laugh and talk
And run and walk and do the things that you all do
But now we lie in rows so neat
Beneath the soil, beneath your feet
Remember me

In mud and gore and the blood of war
We fought and fell and move no more
Remember me, I am not dead
I'm just a voice within your head

by Harry Riley

Hope For The Future

By Major Neil Weddell, DHN Pastoral Lead

The human condition is one of vulnerability. Our fate may be terrible and, there may be no consolation ...To recognise fragility is to accept that we are vulnerable to circumstances.

But we are also vulnerable to our own failings. Just as there are no guarantees all will be well in the end, so also there are no guarantees in human nature that we will, through our own resources, be able to create a perfect world. Just as we have to acknowledge that terrible things can happen to us, we have to acknowledge that we capable of doing terrible things.

These are grounds for sober realism, but not for despair. The ideal to which we can aspire is not a remote non-human ideal. It is one which is formed from our experience of what human beings are capable of at their best. It is an ideal that comes from within our own humanity.

We may face many challenges, including crime, injustice, and violence. Some may not take advantage of their abilities, and others use them in ways that should not be celebrated. Not everyone will use their life to do good things, answer big questions, or improve the quality of life for humankind. However, we believe we should all be encouraged to do so – we should make the most of our talents and abilities.

We have made great progress and we have the potential to continue to do so in the future. Today, we have the opportunity to continue to add to the building of a more humane society tomorrow, through altruism, positive regard of others and above all, treating others as we would have them treat us.

Schedule of service

Introduction

Humanists and the Cenotaph

Recalling and reliving stories of past conflicts

Humanist Choir – The Long Day Closes

Roll call of conflicts of past and present

The Last Post

Two-minute Silence

Reveille and Kohima Epitaph

Humanist Choir – For the fallen

Reconciliation

Rededication

Humanist Choir - Shenandoah

Hope for the future

Poem – Remember Me

Introduction To Remembrance

By Major Neil Weddell, DHN Pastoral Lead

This year's observation of Remembrance has within it the elements of *recalling, reliving, reconciling, rededication and hope for the future*. Remembrance encourages us to *recall* the horrors of war and the heroism of individuals. It encourages us to *relive* these past experiences through story, music and contemplation, so that such events may become the inspiration for us to work for *reconciliation*, striving to bring about peace and justice in the future. Remembrance reminds us to *rededicate* our commitment towards living full and happy lives and, as part of this, helping other people do the same. It reminds us to make the one life we have meaningful. Remembrance provides us the opportunity to share together, in the here and now, generating *Hope for the future* - a future that is built on reason, empathy, compassion and respect for the dignity of all persons.

The theme of this year's service is 'Human Values' and how – in times of conflict, trauma, and danger – the intrinsic values that are inherent in all of us come to the fore, demonstrating our natural capacity to behave in courageous and benevolent ways. This might include putting others before ourselves, being afraid but still stepping forward, as well as finding the moral strength to reach out to those who have wronged us so we can reconcile, learn from our mistakes, and build a more progressive future together.



Reconciliation

By Professor AC Grayling, Vice President of Humanists UK

Striving to bring about peace and justice in the future through the reconciliation of one's feelings regarding past experiences.



Rededication

By Colonel Erin Kamp, Head of Humanist Chaplaincy, Dutch Armed Forces

Contemplating upon those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and the responsibility we have to them to rededicate our commitment towards living full and happy lives and helping others to do the same.



Shenandoah

By London Humanist Choir

The Last Post

For those who wish to, please stand

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”

**Last post is sounded
(military personnel to salute)**

Silence for two minutes

“Reveille” is sounded

**Kohima Epitaph
by Chelsea Pensioner Roy Palmer**

Please sit



For The Fallen

By London Humanist Choir

Humanists and the Cenotaph

By Andrew Copson, Chief executive of Humanists UK

Andrew Copson reflects upon his experiences of being invited to the Cenotaph to represent the non-religious who have made the ultimate sacrifice in wars of yesterday.



Recalling & Reliving

Recalling the conflicts of the past by reliving the experiences of those it affected

Story one is the recalling of Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse, a WW1 doctor in the Royal Army Medical Corps. The value he embodied is the value adopted from Royal Air Force of **Service**. This value is the ultimate act of unselfish commitment. Professional duties must take precedence over personal interests, with a willingness to serve others before ourselves. Read by Air Vice Marshall Richard Maddison, HAND Champion.

Story two is the recalling of Eileen Nearne a Special Operations Executive (SOE) radio operator in WW2. The value she embodied is the value adopted from the Royal Navy of **Loyalty**. The Nation, the Navel Service and those with whom we serve rely on our commitment, dedication and support. We must therefore be loyal to our leaders, those that we lead, our team, and our duty. Read by Corporal Michelle Hordern, HAND funeral celebrant.

Recalling & Reliving

Story three is the recalling of Eric Lomax, a British Army Officer who became a POW in WW2. The value he embodied is the value adopted from the Royal Air Force of **Respect for others**. The RAF breaks this value down into three components. *Self-respect*: People who encourage an environment of high personal standards, teamwork and professionalism are key to nurturing self-respect. *Mutual Respect*: Service personnel must always maintain the highest standards of decency and justice towards people, whatever the circumstances. *Humility*: All Service personnel should aim to be modest, genuine and reasonable with others. Read by Commander Charlie Jones, co-chair of HAND

Story four is the recalling of Charles Upham, a New Zealander soldier serving in WW2. The value he embodied is the value adopted from the British Army of **Courage**: All soldiers need courage, both physical and moral. Showing physical courage and risking injury or death to complete the mission is about controlling your fear, rather than a lack of fear. Training and discipline help you to do your duty regardless of the dangers and discomforts. Moral courage is doing the right thing, not looking the other way when you know or see something is wrong, even if it is not a popular thing to do or say.



The Long Day Closes

By London Humanist Choir

Operational Roll Call

Remembering those who fought in past and present conflicts.
Each operational theatre is followed by a verse of remembrance for all to say.

WW1: In the rising of the sun and its going down,
We Remember Them.

WW2: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
We Remember Them.

Korea: In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring.
We Remember Them.

South Arabia: When we have joys and special celebrations we yearn to
share,
We Remember Them

Northern Ireland: In the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of
summer,
We Remember Them.

Falklands: In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn.
We Remember Them.

Gulf War: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
We Remember Them.

Balkans: When we are weary and in need of strength,
We Remember Them.

Afghanistan: When we are lost and sick of heart,
We Remember Them.

Iraq: So long as we live
They too shall live
For we remember them

