

What does Remembrance mean to you?



To me, Remembrance means taking a moment to pause, reflect and show appreciation for all those who have served and sacrificed, and all those that have supported them. It is about recognising the impact conflict can have, on individuals, families and communities and ensuring their stories are not forgotten.

During Remembrance I often think of my Grandparents story. In 1941 they married, the very next day my Grandad returned to the army. They did not see each other again for 4 years, until August 1945 when World War Two ended. Remembrance makes me think of the sacrifice they both made, the pain of being apart, the fear of never seeing one another again, but also the hope they had that the world would be a better place for those that came after them.



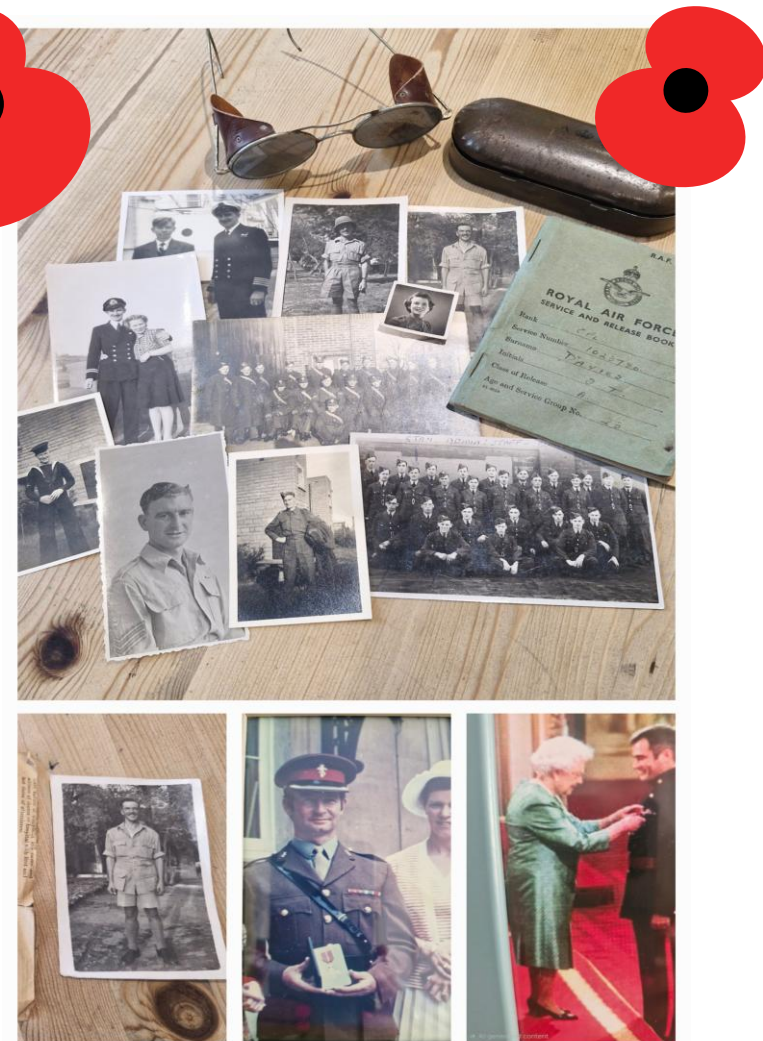
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War is an atrocity no one should have to witness first-hand. During the Second World War, many of my relatives enlisted to protect their families, homes and country from oppression and defend their national identity, culture and human rights.

My husband served in the British Army for many years, and we are proud of his service. Yet it came with hidden costs: frequent moves, new beginnings and time apart. Now that he is a veteran, we are pausing to reflect on what his unwavering loyalty and service have meant for us all. Although I empathise with relatives who went to war and those left behind, I cannot imagine the pain of learning that so many lives had been lost, including young men who would never return home.

As the mum of a son who is nearly 17, I find Remembrance especially poignant. I think of the children and young people caught up in conflict through no fault of their own. Amid our busy lives, I pause to reflect on the strength needed to endure war's brutality, hope for a more peaceful future for everyone, and give thanks for the selfless sacrifices that have kept my family safe.



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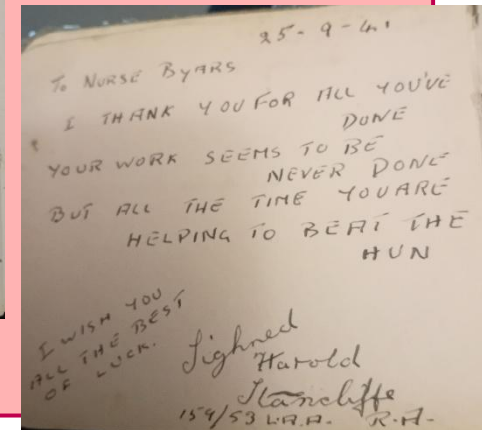
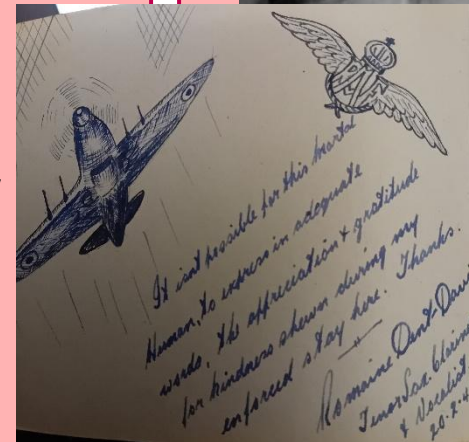
Remembrance is a time of year when I remember my grandad, who served in the Second World War. It was so special to attend our local Remembrance parade with him every year from when I was very young. As I got older, he talked to us about his experiences and taught me so much. He told us about his dad, who served in the First World War and was wounded at the Battle of Passchendaele. He died very shortly after the war, so my grandad never knew him. Now, during Remembrance, I think about my grandad and great-grandad, as well as all the other brave Armed Forces personnel who have made sacrifices for us.



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For me, Remembrance Day is about more than remembering those who fought in war. It is also about remembering the people who cared for them when they were injured, frightened and far from home. My Grandma was a nurse during the war, and I have included pictures of nurses because of the important role she played in helping wounded soldiers. The extracts from her diary are especially meaningful to me, as they contain messages from patients thanking her for the kindness, comfort and support she gave them. Reading their words reminds me that what she did was much more than a job. She built connections with people during some of the hardest moments of their lives and gave them hope when they needed it most. On Remembrance Day, I think of all those who served and sacrificed, but I also think of the nurses, doctors and carers whose compassion helped so many people through the pain and sadness of war. Their courage, dedication and kindness should never be forgotten



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My Dad is an Army Veteran; he served 25 years in the Infantry. He left 3 years ago, but I remember him being away a lot.

Remembrance day (11th November) and Remembrance Sunday are always important to our family. On Remembrance Sunday, we go to our town centre, where the town's memorial is, pause and take time to think about and show respect to those who fought in conflicts and sacrificed their lives to try to bring peace to the world and make it a safer place.

I also think it's important to wear a poppy. It's an easy way to show that you are thinking about those people and animals that showed amazing bravery in times of war, when they must have been very frightened.

