

ARMISTICE DAY, 1945

The arrangements for the celebration of Armistice Day, Sunday, 11th November, 1945, have now been completed and have been approved by His Majesty The King.

Representative detachments of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Army, The Royal Air Force (including the women's branches of those Services) the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets, and of Dominion and Indian Forces, together with a contingent of ex-Service men and women, will march via Birdcage Walk, the Horse Guards Arch and Whitehall to the Cenotaph where they will arrive by 10.30 a.m. and form a hollow square. The north side of the square will be formed by columns of ex-service men and women, detailed by the British Legion, who served in the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy during the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars. The west side will be formed by detachments of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, the Royal Air Force, the women's Services of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, and the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets. The east side of the square will be formed by detachments of the Household Cavalry, the Royal Artillery, the Brigade of Guards, Dominion, Indian and Colonial Forces and the women's Services of the Army, while the southern side will be formed by the Bands of the Brigade of Guards, together with Bands of the Royal Marines and Royal Air Force. A selection of music will be played by the Bands and Pipes of the Brigade of Guards between 10.30 and 11 a.m.

Shortly after 10.45 a.m. the Choir of the Chapel Royal, supplemented by members of the Westminster Abbey Special Choir, will leave the Home Office and take up a position on the eastern side of the Cenotaph. The Choir will be followed by the Bishop of London who will conduct the Service.

Shortly before 11 a.m. a wreath will be placed at the Cenotaph by His Majesty The King. Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth will also lay a wreath, and wreaths will subsequently be laid on behalf of Queen Mary and of His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom and the Dominions; of India and Burma; of the Colonies and Protectorates; and of the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force, the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets, and Civil Defence.

On the first stroke of 11 a.m. by Big Ben Two Minute's Silence will be observed. Its commencement and conclusion will be marked by the firing of a gun from the Horse Guards Parade. At the end of the Silence the "Last Post" will be sounded by Trumpeters of the Royal Air Force, after which the hymn "O God our help in ages past" will be sung accompanied by the Bands of the Brigade of Guards. A short Service will follow consisting of a special Collect, the Lord's Prayer and a Blessing. The Reveille sounded by Buglers of the Royal Marines and one verse of "God Save The King" sung by the congregation and accompanied by the Bands, will complete the ceremony.

Copies of the Order of Service will be distributed by Boy Scouts to the public in Whitehall, and it is earnestly hoped that all will join in the singing.

The Service will be broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

At the conclusion of the Service His Majesty The King and Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth will return to the Home Office. Her Majesty the Queen, together with other ladies of the Royal Family, will witness the ceremony from windows overlooking the Cenotaph.

Before the Service Detachments leave Whitehall the columns of ex-Service men and women present on parade will march past the Cenotaph. The Service Detachments will then march off and official deputations bearing wreaths and the general public will be marshalled into streams moving from Whitehall towards Westminster so that they may place wreaths on the Cenotaph as they pass, while arrangements have been made so that those who so desire may pass through Westminster Abbey before the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. It is specially requested that all wreaths and flowers be placed at the Cenotaph and not at the Unknown Warrior's Grave.

All movement in Whitehall will be from North to South only - that is from Trafalgar Square to Parliament Street - and members of the public who attend the Service are requested to disperse in a southerly direction after the troops have marched off.

The Two Minutes' Silence will be observed throughout the United Kingdom and it is hoped that church services will begin at such hour as may be convenient in order to ensure that there shall be everywhere a pause in the service at 11 a.m. when the Silence will be observed. Local authorities are asked to arrange beforehand for the synchronising of all public clocks with Greenwich time. The Greenwich Time Signal will be broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation on Saturday, 10th November, at 10.0 a.m. on the Light programme and at 10.15 a.m. on the Home programme. It will be broadcast again on Sunday, 11th November, at 8 a.m. before the news on the Home Programme.

The commencement of the Two Minutes' Silence will be marked in the Central Metropolitan Area by the firing of a gun from the Horse Guards Parade simultaneously with the first stroke of Big Ben as it sounds the hour at 11 a.m. At 11.2 a.m. a second gun will be fired to denote the conclusion of the Silence. In Outer London similar notifications will be given by the discharge of maroons from selected police stations. It is specially requested that no hooters, sirens, bells or other form of sound signal be utilised within the Metropolitan Police District or the City of London as the signals which have been authorised should, in ordinary circumstances be audible over the whole Metropolitan Area.

At all ceremonies arranged to mark the anniversary of Armistice Day, war medals and decorations may appropriately be worn with civilian dress by all ex-officers and ex-Service men and women, members of the Nursing Services and other women to whom they have been awarded, while the holders of war medals and decorations awarded to deceased relatives have full permission to wear such medals and decorations on the right breast.

Details of the arrangements in the United Kingdom have been forwarded to all parts of the Empire and it is hoped that there will be such general - co-operation in the observance of Armistice Day as has been the case in previous years.

#### SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

There will be a Special Service at Westminster Abbey on Armistice Day commencing at 10.30 a.m. and concluding at 11.10 a.m. at which the Board of Admiralty, the Army Council and the Air Council will be represented. Representative detachments from the Fighting Services, the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets will also attend.

Such seats as will be available in the Abbey after setting apart the places reserved for residents in the Dominions and Colonies, the representative detachments and the British Legion, will be open to the public without tickets. It is, therefore, particularly requested that no applications for tickets should be addressed to the authorities of the Abbey.

The general public will be admitted to the Abbey at 11.20 a.m. and the doors will remain open until 8 p.m. at which hour the Abbey will be closed.

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