

IN MEMORIAM BARONESS FLATHER 1934-2024

Commemorating the  
**80th anniversary of the  
Battles of Imphal and Kohima**

Monday 11 March 2024

# MEMORIAL GATES

Supported by





## The Memorial Gates

On the 6th of November 2002, Queen Elizabeth II officially inaugurated the Memorial Gates on Constitution Hill, in London. These gates are erected as a lasting memorial to honour the five million men and women from the Indian subcontinent, Africa, the Pacific islands and the Caribbean and Nepal who volunteered to serve with the Armed Forces during the First and Second World Wars. They also celebrate the contribution that these servicemen and women and now their descendants from 56 members of the Commonwealth family and Nepal, made and continue to make to the rich diversity of British society.

Since 2002, there has been a wreath laying ceremony every year involving High Commissioners from all Commonwealth countries, now established as a feature of Commonwealth Day. This year we pay our respects in the time-honoured way on the 11th of March.

We also mark the 80th anniversary of the famous Battles of Kohima and Imphal this year involving British combined forces and the Japanese in South Asia. We specifically remember those who served in the Fourteenth Army at Kohima and Imphal, and across South Asia. The polyglot Fourteenth Army which turned the tide of war in the region was an army that spoke 40 languages, containing Sikhs, Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Jews among many other religions. Of its thirteen divisions, eight were Indian Army, three were African, and only two were wholly British.

The Fourteenth Army helped play a part in shaping today's multi-cultural Britain, thanks to the collaboration of the men and women from so many religions, races, and nations. It created ties that span continents, nations, people, races and religions.



## Ceremony Programme

**10.15 am** **Guests arrive**

**10.20 am** **Arrival of the Commonwealth March**

**10.40 am** **Ceremony starts**

Welcome: The Lord Bilimoria CBE DL  
Chairman, Memorial Gates Council  
Dr Paul Flather, Moment of Remembrance

Speech: The Viscount Slim

Prayer: The Right Reverend Saju Muthulaly,  
Bishop of Loughborough

Piper: Plays a Lament

**11.00 am** **Bugler sounds “Last Post”** (those seated are to stand, those in uniform salute and gentlemen remove headdress)

**Two Minute Silence**

**Bugler sounds “Reveille”**  
(those with seats are to sit at the end of Reveille)

**11.15 am** **Wreath laying**

The Lord Bilimoria CBE DL on behalf of His Majesty the King  
The Lord Bilimoria CBE DL on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London

Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP on behalf of the House of Commons  
Baroness Scotland PC KC on behalf of the Commonwealth

The Viscount Slim on behalf of those who fell at the battles of Imphal and Kohima

Ms Lynda Atkins on behalf of Royal British Legion  
High Commissioners, Speakers and Foreign Ministers  
Remainder: will be called forward in groups

**11.30 am** **Refreshments served**  
Band and choir resume entertainment

**12.00 noon** Musical entertainment ends

**1.00 pm** Event ends



“We are guardians of a precious flame, and it is our duty not only to keep it burning brightly but to keep it replenished for the decades ahead”.

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s Commonwealth message to the (then) 53 member states during the inauguration.

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## **Acknowledgements**

The Memorial Gates Council would like to thank the following for their support and participation:

The Royal Parks –St James’s Park and The Green Park  
The Royal British Legion  
The Band of the Household Cavalry  
Commonwealth Children’s Choir