



Objectives of the Last Post Association

In accordance with the provisions of its own statutes and in keeping with a wider spirit of remembrance, the Last Post Association seeks to honour the memory of the soldiers of Great Britain and its Empire who died during the Great War of 1914 - 1918. The Association also seeks to promote the ideals that the Menin Gate Memorial has come to represent, not only in terms of suffering and self-sacrifice but also in terms of solidarity, duty, courage and service to one's country.

To achieve these objectives the Association - a purely voluntary and wholly independent body - is charged

with the daily organisation of the sounding of the Last Post under the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium (as well as the organisation of any special ceremonies which may be necessary). This ceremony takes place at 20.00 hours each evening and is played by a dedicated team of local buglers.

To finance its work the Association is empowered to raise funds as appropriate and in this respect it relies heavily on the support of its own affiliated members, supplemented by gifts and donations from various secondary sources.

We will remember them.



Contact information

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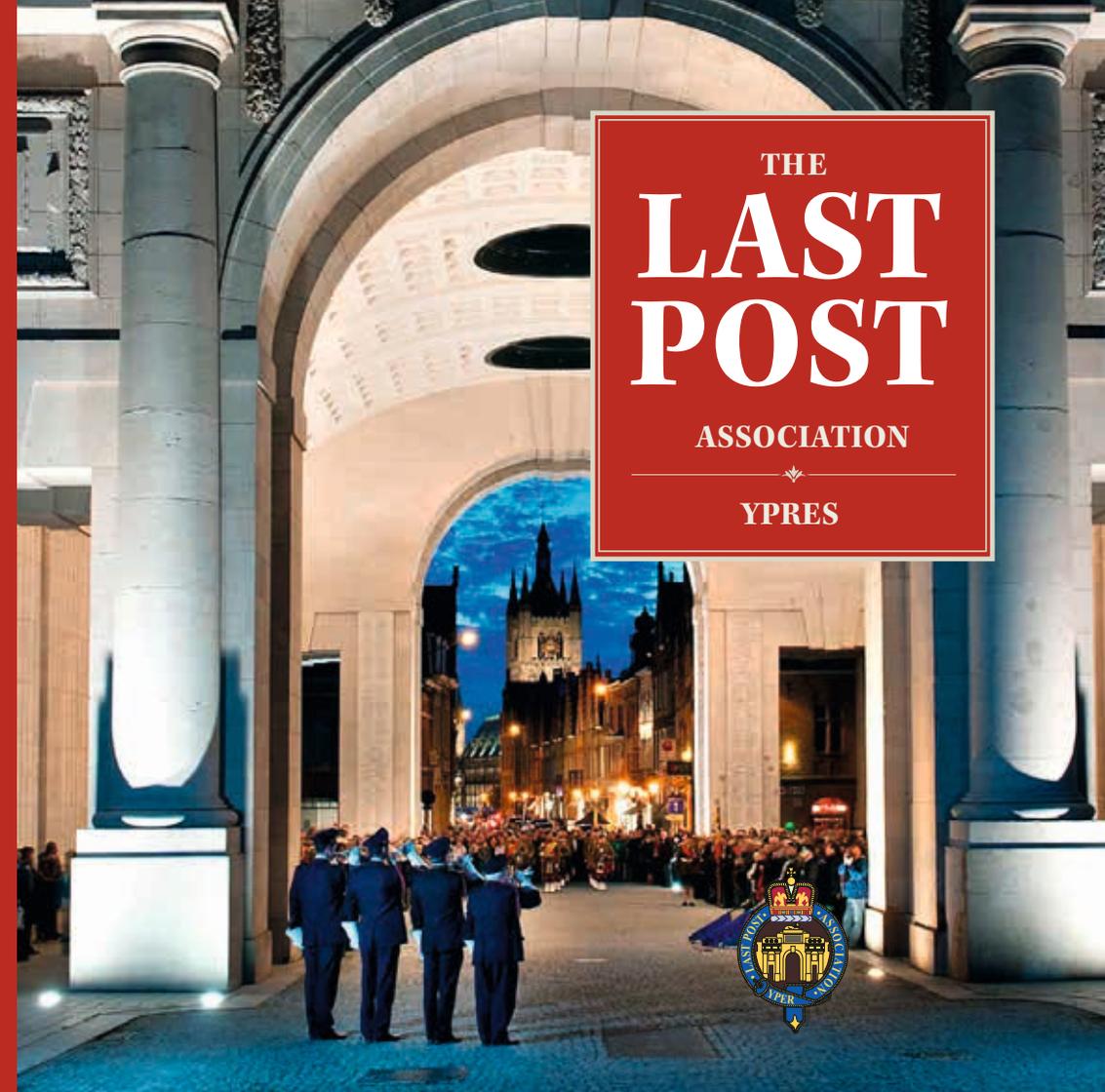
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Order of ceremony

Call to attention
Prayer and/or speech
Last Post
Exhortation ('For the Fallen' by L. Binyon)
1 minute's silence
Lament
Laying of wreaths
Kohima Epitaph
Reveille
National anthem(s)

Behaviour

To allow the ceremony to take place in a serene atmosphere, we would kindly ask all those present to behave in an appropriate and respectful manner.
Please remain quiet throughout and do not applaud either during or after the ceremony.

The Last Post at the Menin Gate

Every evening at exactly 8 o'clock, the Last Post sounds beneath the imposing arches of the Menin Gate Memorial. This tribute is played in honour of the memory of the soldiers of the British Empire who fought and died in the immortal Ypres Salient during the First World War between 1914 and 1918.

In the four great battles around the ruined town, more than 250,000 servicemen of the then British Empire lost their lives. Many of these brave soldiers - not only from Great Britain but also from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and many other countries - lie buried in the 155 war cemeteries which now surround modern-day Ypres.

The first Last Post was sounded on 1 July 1928. It has been sounded faithfully every night ever since, with the single exception of the period of German occupation during the Second World War. Even then, the ceremony was resumed on the very evening of the liberation - 6 September 1944 - and this notwithstanding the heavy fighting that was still taking place in other parts of the town.

During its almost 90 year existence it has been attended by countless veterans and numerous civil and religious dignitaries, including the royal families of Great Britain and Belgium, His Holiness Pope John-Paul II, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, several heads of state, various government ministers and many more.



Support the Last Post Association

The Last Post Association is an independent, voluntary, non-profit-making organisation. It was the Association that first founded the Last Post Ceremony back in 1928, and it is the Association that is still responsible for the day-to-day organisation of this unique act of homage. It also administers the Last Post Fund, which provides the financial resources necessary to support the ceremony.

To finance its work, the Association is empowered to raise funds and relies heavily on the support of gifts and donations from various sources.

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