



# The Great Sacrifice

By John Larimer

During the many services of remembrance held during November much was said, and quite rightly so, of the sacrifice of citizens of Great Britain during the two World Wars. Perhaps we should also pause to take note and remember the sacrifice of others right round the globe in these same wars.

The casualty tables which accompany this article are but one version, drawn from a number of official sources, of the human cost of the two wars. Add to these the untold military and civilian casualties not recorded, the physical and mental trauma to the families and loved ones of all casualties, the monetary and resource cost beyond calculation...we all, to varying degree, are touched by the effects of these wars.

It should also be remembered that each day between the World Wars, and each day since, we of the human race have been engaged in declared or undeclared, overt or covert, hostile and destructive action against others of our world. We carry out these acts under the guise of political, religious, racial, tribal, or so many other misguided justification including merely the desire for power and control over others or their property.

The financial and human cost of such action is beyond calculation. Surely these efforts would be better directed toward improving our existence. Imagine the benefits to be realised should we direct our vast resources toward the advancement and betterment, rather than the destruction, of humankind. What contribution might have been made to human welfare by those lives lost or damaged in pursuit of hostilities by humanity against humanity for whatever misguided reason. Just where is the humanity in such conduct.

As we approach a new year in our history we should remember our disastrous mistakes which have proven so costly to our world and its inhabitants and work toward a better lot for ourselves and each other, one and all. Perhaps our children will do a better job of looking after humanity.

WORLD WAR I	DEATHS	WOUNDED
Austria-Hungary	1,200,000	3,620,000
Belgium	13,716	44,686
British Empire	908,371	2,090,212
Bulgaria	87,500	152,390
France	1,357,800	4,266,000
Germany	1,773,700	4,216,058
Greece	5,000	21,000
Italy	650,000	947,000
Japan	300	907
Montenegro	3,000	10,000
Portugal	7,222	13,751
Romania	335,706	120,000
Russia	1,700,000	4,950,000
Serbia	45,000	133,148
Ottoman Empire	325,000	400,000
United States	126,000	234,300
<b>TOTAL RECORDED</b>	<b>8,538,315</b>	<b>24,839,452</b>

Deaths from all causes

WORLD WAR II	MILITARY DEATHS	MILITARY WOUNDED	CIVILIAN DEATHS
Australia	26,976	180,864	
Austria	280,000	350,117	
Belgium	8,460		
Brazil	943	4,222	
Bulgaria	6,671	21,878	
Canada	32,714	53,145	
China	3,500,000	1,762,006	10,000,000
Czechoslovakia	10,000	8,017	330,000
Denmark	4,339		
Finland	79,047	50,000	
France	250,000	400,000	360,000
Germany	3,500,000	7,250,000	3,800,000
Greece	17,024	47,290	
Hungary	120,000	89,313	280,000
India	32,121	64,354	
Italy	330,000	66,716	80,000
Japan	1,700,000	140,000	380,000
Netherlands	6,500	2,860	
New Zealand	11,625	17,000	
Norway	2,000		
Poland	120,000	530,000	5,300,000
Romania	200,000	465,000	
South Africa	2,473		
U.S.S.R.	13,000,000	14,012,000	7,000,000
United Kingdom	357,116	369,267	60,000
United States	407,318	670,846	
Yugoslavia	305,000	425,000	1,300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,310,327</b>	<b>26,695,759</b>	<b>29,355,000</b>

United Kingdom civilian deaths are British Empire & Commonwealth



Friends of Cherry Tree Wood tree planting team with, back row: park keeper Chris Ward and Parks & Countryside Officer Mark Evison; on the right: Rudi Vis MP and Lee Tyson from countryside management services. Photo by Polly Napper.

## Woodland Friends

On the morning of Sunday 11 February in Cherry Tree Wood, volunteers met our woodland management guru, Lee Tyson, at the picnic/quiet area to the east of the café.

They were there to help plant low growing trees and shrubs to separate the area from the path. Lee had already made a head start on a warmer day after the postponed January date so we were dealing with an incipient hawthorn hedge plus supplementary plants.

Rudi Vis attended and lent his support, and kids from nine to ninety were involved.

You may have noticed that two of the new picnic benches appear to have been vandalised. Things are not as bad as they may have seemed as Barnet did this for the benefit of pushchairs and wheelchairs!

The next volunteer day is Sunday 13 May - Any time you can spend between 10 and 2 would be greatly appreciated.

## Next Finchley Forum

The Finchley Forum is your chance to bring issues important to you to Councillors, Council officers and other members of the general public.

The next Forum is on Tuesday 20 March, at 6.30 pm, in Avenue House, East End Road, N3 (near the junction with Regent's Park Road).

The Forum is open to everyone, but if you want to put an item on the agenda, please contact Stephanie Chaikin on 020 8359 2019. (Items can also be added immediately before the meeting.)

## Barbara Langstone

By John Dearing

Councillor Barbara Langstone, who had been a member of the council since 1978, died at home on 18th January after a long fight against cancer. She was 72, and had been a member of the Conservative Party for more than 50 years.

She was involved in many worthy activities, including Finchley Age Concern, and was a trustee of several charities and a governor at no less than seven schools. She helped found patients' watchdog Barnet Community Health Council in the early Seventies, and was a member of the North West London Regional Health Authority for many years. More recently she was a member of the Barnet crime prevention panel.

Mrs Langstone also became involved in the world of Tory politics. She was personal secretary to Anthony Hurd, father of former foreign secretary Douglas Hurd. She worked as secretary to her husband, who was Mrs. Thatcher's election agent and helped her win her seat in six elections between 1964 and 1979.

### Mayor's tale

She stood down as secretary when she was first elected to the council. She represented East Finchley Ward and was re-elected in 1982 for Finchley Ward. She soon became a prominent member in the years of Conservative control, most notably as chairman of the social services committee between 1990 and 1994. She was Mayor of Barnet in 1985/86, during

which time she raised money for the St John Ambulance Brigade and the Red Cross. Her work gained her the Officer of St John medal.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Alan Williams, said she would be sorely missed by everyone who knew her. 'Her knowledge and command of local government issues was second to none and she had an extraordinary dedication and commitment to Barnet, Finchley and our residents.'

Conservative leader Councillor Victor Lyon said Barnet had lost one of its "most distinguished citizens". "She was a person who cared about our community and in her 23 years on the council she worked unceasingly, even to the end, in promoting the well-being of others. She seemed to possess boundless energy, was a real fighter for the causes in which she believed and had the ability to put her point of view with vigour, but always with courtesy. Barbara's friends crossed the political divide. Once made, friends remained such for life; she had a wicked sense of humour and a loyalty to them through thick and thin. The borough will be a poorer place without her."

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