

COFEPOW Scotland : Occasional Newsletter

November 2025



Remembrance Day

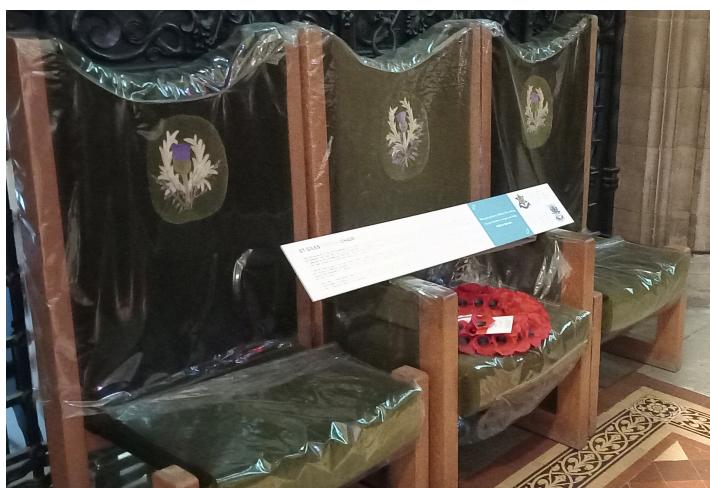
On Sunday 9th November
It was an honour to be asked to represent
COFEPOW
At the Stone of Remembrance, Edinburgh

Image by kind permission of Legion Scotland (legionscotland.org.uk)

On the grey November day, ranks of serving military personnel gathered with hundreds of members of the general public. The silence was broken by a lone piper.

A gun fired from Edinburgh Castle marked the start and end of the Two Minutes' Silence. A bugler sounded the Last Post. The short service continued with Binyon's Lines, a hymn and a prayer, followed by the laying of wreaths.

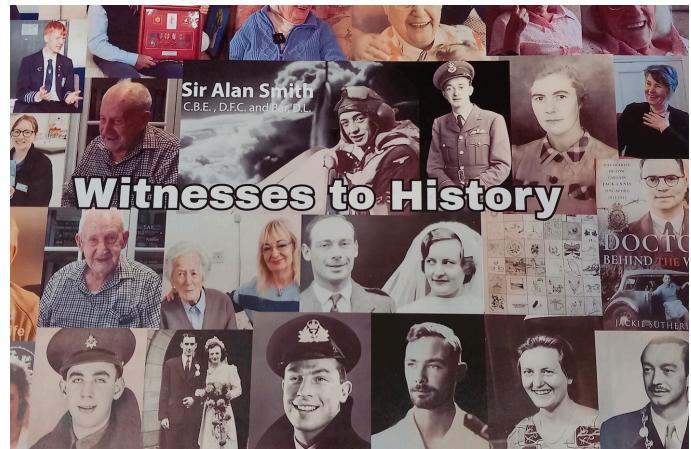
As King Charles' representative, the Right Honourable Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh laid the first wreath, followed by the First Minister of Scotland. Wreaths were laid by dignitaries representing the Scottish Parliament, the Armed Forces, Veterans, RBLS and PoppyScotland, Scottish National War Memorial, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and many other organisations and faiths.



After the last wreath was laid, Morning Service was held in St Giles' Cathedral. At this time of Remembrance, many wreaths are laid at individual memorials in the Cathedral - the FEPOW Chair with COFEPOW wreath is seen near the East Door in St Giles' Cathedral. This wreath was placed by FEPOW Jenny Martin on VJ Day 2025

Witnesses to History

This excellent film, made by Generating Opportunity CIC, was premiered on 11th November at the Soutar Theatre, Perth.



Elderly ladies and gentlemen who lived through World War 2 and their descendants recounted their memories and experiences on film - stories of courage and hardship, but also great friendship and humour.

I particularly liked the old lady who reported the end of the blackout was not welcomed by courting couples! What a contrast to the surprise and delight of those who were much younger and saw street lights on for the first time in their lives.

My late mother (Elizabeth Ennis) and the Changi quilts also feature in the film, followed by a reference to COFEPOW.

It is anticipated the film will be made available for viewing to COFEPOW members in the future.

Finally

As the 80th year following the end of the Second World War, 2025 has been a year of looking back. At the Remembrance Day service for senior pupils at Perth Academy, I invited them to join me in honouring all those who died, or were injured, and to commemorate those men and women from all walks of life who served to defend our liberty, our freedoms and protect our way of life.

Looking forward to 2026 I hope we can all continue to engage with family, friends and neighbours in our communities - young people in particular - however scattered we are as COFEPOW members across Scotland.

This year we have welcomed some new COFEPOW members in Scotland, I'm pleased to have met some of you already. There are early plans for more social lunches and gatherings around Scotland next year - if you can't wait that long and would like to be put in touch with members in your area, please email me!

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