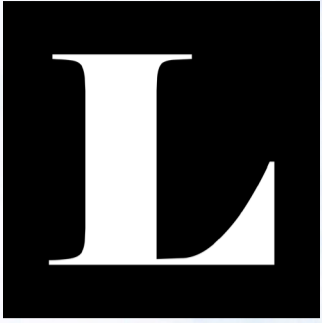


Monday September 19 2022



HER FINAL JOURNEY





King Charles III and the Prince of Wales watch the Queen's coffin at Westminster Abbey



More than 3,000 members of the UK and Commonwealth armed services were involved in the state funeral

Grief and gratitude to the nation's leading lady and a life of service on the hinge of history



More than a million people lined the funeral route, according to police

By James Toney

On the grandest stage, with all the pomp and circumstance it is possible to muster, a nation said goodbye to its leading lady.

For more than seven decades, in a starring role she wasn't born to do, Queen Elizabeth II defined an age and redefined the monarchy.

There is no sufficient superlative for the sheer scale of this final act in such a long-running drama, painted in vivid colours across postcard landmarks from London to Windsor.

There will be time for a discussion about whether traditions entrap your future or connect you to your past but surely that debate can wait.

She reigned at the hinge of history, where scientific and technological discoveries changed the world beyond recognition.

But sometimes it's possible to find solace in the past and this



The State Hearse travels down the Long Walk at Windsor Castle, as mourners threw flowers

greatest of state occasions, soaring and humbling in equal measure, was the finest tribute.

Hundreds of thousands lined the 21-mile route from the capital to her adored Windsor, where she was laid to rest with her beloved husband, father and mother at St George's Chapel.

And billions more formed an

invisible community as television linked living room to living room in a commonwealth of grief and gratitude.

There really shouldn't be a sense of shock at the death of a 96-year-old woman but the mournful majesty of this day, so beautifully poetic and symbolic, means the nation might need a

little space to regain its equilibrium.

It was a day instantly and indelibly imprinted on the national consciousness. From the massed bands to the lone piper, the relentless tolling of Big Ben to the precision metronomic marching through stilled streets, 75 steps per minute, no more, no less.

The Queen, shy despite living in the brightest glare, was said to hate the hush that invariably descended as she entered a room.

However, the pageantry and solemnity of this final engagement in a lifetime of service meant it could not be avoided.

Despite the broad canvas this story was painted on, with its all-star audience of global royalty and world leaders, this was also a very public family funeral. The wreath on the Queen's coffin contained foliage of rosemary and myrtle, cut from a plant grown from her wedding banquet in 1947.

The hymn 'The Lord's My Shepherd' was sung at her wedding while 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' is a royal favourite.

Marriages, births, coronations and deaths, the gilded tapestry of royal life unfolds at Westminster Abbey and this service reflected the Queen's devotion to the faith she loved.

She spent more than 90 years

sitting through endless tree plantings, pop concerts, ribbon cuttings and nearly 40 editions of the Royal Variety Performance. She had insisted she wanted her funeral not to be 'long and boring' and a sharp hour ended with a bugle blast of the Last Post.

Hers was a life lived in words and pictures but this was a tale of numbers too, with 4.1 billion watching from all corners of her realms and beyond.

Police estimated more than a million people were in the capital as the State Hearse started its journey from Wellington Arch to Windsor, while more than half a million queued for 12 hours or more, walking more than three million miles in total, to pay their respects at Westminster Hall.

Hundreds of thousands have left floral tributes in recent days and on Windsor's Long Walk - those blooms framed

the final yards of the Queen's final journey, a herbaceous border that stretched as far as you could see.

Against the soundtrack of horse's hooves, muffled drums, mournful bells, polished boots on hard tarmac and angelic choral voices, there were no half measures to this spectacular rite of nation, bathed throughout in breezeless autumnal sunshine.

The watching world may need to reconsider all they thought about British understatement.

There are almost too many enduring images to single out, memories that will pass from generation to generation and into the history books.

However, you can guarantee that nothing will have moved this nation of dog lovers quite like the sight of the Queen's two favourite corgis, watching their master slowly pass in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle.

And that, that is certainly what she would have wanted.



Two of the Queen's beloved corgis watch the arrival of her cortège at St George's Chapel in Windsor



The royal procession escorted the state gun carriage with the Queen's coffin down The Mall towards Buckingham Palace

Majestic yet profound funeral for a dutiful and beloved Queen



By Charlotte Alt

To the sound of bagpipes, 142 members of the Royal Navy, their arms interlocked and expressions solemn, pulled the Queen's coffin towards Westminster Abbey.

Behind them Princes Harry and Andrew seemed to take a deep breath to compose themselves. King Charles III and his heir the Prince of Wales looked stoically ahead. It was the beginning of a brief yet profound state funeral.

Hours earlier, as the bells of Westminster Abbey rang out every minute for 96 minutes, once for every year of the Queen's life, over 2,000 guests slowly filled the neatly lined rows of the centuries-old church.

Five of the Queen's former prime ministers, Boris Johnson, Theresa May, David Cameron, Tony Blair and John Major arrived together in an unusual display of unity. All had previously expressed their gratitude for the Queen's wise counsel and advice throughout each of their premier-ships. Current prime minister Liz Truss arrived separately with her husband Hugh O'Leary.

World leaders like French President Emmanuel Macron or

American President Joe Biden sat on the same wooden chairs alongside royalty like the Emperor and Empress of Japan and King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain. Many of them had been ferried in with minibuses and quietly took up their assigned seating.

As the bells continued to chime, the procession drew near, led by 200 musicians made up of the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Scottish and Irish Regiments, the Brigade of Gurkhas, and the Royal Air Force.

Flanking the state gun carriage walked officers who served the Queen and bodyguards from the Gentlemen at Arms, Yeoman of the Guard and the Royal Company of Archers. The carriage had been pulled by members of the Royal Navy since Queen Victoria's state funeral in 1901.

Behind the coffin walked King Charles III joined by his sister Princess Anne, his brothers, Princes Andrew and Edward, Princes William and Harry, and Peter Phillips, son of Princess Anne. It was a procession practiced to perfection.

Dutifully the Queen's procession walked together, 75 steps per minute, a speed reserved for funerals. Swaying as one, their faces were determined and composed. It was the best of British pageantry as it made its way towards Westminster Abbey.

However, as the bagpipes waned and organ music could be heard wafting through the church's Great West Door, the pomp made way for a simple Christian funeral.

As the bearer party of eight dressed in blazing red and gold uniforms carried the coffin down the abbey's nave, Prince William suddenly seemed overcome with emotion. All 2,000 guests stood to pay their respects.

A small cough from the Dean of Westminster David Hoyle and Queen Elizabeth II's funeral began – the first state funeral since Sir Winston Churchill's in 1965.

"With gratitude we remember her unwavering commitment to a high calling over so many years as Queen and head of the Commonwealth," the Dean said.

"With admiration we recall her lifelong sense of duty and dedication to her people. With

thanksgiving we praise God for her constant example of Christian faith and devotion. With affection we recall her love for her family and her commitment to the causes she held dear."

It was a simple service, one in which the Queen's presence was felt throughout. It was a funeral she had planned herself and planned so to perfection. There was no dull moment but rather an explosion of powerful music and precise readings which inspired hope rather than sorrow.

The Queen had chosen all the hymns herself, including 'The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want' which was sung at her wedding and 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' which was sung at the weddings of then Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles and of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

The sunlight streamed through the windows and illuminated the Crown Jewels atop the coffin, draped with the Royal Standard flag. Behind the crown, orb and sceptre lay a wreath of pink, purple and yellow flowers.

After a powerful reading by Baroness Scotland, secre-

tary-general of the Commonwealth, from the first lesson from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians about the resurrection of Christ and the promise of eternal life, Prince Edward seemed to wipe away a tear. Liz Truss read from the Gospel according to John about Christ's promise to his followers of a place in heaven before the Archbishop of Canterbury began his sermon.

"The pattern for many leaders is to be exalted in life and forgotten after death," he began. "The pattern for all who serve God, famous or obscure, respected or ignored, is that death is the door to glory. Her Late Majesty famously declared in a 21st birthday broadcast that her whole life would be dedicated to serving the Nation and Commonwealth. Rarely has such a promise been so well kept!"

The archbishop spoke of the Queen's faith and her sense of duty to the nation and Commonwealth. He also recalled the Queen's broadcast to the nation during the Covid lockdown in 2020 which she ended by saying "we will meet again."

ful judgment of God: we can all share the Queen's hope which in life and death inspired her servant leadership. Service in life, hope in death. All who follow the Queen's example, and inspiration of trust and faith in God, can with her say: "We will meet again."

King Charles III remained composed throughout the service but could not help being moved when from hundreds of voices sounded "God Save the King". He seemed almost tearful as he listened to the anthem, aware of the responsibility now placed upon him as the nation's new king.

In a touching scene, many of the guests curtsied and bowed their hands as the Queen was carried past them accompanied by organ music. Outside the abbey the sun had broken through the clouds.

As members of the Royal Navy started to draw the state gun carriage towards Wellington Arch, the crown glimmered and sparkled in the sun. In the flower wreath on top was a card which read: "In loving and devoted memory, Charles R."



The Choir of Westminster Abbey led the congregation during the service as 2,000 guests sang 'The Lord's my Shepherd'



The police line the streets of The Mall ahead of the Queen's procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch

By Martha McHardy

Police flooded London and Windsor today in the biggest security operation in British history.

Over 10,000 police officers and 1,500 soldiers formed a six-mile wide ring of steel around central London for the Queen's funeral.

Former counterterrorism police chief Nick Aldworth said it was "the biggest operation that we're likely to mount in the UK."

Police officers from forces around the country have been called up in an operation that has been planned for decades.

Specialist firearms officers surrounded Westminster Abbey, along with 23 miles of barriers to control crowds and keep key areas secure. Sniffer dogs accompanied police on duty to check people passing by.

Crowds behind gates stood opposite long lines of police along the coffin's route.

A cordon of concrete stops set up by police at six o'clock this morning blocked traffic up to 600 yards around the Royal Hospital Chelsea in west London, where world leaders arrived before setting off to Westminster Abbey for the funeral service.

Two rows of bollards stretched across the road and a line of portable anti-terror barricades have been installed, designed to halt the most threatening car bombs.

Soldiers and armed officers lined

Biggest ever security operation to guard London and Windsor

the streets as snipers set up on rooftops.

Helicopters and CCTV were also used to help commanders watch crowds from the sky. A no-fly zone was implemented over the funeral and London procession.

Around 2,300 police officers oversaw the Queen's final journey from Westminster Abbey to Windsor Castle today. A thousand officers and military personnel lined the route from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch, where the Queen's coffin was transported

from the funeral service by gun carriage.

Mourners arriving in London and Windsor were subject to searches and airport-style screening arches.

Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Stuart Cundy, who is in charge of the operation in the capital, said 34 arrests have been made in London linked to memorial events for the Queen, including a man who ran into Westminster Hall and attempted to touch the coffin.



The State Hearse travels along the Great West Road as thousands watch Photo: Tyrell Willock



US president Joe Biden with his wife Jill, left, as they entered Westminster Abbey



Former UK prime ministers Boris Johnson, Theresa May, David Cameron, Gordon Brown, Sir Tony Blair and Sir John Major with their spouses

Global leaders flock to pay their respects

By Ed Halford

Close to 500 state dignitaries and over 100 world leaders appeared at the Queen's funeral today.

Presidents of France, the US, and India were among the high profile leaders who attended the service.

French President Emmanuel Macron gifted King Charles III a book of pictures celebrating the Queen's visits to France when he attended the reception at Buckingham Palace on Sunday.

US President Joe Biden arrived at Westminster Abbey in the armoured limousine known as 'the Beast', while other world leaders travelled by coach.

Biden and first lady, Jill Biden, sat 14 rows back.

The prime minister of India, Narendra Modi, did not attend the funeral, but the president of India, Droupadi Murmu, came in his place.

Chinese president Xi Jinping also did not attend, but his vice-president Wang Qishan attended instead.

Amidst the backdrop of Brazil's presidential election, President Jair Bolsonaro made his first trip to the UK.

However, leaders from numerous countries including Russia, Belarus, Myanmar and Afghanistan were not invited to the funeral.

Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako of Japan were amongst the royalty attending although the imperial family normally avoids funerals. An exception has been made for the Queen due to the close relationship between the Japanese and British royal families.

Other royals in attendance included King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain, King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium and King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway.

Leaders of various Commonwealth countries were also in attendance, including New Zealand's prime minister Jacinda Ardern, Canadian prime minister Justin

Trudeau and Australian prime minister Anthony Albanese. Other prime ministers Andrew Holness of Jamaica, Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, and James Marape of Papua New Guinea also attended.

Speaking to the BBC's former political editor, Laura Kuenssberg, Jacinda Ardern said: "One of the things on my mind alongside being a new prime minister was being a prime minister and a mum."

As the second prime minister to give birth while in office, Ardern said the Queen gave her advice for being a mother and leader.

She said: "When you think about leaders who have been in that position, there were so few to look to."



French president Emmanuel Macron with wife Brigitte



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau with wife Sophie Grégoire



‘The streets looked on in silence. Drums and brass filled the September air.’

By Lara Wildenberg

The Queen covered at least 1,032,513 miles in her lifetime. She visited 117 different countries, travelling the equivalent of 42 times around the globe.

Today, the 25-mile journey from Westminster Abbey to Windsor Castle was her last.

The late monarch was taken home to her husband Philip and laid to rest.

Thousands stood still as eight soldiers from the First Battalion of the Grenadier Guards carried the Queen's coffin out of her funeral.

It was draped with the Royal Standard, adorned by the Crown Jewels and a bouquet of flowers from the gardens of her royal residences.

The ancient gun carriage was pulled by 98 pristine Navy ratings in front, 40 more behind, drilled

and disciplined. The sailors took their place amid the stream of red uniforms marching in the royal procession.

Square units moved through the capital in perfect symmetry and synchronisation, save for the tossing head of a horse. The rousing drums beat 75 times per minute. Yeomans' heads bowed as the coffin passed.

The Queen passed the Cenotaph for the last time where she

had laid a remembrance wreath for 64 years of her reign. She passed through the vast expanse of sand at Horse Guards Parade where she had witnessed the Trooping of the Colour on each of her official birthdays.

She passed the stoic bronze statue of her first prime minister, Winston Churchill, in Parliament Square. She passed her mother's smiling statue on The Mall and her father looking proudly down

at her. Members of her living family followed behind on foot.

Crowds lining the procession's route craned their necks and stretched out phones to take photos. Selfie-sticks stuck obtrusively out of the throng. Children hung on railings and perched on shoulders for a first and last glimpse of the Queen.

Police officers watched the crowds with their backs to the spectacle but the streets looked

at largely in silence. Drums and brass filled the September air.

The procession of gleaming boots and buttons, bright red coats, polished helmets and shining black horses stretched down the entire Mall.

The golden figure of Winged Victory outside Buckingham Palace protruded in the foreground, London's skyline in the distance.

A car carrying the Queen Consort, the Princess of Wales and her

two eldest children crept behind the procession. Princess Charlotte, just seven years old, pecked out of the windows in as much awe as the crowds.

Sophie, Countess of Wessex, sat with Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, in another car behind. Princess Beatrice looked tearful in her seat.

Flames stood tall on the Commonwealth War Memorial as the procession halted by Wellington

Arch. The Shard and London Eye looked on in the backdrop.

There was one last salute to the Queen, one last rendition of the National Anthem - with new words that still seem so alien - and the 138 Navy ratings marched off, leaving the pomp and circumstance behind them.

The bells of Westminster Abbey rang out fully muffled and the crowds broke out into devoted applause. Flowers flew over the rail-

ings onto the hearse, petals lined its path.

Three cheers rose up just before the motorcade passed the Royal Albert Hall. Union flags waved as the Queen was driven down the A4, the A30 and the A308 to her final resting place, St George's Chapel.

Rapturous cheers greeted the flashing lights of the first police motorcycles glittering in the tarmac's heat.

Rows of people packed onto the route's railings, elbow to elbow. Lorries stopped by the side of the empty motorways.

By Windsor, the bonnet and roof of the State Hearse was heaped with flower stems. By the Long Walk, lined by Royal Marines, the royal procession had regained some of the grandeur it had left behind.

Another escort of red uniforms met the Queen's coffin with their

weapons reversed in mourning, leading it down Albert Road to the majesty of Mendelssohn's Funeral March.

Crowds, tens of rows deep, flanked the historic path in silence. King George III astride The Copper Horse loomed in the distance.

Mendelssohn faded into bagpipes into Beethoven into Chopin into the solemnity of drums and horse hooves again.

The hearse drove through Cambridge Gate, carpeted on either side by bouquets. Emma, the Queen's favourite horse, stood swishing her tail as the procession passed.

The minute gun fired. The Sebastopol bell chimed. The Royal Standard flew atop the Round Tower: the new King was home, waiting to say goodbye to his late mother, the nation's grandmother, our Queen.

Celebrating a life of service in Hyde Park

by Sam Montgomery

Cheers permeated the mourning crowds at the showing for the Queen's funeral in Hyde Park this morning, as grief gave way to gratitude and celebration.

Standing out in a pink outfit and a flowery sun hat, Gladys Richardson, 69, a nurse from Essex, said: "When someone passes away, you shouldn't cry. You have to celebrate their life."

"This is my traditional dress. I'm Indian, we're colourful people, especially when someone dies."

Zoe Bardey, 30, also forgoed black to celebrate the Queen's life.

The year three teacher described her pupils' reactions to the Queen's passing: "At school we've been discussing it a lot, telling them it's OK to feel sad."

Charlie Alsop, 37, a legal PA from Crowthorne who camped overnight to see the Queen, said: "We've met friends here. Everyone's been sharing their own experiences, their love of the Queen. We've absolutely loved it."

Those paying their respects in the last few days have formed friendships, reflected on the Queen's formidable life, and for some, perhaps, even reignited or reinforced their pride in Britain.

Duncan Jewell, 47, who served in the Royal Navy for 25 years, said: "I'm proud to be a veteran. I'm proud to be British. I'm proud to be here. This is Great Britain. This is us together."

Fellow veteran, Martin Lloyd, 52, who left Newcastle at 3am to make it in time for the funeral, said: "The Queen was an ambassador for Britain across the world, an example to us all."



The procession, carrying the Queen's coffin on top of a Royal Navy gun carriage, travels down The Mall on its way to Wellington Arch following the state funeral



The procession accompanying the Queen's coffin arrives at Windsor Castle following her state funeral at Westminster Abbey

Family and nation say goodbye in Windsor

By Ishita Srivastava

Tens of thousands paid their respects at Windsor Castle as the Queen returned to her favourite home for the final time.

Darren Legge, 55, from Henley, Berkshire, who works in private security, said: "It's my personal attempt to show respect for the service the Queen has done."

"As a veteran, I got to serve the Queen as far back as 1995."

"So, I wanted to do something for this memory to stay in my mind."

While the funeral was broadcast on TV and social media, many chose to be at the castle to see the procession.

Canadian immigrant Jean Remillard, 58, a project manager from Bracknell, Berkshire, said:

"Watching the funeral on TV is not at all the same as being here with the people, seeing it on the big screen, talking about the Queen and what she's been for us."

People also remembered some personal moments they shared with the Queen.

British Airways hostess Siobhan O'Brien, 44, recalled: "I remember flying with her on a state visit. We were intensely briefed on security, her preferences and how she liked to fly."

"The Queen would not fly without a picture of St. Christopher on the wall. All these special touches needed to be in place for her."

Queen Elizabeth II is being buried alongside Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at the St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

Her parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth are also buried at Windsor Castle.

The committal service at St George's Chapel in Windsor was attended by 800 people.

About 2,300 police officers lined up between Westminster Abbey and Windsor Castle to oversee the final part of the state funeral.

Other notable monarchs such as Henry VIII and Charles I are also buried at the castle.



Memory reigns in London

By Theo Burman

As the Queen's coffin made its way from Westminster Abbey to her final resting place in Windsor, the public gave its verdict on the day's events.

Peter Brown, 59, came from Bath this morning to paint the crowds along The Mall, and he was struck by the mood of the audience as the procession passed.

He said: "There was a real kind of reverence. There's so many people here, it's lovely and really interesting."

"When everything came by, it was really weird, there was a mix of acceptance and memory."

Alison and Eleanor Craven, who made the journey down from York to arrive in London at three o'clock this morning, described a similar atmosphere.

Retired NHS worker Alison said: "It was chilly overnight, but everyone was really friendly. This morning the police came and chatted to us until others turned up."

They were particularly im-



pressed with the precision of the armed forces that were part of the procession.

Alison added: "We were blessed to see the Royal Family go up to the Abbey. That was fabulous. We had speakers and heard the whole of the ceremony. Every minute detail was perfect. It was a really special day."

"We always wanted to see a roy-

al event, and be a part of history. This is definitely the way to do it."

For others, the experience was both exciting and humbling.

Schoolteacher Alexandria Dowson, 36, moved to London from Tasmania seven years ago.

Her 90-year-old grandmother asked Dowson to take photos of the funeral for her, as she was unable to make it herself.

Dowson said: "It was really impactful because they're almost the same age, and the Queen has been the whole time my grandmother has been alive. It's like they've grown up together."

"It's had quite an impact on how she thinks about her own mortality; it's been quite grounding for her."

When asked what the Queen

meant to him, bus driver and former Sri Lankan soldier Sinnaiya Sathiyasivam, 44, said: "She's our icon. We will miss her and love her. I'm thankful for how she took me in and looked after me."

"The Queen has done a lot of things that weren't right, but everyone has done both good and bad things in the past. We all have, we're all human."



Queen is played out with divine musical selection

By Zoe Crowther

The long list of music and hymns performed at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II was meticulously planned to reflect the monarch's life and the traditions of the countries she served.

Following a procession from Westminster Hall, the Queen's coffin was carried into Westminster Abbey, where she was married in 1947 and crowned in 1953.

The impressive music from the service, mostly sung by the choristers of the Choir of Westminster Abbey and the Choir of His Majesty's Chapel Royal, could be heard not only by the congregation but by thousands of mourners lining the streets outside the abbey.

As the procession entered, the choir sang the funeral sentences, set to music by William Croft which has been used at every state funeral since the early 18th century.

The congregation of 2,000 were then invited by the Dean of Westminster to sing three hymns, including 'The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended', 'The Lord's my Shepherd', and 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling'.

Alongside traditional hymns, two new pieces of choral music were specially composed for the ceremony by notable British composers. Judith Weir CBE, the first female Master of the King's Music, composed the first, Like as the Hart, which is an unaccompanied musical setting of Psalm 42 from the Book of Common Prayer.

Scottish composer Sir James MacMillan composed the second new piece as the service's anthem: a setting of a text from the New Testament's Epistle to the Romans. As one of many personal touches, the Queen's family members played a role in choosing music for the service. The choir performed 'My soul, there is a country', an anthem by Hubert Parry, one of King Charles's favourite composers.

The Last Post was sounded by state trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, led by Trumpet Major Julian Sandford. The congregation then observed a two-minute silence concluding with a sounding of the Reveille by state trumpeters.

Afterwards, the congregation sang the national anthem whilst King Charles remained silent. As Charles has now assumed the title of King, the national anthem has changed back to its original form for the first time since the death of King George VI in 1952: 'God Save our Gracious Queen' is now 'God Save our Gracious King'.

The final performance of the service was given by the piper to the sovereign, Paul Burns from the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Burns played the traditional lament 'Sleep, dearie, sleep' on the bagpipes, before the Queen's coffin was taken from the abbey to begin the funeral procession to Wellington Arch.

Waiting patiently, London didn't sleep



Mourners shed tears on the day of the Queen's funeral as they line outside Westminster Abbey to say their final farewell to one of the longest-reigning monarchs in history



A sea of flowers filled Green Park as people paid their respects

By James Toney

London is not traditionally a city that assaults the senses, but these are days to reconsider all we've previously known.

In Green Park it's the smell, the sweet fragrance of thousands of flowers that drifts down Piccadilly as you walk from the Tube.

In the medieval magnificence of Westminster Hall, it was the almost deafening sound of silence that stood you still.

The shuffling of feet, the occasional sob and the echoing tap, tap, tap on the flagstones of a soldier's ceremonial sword, which signalled yet another foot-perfect changing of the guard.

Almost a thousand years of this nation's celebrated history, the good, bad and ugly, was etched on the three-metre thick walls of this stunning place, with its soaring hammer-beam roof, bookended by majestic stain-glass.

Henry VIII banqueted here, both King Charles I and Guy Fawkes stood trial here and Queen Elizabeth II performed her last and most sacred public duty.

For four days, time was frozen and the still-life scene unchanged, whatever the hour.

The towering candles, the scar-

let catafalque, the coffin draped in the Royal Standard and adorned with the Crown Jewels, all framed by the loyal watch of ramrod guards. It was like a rather macabre display at Madame Tussauds.

After queuing, sometimes rather jovially, for hours, the enormity and solemnity of the scene struck simultaneously.

Some bowed, others saluted, there were awkward curtsies, whispered prayers and tears. After their long wait, a few lingered a little too long while others just marched on by, not even giving the casket a glance, seemingly content just to be in its presence.

But for the mourner's attire (the odd football shirt was spotted amongst these regal supporters) it could have been 1910, 1936 or 1952 and the vigils for the Queen's father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Brits have a reputation of a nation that is eager to stand in line.

There's a joke they'd join the back of a queue before asking what it's for. In London's smallest royal park they waited patiently to lay their flowers, scenes repeated 20 miles to the west in Windsor.

In between the blooms, mourners left balloons, porcelain hors-

Coffin a solemn reminder of history and love

By Georgia Hase

The world watched the Queen's final journey from Westminster to Windsor, and the coffin that held her.

The monarchy, marked by its penchant for custom, ensured the Queen's death, as well as her life,

followed protocol.

Her coffin was draped with the Royal Standard, the flag representing the Sovereign and the United Kingdom.

Flown only when the Queen was in residence, its presence at her funeral becomes a tender goodbye.

The Imperial State Crown, orb

and sceptre were also present.

The sceptre represents the crown's power and governance, and has been used in every coronation since 1661.

The golden jewelled orb, surmounted by a gem-encrusted cross is symbolic of how the monarch's power is derived from God.

By placing the royal trappings that defined her life atop her coffin, the world witnessed the Queen's deliverance of the promise she made 70 years ago.

A wreath of flowers showed that while Elizabeth was a Queen, she was also a wife, mother and grandmother.

At the King's request, the foliage contained rosemary, english oak, myrtle and flowers, in shades of gold, pink, deep burgundy, and touches of white, cut from the gardens of Royal Residences.

Nestled between the blooms was a card which read: "In loving and devoted memory. Charles R"



Officials said more than half a million queued to see the Queen lie-in-state at the magnificent Westminster Hall, the setting for the coronation of Henry XIII and trials of Charles I and Guy Fawkes

es, soft toys, flags of every nation and, because this is Britain, jars of marmalade.

Thousands of words, written in scores of tongues, scribbled in crayon and scrawled in ink.

There is a new contender for

the title of the city that never sleeps.

For the past week London has been a city in waiting, patience, good humour and reverence to an institution that probably baffles most but is all that most watching

have ever known. It's easy to sneer at those who spent the best part of a day waiting in line to spend a few fleeting seconds with the coffin or sleep the night on cold tarmac for a glimpse at the funeral cortege.

And then there were those so overcome by a sudden 'need to be here' that they've made the journey from far-flung corners of the Queen's realm, a sometimes uneasy alliance of nations forged by the pink bits of a long-yellowing

world order. It all seems a little surreal when you write it down, but being there, by some strange osmosis, it slowly began to make sense.

Perhaps, as with all things, it was Paddington Bear, who has

become an unlikely royal mascot, who said it best.

"In London, everyone is different, and that means anyone can fit in."

With this many on the streets, it was certainly a squeeze.

Lilibet and Philip together forever in beloved Windsor

By Eve Bennett

After making her final journey from London this afternoon, Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

The Queen was lowered into the Royal Vault just after 4pm in a committal service attended by

about 800 guests, mainly current and former staff from the Queen's household.

She was interred in the King George VI Memorial Chapel, her final resting place, in a private family service later in the evening.

The Royal Vault was built between 1804 and 1810 on commis-

sion by King George III, who was the first British monarch to be interred there after his death in 1820. The vault is a stone-lined chamber with enough space to hold 44 bodies which lies around 16 feet below the altar of St George's Chapel.

During royal funerals, the coffin is lowered into the vault through a

hole in the chapel's floor. The vault is the final burial place for 24 royals, including Kings George IV and William IV.

For other royals the vault serves as a temporary resting place. The Queen's husband, Prince Philip, was originally interred in the Royal Vault following his death

in April 2021, where he remained until his wife's death.

The Duke of Edinburgh was joined in the vault by his late wife's coffin for a brief period after the committal service on Monday, before both coffins were transferred to the King George VI Memorial Chapel, one of several separate

burial places within St George's Chapel and commissioned by Queen Elizabeth II in 1962 to hold members of her immediate family

The Queen now rests alongside her father, King George VI, her mother Queen Elizabeth, and the ashes of her sister Princess Margaret.

Royal children mourn their great-grandma



Royal family await the coffin before the funeral. From left to right: Duchess of Sussex, Queen Consort, Prince George, Princess of Wales, Princess Charlotte

By Ed Halford

Prince George, 9, and Princess Charlotte, 7, rose to the occasion when they followed the Queen's coffin as world leaders and a congregation of 2,000 watched on.

George, second in line to the throne, wore a dark blue suit and black tie, whilst his younger sister Charlotte, third in line to the throne, was dressed in a black dress and wide-brimmed hat.

In honour of Queen Elizabeth II's love of horses, Princess Charlotte wore a small horseshoe shaped brooch. It has been reported that the princess shared a love of horses with her great-grandmother and Prince Philip.

The princess is known to have already started riding horses. Both children nicknamed the

Queen "Gan Gan."

The inclusion of the prince and princess was first confirmed on Sunday night by Buckingham Palace after the release of the order of service for the event.

It has not been customary for great-grandchildren to attend state funerals.

Before the coffin arrived, the prince and princess stood immaculately with their mother. They bowed and curtsied upon the coffin's arrival.

Both Prince George and Princess Charlotte followed the coffin behind their parents but ahead of their uncle and aunt, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

George and Charlotte sat in the front row of the abbey facing the coffin. Their parents William, the Prince of Wales, and Catherine,

the Princess of Wales, sat beside them. They both sang all the hymns.

As the service drew to a close, George kept his arms by his side when the congregation sang God Save the King and Charlotte kept her arms in front.

Both the prince and princess were well behaved throughout the service.

They are the youngest royals to perform such a duty. It is the children's first public appearance since the Queen died.

Their younger brother Prince Louis, 4, did not attend.

Many have suggested the children attending the funeral evoked memories of William and Harry attending the funeral of their mother Princess Diana in Westminster Abbey in 1997.



Above: Prince George and Princess Charlotte

Below: Prince George sitting in the front row next to his father, William, Prince of Wales



Prince George and Princess Charlotte getting ready to enter Westminster Abbey alongside mother Princess of Wales



By Georgina Findlay, Lucy Paine and Olivia Bothamley-Dakin

Thousands huddled together on the streets of London last night to secure their places behind the metal barriers, and in the chronicles of history.

Visitors to Westminster came from far and wide, from Bermuda to Bangladesh.

Kristina Grund Robertson, 39, a florist, travelled from Sweden on Saturday to see the Queen lying in state and join the crowd in Parliament Square.

Visitors camped from six o'clock the morning before, swaddled in blankets, Union Jacks floating over the railing before them.

Over the shoulders of winter coats peeped the tips of two-person tents, large umbrellas and folding chairs. Other mourners gathered on bean bags or bubble wrap, chatting and exchanging stories.

The crowd cheered passing binmen and servicemen. Snack packets crackled and the scent of bacon crisps wafted through the air.

"Biscuits? Anyone want biscuits?" called one woman. The crowd responded with glee.

A woman camping nearby returned from the coffee shop with a crate of hot drinks to share with the crowd.

One young mourner caught everyone's eye — River, just three months old. Her mother Sarah

Meeks, 47, a sign language interpreter and ex-Spurs footballer from Reading, Berkshire, was delighted she will be able to tell River she was a part of history.

She said: "It's sort of like a community, we're all here getting through this together."

As the night grew colder, strangers discovered common ground. Amin Afridi Chowdhury, 37, a barrister, and mum of four Hazeera Miah, 42, were amazed to find out they both came from the Sylhet district of Bangladesh.

Chowdhury queued for 20 hours to see the Queen lying in state and was thrilled to be greeted by King Charles and Prince William.

He said: "I would like to express my gratitude to King Charles III, it was a very nice moment for me."

Miah made the trip to Westminster from Hertfordshire on Sunday and said: "I came for two hours but ended up staying the whole night."

It was the first night she had spent away from her youngest son, and she explained she had come to repay the Queen's kindness to Bangladesh, a country the Sovereign visited in 1983.

For many, waiting all night for the state funeral allowed them to feel a part in something bigger than themselves.

Cascade Edwards, 29, a systems analyst from Vauxhall, south-east London, remembered the Queen and the powerful effects

Strangers strike up friendships in wait for funeral

of her reign. She said: "It felt like the Queen was immortal. She touched people's lives in a very emotional way."

As dawn arrived on the day of the Queen's funeral, police ordered tents to be dismantled and the atmosphere turned from chatter to expectation.

World leaders and royals arrived for the morning service, and the crowds outside Westminster Abbey grew rapidly.

A curious buzz surrounded central London, friends were made while mourning prevailed.

Even on her final journey, the Queen remained a unifying force, forging connections between strangers brought together in mourning.



As the sun set yesterday visitors queued patiently outside Westminster Abbey to save their spot for the funeral today



Three-month-old River wants to be a part of history... but didn't see much of it

**‘Those who
serve will be
loved and
remembered
when those
who cling to
power and
privileges
are long
forgotten.’**

Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury



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