

Cyprus Emergency 1955-1959 Memorial Service

National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas, DE13 7AR

Sunday 14th August 2022

The Mediterranean island of Cyprus has a centuries old history of conflict. In the early 20th century, the population broadly fell into those identifying as Turkish Cypriots and those identifying as Greek Cypriots. In 1925, Britain declared Cyprus a crown colony.

In the years that followed, the determination of Greek Cypriots to achieve unity with Greece (enosis) grew. In addition, Turkish Cypriots consistently opposed the idea of union with Greece and the Turkish Resistance Organisation (TMT) was also established to oppose enosis.

In 1955 a newly formed group, The National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA), a Greek Cypriot right-wing nationalist guerrilla organisation, began an armed campaign in support of the end of British colonial rule and the unification of Cyprus and Greece. It attacked military, police and colonial government buildings and people.

Between 1955 and 1959 a volunteer force of around **900** British police officers were deployed to Cyprus, in addition to thousands of British military personnel, to support the Cyprus Colonial Police and military to deal with The Cyprus Emergency, also known as the Greek Cypriot War of Independence.

In the course of the conflict, in addition to the resident casualties and deaths, 371 of the British military lost their lives, as did 21 British police officers.

A memorial to the military was erected near Kyrenia, North Cyprus in 2009 and another to the police officers in 2014. The idea of a UK, home based, memorial took shape in 2015 resulting in a joint military/police memorial stone being unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), Alrewas on Sunday 21st August 2016. It is located alongside the police memorial garden and The Beat.

Since then, an annual memorial service has been held at the NMA on the Sunday immediately preceding 21st August. This year the event will take place on Sunday 14th August 2022, at noon.



You are cordially invited to join this moving tribute to the police officers and military personnel killed in the conflict.

Entry to the arboretum is free (donations are appreciated) and car parking is £4 for the day. Post Code DE13 7AR

Roll of Honour: lists 465 deceased

[Roll of Honour - Databases - Cyprus Emergency 1955-1960 Deaths - Search Results \(roll-of-honour.com\)](https://roll-of-honour.com)

[Sources: NARPO News, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyprus_Emergency, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyprus_problem]

