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REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOVEMBER 9th

The nation paused to remember. Once again, an unseen hand had halted the daily toil, while mankind gave thought to the course it had charted. The annual act of remembrance was a reminder and an occasion of homage. Led by the King, the heiress-to-the-throne and the King's Ministers, these were the people's thoughts, as, with the Queen and the Queen Mother, they shared the moving moment. The world in its turbulence and folly still had a troubled path to follow before it could be said that the sacrifice of the many was not in vain.

As Princess Elizabeth followed the King in paying her tribute, there were few among the silent crowd who did not recall the comradeship of war years. There was the Somme and Cambrai, Tobruk and Casimo, Caen and Kohima. There were the deeds of heroism in the air and at sea. That bond of unity glowed faintly again, as the great crowd joined in singing the hymn of supplication.

The official ceremony was over. The King, the Princess and Lieutenant Mountbatten left their place at the Cenotaph. Ex-servicemen of two wars prepared to march past.

To familiar tunes, the veterans marched again.

Once more the silent challenge of those who died is clear. Theirs was the greatest sacrifice. Only a true and burning faith to meet the problems of a troubled age will make that sacrifice worth while. And as the crowd merged into the morning mist, there was still time to ensure that the spirit of remembrance would direct aright the minds of men.

The nation's act of dedication set the lead for the week's news. Five miles from Whitehall, a Willesden recreation ground is turned into London's first oil well. A 94 foot Texas-style derrick has been built among Gibbons Road suburban houses. Drilling to a depth of 4,000 feet has now begun. So far, there has been no gush of black gold and the London suburb has not yet become another Klondyke.

Four years ago, preliminary tests showed the presence of oil in a laundry site near the park. Oil traces were also found when engineers began to drill for water.

Perhaps Willesden's oil well can take a lesson from the Texas fields. At least one Texan, Arthur Rutherford seems to have a definite idea about that:-

SPEECH