

Remembrance Day in Kyiv

November 12, 2014

To the Newsdesk, UK Government.

While I was delighted to see your public announcement of the November 11 Ceremony in Kyiv, I was disappointed in the number of people apart from ambassadorial and military staff who attended. By blind copies of friends in Kyiv -- Ukrainian as well as ex-pats, including conspiracy theorists -- I am telling them what they missed:-

The ceremony was conducted at the Ukraine Monument to an Unknown Soldier, which as they know is in a public park. At least ten NATO and/or Commonwealth nations were represented by uniformed military men and women, including countries as diverse as Roumania and Nigeria. Most significantly, the largest contingent was Ukrainian. Prayers were offered by a Mullah, as well as a Roman Catholic and an Orthodox Priest.

My only disappointment was how few stayed behind after the officials had departed. They missed witnessing the solemn, beautiful incantations of the Orthodox priest and his three acolytes, as well as the chance to mix with the ill-assorted but jovial Ukrainian soldiers/irregulars who surely by their very presence were putting their lives at risk.

Mike Bedwell
UK Subject