

# Congratulations on having your honour or award published in the *London Gazette*



By being “gazetted”, your award is included in the official record of honours and awards for public service and military gallantry.

You are in the company of almost 350 years of monarchs, statesmen, prime ministers and increasingly in recent decades captains of industry, community leaders, inventors, actors and musicians and other major contributors to the life of the United Kingdom, its territories and dependencies.

**HM Queen Elizabeth II**  
**The Duke of Wellington**  
**Lord Nelson**  
**Lord Baden-Powell**  
**Sir Winston Churchill**  
**Sir David Jason**  
**The Beatles**  
**Sir Stanley Matthews**  
**Sir Ernest Shackleton**  
**Sir Noël Coward**  
**Sir Edward Elgar**  
 have all appeared in the pages of the London Gazette

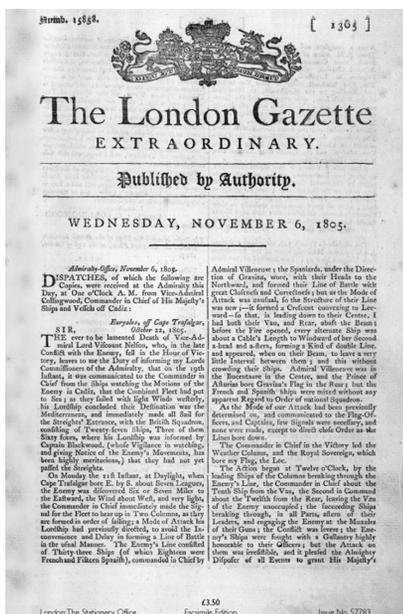
The London Gazette is more than just a list of distinguished service: it is the official Newspaper of Record and the United Kingdom’s oldest continuously published newspaper; you may find its history of some interest...

When King Charles II removed his court from London to Oxford in 1665 to avoid the dangers of the Great Plague, any contact with people, letters or newspapers from London was shunned for fear of contamination. A news sheet named the Oxford Gazette was created for the court in exile. On moving back to London in 1666 the newspaper became the London Gazette and has since recorded significant historical and political events.

The best known London Gazettes include:

- 1666, Great Fire of London
- 1789, French Revolution
- 1805, Collingwood’s dispatches from Trafalgar
- 1815, Wellington’s dispatches from Waterloo
- 1857, first acts of bravery for which the Victoria Cross was awarded
- 1914-1920, 1939-1947 Honours and Dispatches including General Montgomery’s dispatches on D-Day.
- Birth and coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Many people look in the London Gazette archives which are now available online for information on their relatives’ war records, as well as honours and awards, mentions in despatches are gazetted as were for a time appointments to the civil service – a tradition still maintained through the publication of Imperial Service Medal listings to civil servants of long service and exceptional standing.

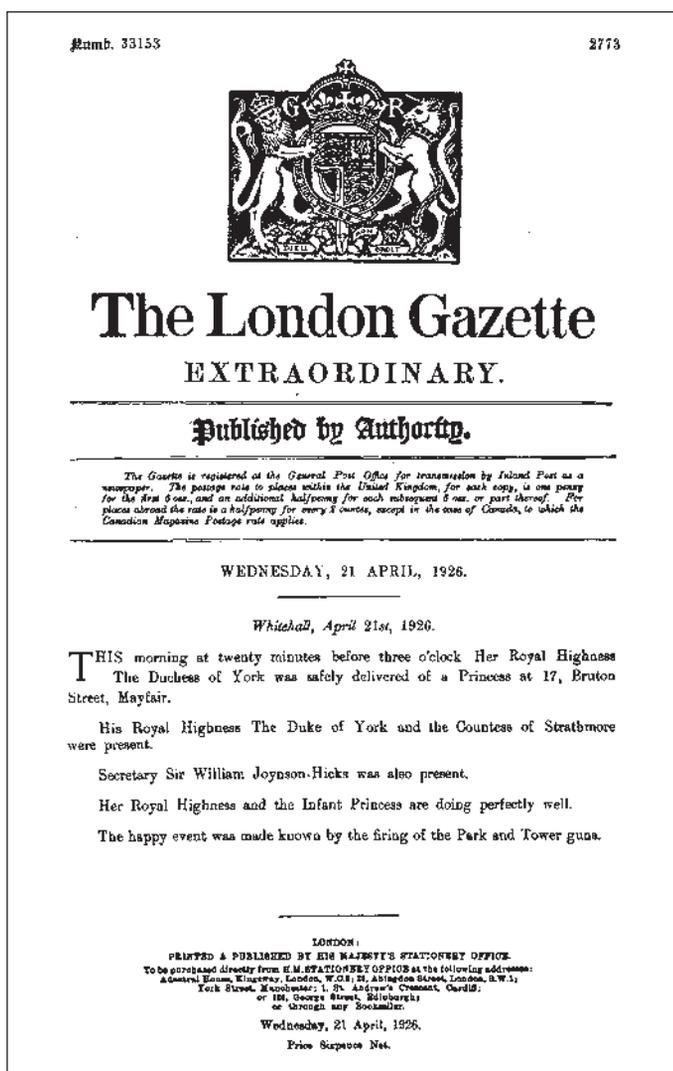


Collingwood’s dispatches from Trafalgar

Another widely known use of the term “being gazetted” or “being in the gazette” is to denote bankruptcy or debt and indeed this is the meaning used by literary luminaries such as Lord Byron and Charles Dickens.

Among the more famous bankrupts of the nineteenth century was Oscar Fingal O’Flahertie Wills Wilde who was gazetted many times in the 1890s, sometimes with his address given as Pentonville Prison.

Military honours and mentions in despatches are “gazetted”. Famous despatches include the battles of Trafalgar, Waterloo, Balaclava (including the charge of the light Brigade), Inkerman, Sebastopol, the Indian Mutiny, Boer War, World Wars I and II, the Falklands Campaign and virtually every military campaign in between. Promotions of officers in the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force continue to be gazetted in a weekly supplement.



Birth of HM Queen Elizabeth II

In June 1917 His Majesty King George V brought about a fundamental change to the Honours system. To recognise the contribution to the war effort of British and Empire men and women who were not in the armed services, he created the Order of the British Empire and established the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood to administer all honours and awards, using the London Gazette to make these awards public.

Empire honours are now awarded for service in the arts and sciences, in the public services outside the Civil Service, for charitable work and outstanding military service of a non-combatant nature. The range and scale of these awards led to the institution of the twice-yearly New Year and Birthday Honours Lists special issues.

The London Gazette continues to record the daily details of government in a wide range of official and regulatory notices and is available now in print, fully searchable on the world wide web and in electronic data feed form. It is widely used both as a historical resource and a vital source of today’s official information. Still a newspaper, although a very specialised one, the Gazette continues to evolve to meet the needs of government and its readership whilst providing a fascinating record of the face of Britain and those who have helped change it over nearly 350 years.

This personalised issue is just one of a series of initiatives designed to make this important historical record more accessible to those whose deeds it records and honours.

For more information about the Gazette, please go to [www.gazettes-online.co.uk](http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk) or call +44 (0) 20 7394 4517

