

1981.

10 DOWNING STREET

Monday 8 Nov.

One of the great privileges of being Prime Minister is to attend the British Legion Festival of Remembrance. I have been five or six times now, but each year one appreciates it even more.

This year - the 60th anniversary we were struck by three things - the way the youngest cadets saluted the oldest soldiers and our long-lasting traditions. As the Chelsea Pensioners came into the arena, young cadets from each service formed a guard of honour for them. Second, the performance

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of those who are being
rehabilitated after serious injury
made us all marvel. Two men
each of whom had lost a leg
demonstrated how they could get over
a high-jump - with the rod at
nearly 6 ft. And the thrill, the
obvious delight of the audience
at the presence, with the Queen &
Queen Mother, of the Prince &
Princess of Wales and the announcement
that a baby is expected next
June. They all sang - 'God bless them'
(I fear that the Royal couple find

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these things a little embarrassing,
but that is natural.

At the end, after the Royal
Party had left, there was a rush to
collect the poppy leaves - by those
who had taken part in the performance
I noticed that the athlete with
one leg was one of the first to
get there and to hand out some
of them to the audience with
such spirit - what have the
rest of us to worry about.